



**RIVERDALE CITY TOWN MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
COMMUNITY CENTER - 4360 PARKER DRIVE
WEDNESDAY – APRIL 20, 2011**

7:00 p.m. –Town Meeting and Public Hearing (Community Center)

Minutes of the **Town Meeting and Public Hearing** of the **Riverdale City Council** held Wednesday, **April 20, 2011** at 7:02 p.m. at the Riverdale Community Center, 4360 Parker Drive.

Members Present: Bruce Burrows, Mayor
 David Gibby, Councilor
 Don Hunt, Councilor
 Norm Searle, Councilor
 Alan Arnold, Councilor
Present via phone: Shelly Jenkins, Councilor

Others Present: Larry Hansen, City Administrator, Lynn Moulding, Public Works Director, Doug Illum, Fire Chief, Ember Herrick, City Recorder and 22 members of the public.

A. Mayor's Welcome

Mayor Burrows welcomed everyone to the town meeting and stated for the record that staff had attempted to contact Councilor Jenkins to participate in the meeting via phone and had left her a message inviting her to call in at anytime to join in the discussion. He explained to the public the format of tonight's town meeting describing how there would be opportunities for public comment and questions.

Mayor Burrows welcomed Steve Robinson from Robinson Waste and Larry Gibbons from Rocky Mt. Recycling stating that they would both be available to answer resident and Council questions in relation to recycling. He also encouraged the public to fill out a comment card available on the front table and asked those with verbal comments wishing to participate in the discussion to state their name and to talk into a microphone so that the proceedings will be recorded in accordance with legal statute.

Mayor Burrows gave the public an update on the city's efforts to alleviate ground water flooding in the River Glen subdivision by using hoses to pump the water from the low lying areas into the river further downstream. He said that the river levels are currently down, that the pumping efforts appear to be successful and he asked Fire Chief Doug Illum the Emergency Management Coordinator for the city for an update on the current flood situation.

Chief Illum said the storm drains are currently empty and the river is receding and is currently at 2,900 cfs, at its peak it was approaching 5,000 cfs. He said that no water is being released from the reservoirs at this time, but said that more will need to be released if the storms this weekend are big. According to Chief Illum, West Weber and Plain City

are getting the brunt of the flooding at this time. He said that Riverdale's emergency action plan was successful with only one subdivision being affected by ground water saturation, not river flooding. He stated that city employees will continue to monitor the situation and will post updates on the city's website. Mayor Burrows stated that city employees will also work to remove debris from the river when possible and asked for any questions from the public.

Riverdale resident Courtney Dayton asked if the additional water will help raise the levels of the city's drinking water aquifers. Public Works Director Lynn Moulding said that this wet year and the snowmelt from the benches should help to replenish those reserves. The Mayor asked if there were any additional questions from the public and seeing none moved on to the public hearing portion of the meeting.

B. Action Items

Mayor Burrows explained that the city was holding tonight's public hearing to discuss the implementation of a possible city-wide recycling service. He stated that city surveys indicate growing public support for a city-wide recycling program as the cost of the service continues to decrease.

Mr. Moulding referred the public to their comparison handout showing how neighboring Utah cities have paid for recycling programs. Next he discussed the city-wide survey responses showing an increase in interest from 2006 to 2010 and explained that the actual cost of the service will depend on the amount of participation. Finally, Mr. Moulding referred to a handout indicating which types of items can be recycled.

The Mayor asked the public if they had questions.

Riverdale resident Charles Kerkvliet asked about the survey percentages specifically what percentage wants a recycling program, who is willing to pay for the service and the number of respondents to the survey. Mr. Moulding explained the different questions and responses.

Riverdale resident Aaron Pfaff said under unacceptable items are food items he wanted to know if the plastic and metal items need to be cleaned for food contamination in order to be recycled. He said that in North Ogden where his in-laws live the list of things that can be recycled keeps getting whittled down.

Larry Gibbons from Rocky Mt. Recycling said these markets are new in Utah and that now more items can be recycled than ever. Because technology is improving metals now hit the plant quickly so they no longer need to be cleaned out and caps on plastic bottles can be removed and can now be recycled too. According to Mr. Gibbons, his company only asks that leftover food be disposed of through the trash and not left in the containers intended for recycling.

Riverdale resident Lois Davis asked if plastic water bottles could be recycled and Mr. Gibbons confirmed that yes they can be. He said that his company was adding new

acceptable items to their recycling list all the time just recently allowing empty aerosol cans and plastic bags. Dave Leahy asked if everything could go into one can or if items needed to be separated and Mr. Gibbons explained his company had invested in a machine that sorts the different items allowing for all the recyclables to be picked up in one can.

Riverdale resident Charles Kerkvliet asked where the Rocky Mt. Recycling plant is located and Mr. Gibbons said it is in South Salt Lake at address 3110 S. 900 W.

Riverdale resident Alma Warren asked why glass cannot be recycled and Mr. Gibbons said glass is the toughest to recycle because the crushed glass contaminates the other items. He said their facility does recycle glass, it just needs to be brought in separate from the other items.

Mayor Burrows asked about butane stove containers and Mr. Gibbons said that they are recyclable if empty but no propane tanks are allowed at this time.

Mr. Pfaff asked the Council if they have looked at other options like dumpsters around town where the public can take items like cardboard. Mayor Burrows said there are bins for cardboard and paper recycling near the city's schools. He said the city had looked into the option of providing different bins but the problem of cross contamination made it unfeasible.

Councilor Gibby pointed out the advantage that everything recycled doesn't go into a landfill and said that the city is running out of places to put trash leading to an increased cost for waste disposal. Mayor Burrows asked Steve Robinson of Robinson Waste what the current tipping fee is for trash disposal in Weber County. Mr. Robinson said it is \$38 dollars a ton. Mayor Burrows said 11 years ago when he was elected it was \$11 a ton and that during his tenure the county has filled one landfill up and is now shipping its waste to Carbon County. He explained the county is currently looking for a new area since Box Elder recently voted down a measure to allow Weber County to ship trash there. According to Mayor Burrows, a recycling program won't eliminate the need for garbage cans but could make it so that most residents don't need a second can. Mayor Burrows said since he started recycling pop cans he has been surprised at the number of sacks his family has accumulated, adding that if his 96-year-old mother can recycle, so can he.

Charles Kerkvliet asked about a potential contamination problem if children put the wrong items in the recycling bin. Mayor Burrows said it is the responsibility of the parents to make sure garbage and recyclables are separated. Mr. Gibbons said nationwide 20% of items picked up can't be recycled because they are contaminated or trash. He said that his business reports back to Robinson Waste periodically so that they can educate the public and lower contamination levels.

Riverdale resident Rebecca Macias asked if a bag of additional recyclables could be left alongside the bin if it was full one week. Mr. Robinson said the collectors will work with

the public if it is just occasional, but if it happens consistently the family needs to order a second can.

Mr. Robinson said making recycling mandatory gets the rate down making it cheaper for everyone and that on average between 20-30% of residents will opt out of the program initially if the cities give them that option. He said that pick up of the 90 gallon blue bins is every other week and that educating everyone in the household is essential to ensuring that the program works.

Riverdale resident Nate Morris asked about increased tipping fees being passed on to the public. Mayor Burrows said the city has tried to absorb most of those increases over the years but added that sewer fees will be going up shortly because Central Weber Sewer is required to put in new plant modifications to meet new federal EPA requirements.

Riverdale resident JaNae Kinikin said that she has been recycling with an independent company and has found that only 1/3 of her garbage needs to go to the landfill as all the rest can be recycled. She would like recycling picked up weekly and garbage every other week. Mr. Robinson said that in the summer food and grass clippings waste would need to be picked up weekly.

Riverdale resident Hank Cragun said the cost of garbage collection should go down if everyone recycles.

Councilor Jenkins joins the discussion via phone from Arizona.

Councilor Searle said in some cities like Seattle people are charged a waste collection fee based on the weight of the trash in their bins which he said has reduced the amount of waste going into the landfills. He said the truck still has to come by to pick up the waste but it makes sense to recycle and stop filling up the landfills.

Charles Kerkvliet asked if there is money to be made on his trash, why should he pay for the service.

Mr. Gibbons said garbage is a commodity where pricing does go up and down, that is why Robinson Waste charges less for the service in 2010 than in 2006 when the first survey asked Riverdale residents about their interest in the service. He added that the value offsets the cost of pickup, which is what residents are paying for. Mayor Burrows said when individuals recycle they use their time and effort to drive their items to the recycling center, if Robinsons pays people to pick up the recyclables they must pass some of their staff, vehicle, and fuel costs on to consumers. Mr. Gibbons said the collection trucks cost over a million dollars each, they get three miles to the gallon and gas is over four dollars a gallon so considering these costs, one dollar per pickup is a pretty minimal fee for the service.

Riverdale resident Gary Boatright stated that looking at the comparisons between cities, Riverdale's garbage pickup, even with the additional cost of recycling, will only be

\$11.50 which is still cheaper than many neighboring cities. He said that there are obvious fees associated with recycling programs in every city and complimented Riverdale for being honest about the potential additional costs, rather than just increasing rates for garbage collection and claiming the service is “free”.

Mr. Pfaff asked if recycling bins for newspaper and cardboard located near area schools will remain even if the city implements a recycling program and Mayor Burrows confirmed that they are a private enterprise and will not be removed.

The public hearing began at approximately 7:52 p.m. Mayor Burrows read two statements sent to him from Riverdale residents who couldn't attend tonight's hearing beginning with Karen Cox who is in favor of recycling and contracts with a private company. She said her containers are full every two weeks and that she would like to see a city program as it would be cheaper than contracting with a private company.

He also read a statement from Riverdale resident Scott Wade who strongly supports a city-wide recycling program and would be willing to pay for curbside pickup as he currently has the cost and hassle of hauling recyclable items to the dump.

Mayor Burrows stated for the record that public notice of the hearing had been given and opened the hearing up for public comment.

Riverdale resident Courtney Dayton has two homes one in Salt Lake and one in Riverdale and said that his blue can is never used in Salt Lake and he sees no benefit to small households like his in implementing a recycling program. He suggests Riverdale's trash be shipped by rail for disposal in Utah's northwest desert as a solution to the problem of full landfills. He doesn't believe there is credible research that recycling benefits the environment.

Riverdale resident Raylin Warren said she has six kids and that her son did his Eagle Scout project on recycling. According to Ms. Warren, her family filled a washing machine box up with recyclables in a month's time and she is convinced that her family would benefit from a city-wide recycling program.

Riverdale resident Kathy Morris said this issue is about more than one community as recycling affects the entire world. She stressed the importance of recycling and her support for Riverdale implementing a program.

Riverdale resident Rebecca Macias said she estimates that her and her sister could recycle 85% of their garbage and she believes residents should do it because every little bit helps. She said that she supports the program and is willing to pay more for the service even if the Council decides not to make it mandatory.

Riverdale resident Lois Davis said there are many people in Riverdale that can't afford to pay even a few dollars more a month and that she is fine with the program as long as she has the option to opt out.

Riverdale resident Charles Kerkvliet said that he is in favor of a recycling program as long as the elderly can opt out, he said that tonight's discussion has changed his mind in support of the proposal.

Riverdale resident Alma Warren said that since he did his Eagle Scout project on recycling his family takes items to a recycling center two or three times a month so he would like to see curbside pickup as it would save his family the cost of gas and they would definitely use the service.

Riverdale resident Garry Boatright said he can see how some residents wouldn't have a use for a recycling service, but added that even if they just put a few items in each week it would make a difference in our landfills. He said that he appreciates the transparency of the Council and that two dollars more a month isn't a lot when he estimates that three quarters of his family's garbage could be recycled. He commented that other cities have been recycling for years and it is time Riverdale gets on board, adding that he supports the program and would like to see the city make it work.

Riverdale resident Elise Barton said that she moved here in 2002 and commented on how much she appreciates the monthly city newsletter. She said that she puts her garbage can out only once every three weeks and would like those who wish to opt out of a recycling program to be able to do so.

Riverdale resident Gary Henderson said that he supports recycling and that his kids have learned how to recycle at school and pressure him to do it at home. He doesn't want the program to be mandatory but would like to keep it a matter of personal choice.

Riverdale resident Aaron Pfaff said he believes in recycling but would like an opt out clause.

Mayor Burrows said he meets regularly with Mayors from across the Wasatch Front and that those with recycling programs allowing residents to opt out report seeing the numbers of participants increasing over time as residents see the benefits from their neighbors who do participate.

Riverdale resident Joe Iverson said she got turned on to recycling by her daughter who lives in South Ogden and encouraged her mother to try the program by offered to pick up her recycled items for her. According to Ms. Iverson in two weeks she had a sack in her garage and now she has three and four sacks every month, causing her to see the value in a recycling program. She stated her support for the program as it will be good for the future and will benefit her grandkids.

Riverdale resident Gage Martinez said that he recycles because Blooms pays him for his bags, newspapers, cardboard and cans. He thinks a city recycling program would benefit all ages as he sees how a curbside program could benefit the homebound who can't take their items to the bins across town. Mr. Martinez said he doesn't believe recycling

should be mandatory and recognizes that there is still a cost to the environment in transporting the items.

Mayor Burrows encouraged members of the public that don't want to speak publicly to leave their comments on the cards provided.

Motion: Councilor Gibby moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Arnold seconded the motion.

Call the Question: The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Burrows asked if there were any additional questions from the public and Mr. Kerkvliet asked if there would be additional costs in addition to the estimated two dollars a month. Mr. Robinson said that there wouldn't be any additional costs to the city after the initial expense of buying the blue bins and added that the actual cost would depend on what percentage of residents opt out of the program.

Ms. Warren asked if the citizens would have to pay for the cost of the can and Mr. Moulding said no, the money was already budgeted for in Riverdale's enterprise fund. He said the cans cost \$80 a piece for an estimated expense of \$150-160,000 depending on how many people opt out.

Mayor Burrows said the regulations to start a new landfill are equal to opening a nuclear power plant, adding that it is not cost effective to transport the waste to Carbon County, but disposing of it locally is increasingly difficult as the available landfills are running out of space. He said the city needs to find a better solution to keep waste disposal costs down for Riverdale residents and that recycling is one of the cheapest options, which has caused him to change his mind about the program. He added that as residents recycle, there will be less tonnage to dump and garbage waste fees could go down.

Councilor Gibby said the issue of waste disposal must be addressed. When he visits the desert he wants to see desert, not garbage and he wants the city to run efficiently, which will be difficult if there are \$80-\$90 tipping fees to dispose of waste in the future. He would like the public to take a long-term view to do what is best for future generations.

Councilor Searle said he supports recycling but believes in residents having a choice through an opt out program. He commented that a lot of residents have two cans with the cost of a second can over \$4 a month, so it would be cheaper if they traded one garbage bin in for a recycling bin. Councilor Searle added that the city's garbage disposal costs are competitive when compared with neighboring cities.

Councilor Arnold said he agrees with recycling but doesn't want residents to be able to opt out of the program simply because they don't want to recycle. He would like those that don't want to participate to show an economic reason why paying for recycling would be a burden before being allowed to opt out.

Councilor Hunt said he recycles by taking items to drop off points, which he admits takes extra effort but he is willing to do because it's important to his family. He added that he doesn't agree with Councilor Arnold's proposal that residents who don't want to participate should have to justify opting out. He believes residents should have a choice.

Councilor Jenkins suggested the city look into smaller cans at a reduced price for those with limited space or without a large amount of recyclables. She expressed concern over the future of garbage storage and said she thinks a recycling program makes sense to keep waste costs low and to do the right thing for the future of Riverdale.

Mayor Burrows said the Council and representatives from Robinson Waste and Rocky Mountain Recycling would remain after this hearing to speak to members of the public with additional questions or comments.

C. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Additional input transcribed from comment cards collected at the town meeting:

“Will there be a paper stating what, how, etc...you can or cannot put in can?”

Anonymous

“It's important! Especially for the future of our children.” Raylin Warren

“No the savings do not equal the cost to the citizens in time money or material saved!

Opt out yes.” Courtney Dayton

“Recycle Riverdale! We can feel good about this decision as a community and as human beings, protecting our resources and our environment. Thank you so much.”

Anonymous

“I have been a life long Riverdale resident and would use a recycling program to great extent I know my residence would use this program to dispose of around 80% of our waste. That is so beneficial to me, since it's our responsibility to do what we can for the environment. I strongly urge the city to implement the program. Also it's not a bad thing to try and educate our neighbors on recycling. Those who say they wouldn't recycle may not know the extent of what can be recycled. We can help educate our neighbors on this. Thank you.” Marcy Macias

Approved: May 17, 2011

Attest:

Bruce Burrows, Mayor

Ember Herrick, City Recorder