Trafford Borough Discussion Meeting Minutes- September 21,2021

- Council President, Kris Cardiff, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.
- Roll call of attendance by Borough Secretary, Shannon Ulishney

Present:

1. Councilmember Cardiff
2. Councilmember Deabner
3. Councilmember Perovich
4. Councilmember Shoub
5. Mayor Llewellyn
6. Ashley Stack, Borough Manager

Absent:

1. Councilmember Cole
2. Councilmember Corrales
3. Councilmember Peters

Discussion topics

I. First topic was waste service, the Borough currently has Waste Management, and this contract is up December 31, 2021.

II. Ashley Stack said we received 2 trash proposals for the time frame of 2022-2025. Republic Services and Waste Management were the bidders. The bid included weekly garbage collection, bulky waste (2 per month), electronic waste, hazardous waste (unlimited), leaf and yard waste (5 pick-ups per year) It was also asked for cost estimates for recycling, both weekly and bi-weekly to give options. It cost too much last time, so we entertained it this time. Republic came in lower than Waste Management on all accounts – regular rate, senior citizen rate, and sticker program.

III. Price breakdown is as follows: Republic Service, Year 1 $15.50 per month, $186.00 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.56 per month, $42.72 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.83 per month, $21.96 per year- Waste Management came in at $207.96/year, with an approx. savings of $22

a) Year 2 proposal $15.95 per month, $191.40 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.66 per month, $43.92 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.83 per month, $22.56 per year.

b) Year 3 proposal $16.40 per month, $196.80 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.76 per week, $45.12 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.94 per month, $23.28 per year

c) Year 4 proposal $16.90 per month, $202.80 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.86 per month, $46.32 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly $2.00 per month, $24.00 per year

I. **Senior Citizen Residents- Qtrly invoicing**

a) Year 1 $13.95 per month, $167.40 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.20 per month, $38.40 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.65 per month, $19.80 per year. Waste Management came in at $187.16/year, so it is an approx. $20 savings
b) Year 2 $14.35 per month, $172.20 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.30 per month, $39.60 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.70 per month, $20.40 per year.
c) Year 3 $14.75 per month, $177.00 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.40 per month, $40.80 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.75 per month, $21.00 per year.
d) Year 4 $15.20 per month, $182.40 per year, Recyclables (unlimited weekly) $3.50 per month, $42.00 per year, Recyclables (unlimited bi-weekly) $1.80 per month, $21.60 per year.
    - Cost per sticker, Year 1 $2.50, Year 2, $2.60, Year 3 $2.70, Year 4 $2.80

Ashley stated that they are leaning on going with Republic Services, and would like to have this item on the October agenda. She mentioned that reps for Republic Services were in the audience, and could take questions. A member of the community wanted to know what the quarterly rate would be for seniors, and councilmember Cardiff said he did the math at $46.50 per quarter. $42/ Qtr without recycling. Councilmember Perovich answered. Community member said concern is that Republic Services does not have the highest reputation as Waste Management does. Republic Service member speaks about ways to earn public's trust, and to be patient with the transition. He assured that they have service level as high as Waste Management, and experience with high customer service. He said service they have now in regards to Hazardous waste is the same, but you call a number for special pickups, and they come. Councilmember wanted to know if they proposal is for one per person per truck. Ashley needs to get confirmation.

Councilmember Perovich wanted to know if the driver gets out of truck to actually dump the recycling or if the pick-up arm does this. The rep states that the driver does this. Councilmember Deabner then asks if they have smaller trucks because some of the alley ways are beaten down. Rep states that they do, but this was not figured into cost. He said they have smaller trucks in Export, and can see if they can come do these alleys if this becomes a concern.

Member of audience wants to know if seniors have to sign up for senior rate again. Republic rep says they work close with Waste Management to provide the same list to them. Another member wants to know where they dump the recycling. Rep states it all goes to site in Scottsdale, PA

Rep wants to know if they provide the stickers or if the Borough does. Ashley confirmed that currently we do sell the stickers, however, Republic could take this over. The program is set up to 1 30 gallon refuse bag, and you buy one sticker per bag. This is in lieu of the quarterly program. Ashley said they have very minimal members of the community that participate in this program. It is meant for people that do not have a lot of trash or do not put out.

Mayor wants to know about electronic waste- rep answered they collect TVS, and other electronics, however, you need to call and be given a pickup date.

Councilmember Perovich wanted to know if you Republic has the special plastic bags with paint cans, and they said yes, and drivers are given a list of addresses to know which house to go to. This is a separate pick up.

Councilmember Shoub asked if a resident goes away for an extended period he wanted to know if they can stop service, Rep said it depends on ordinance, and if allowed they may turn off the trash service during their extended visit away from home.

Councilmember Cardiff wanted to know if everyone has to be on recycling or can some members opt out. Rep states that they would be required to participate. Also said members would be given an 18 gallon bin. Confirmed all recyclables actually get recycled, and it costs a lot of money to do so, rep explained how this is not a money maker for refuse companies.

Recycling covers 2 trucks once a week, one for garbage, one for recycling for essentially 19/month.

Ashley asked if customers want an extra recycling bin can they ask for another one. They said yes if you request another bin, one will be provided… it is unlimited. A member of the community asked what they do for rentals. Rep said they must set up service just the same. Tenants can have garbage in their name if landlord allows.

Rep tells audience about an app that they can make any reports, order another bin, free app for anyone to manage their account.

The calendar will be mailed at the beginning of the year. This was asked by councilmember Deabner, and answered by Republic service rep.

Member of community asked if garbage needs to be bagged. Rep stated this is an ordinance issue. No ordinance currently in place. They do recommend to bag garbage. Automated phone messages go out if holiday or interruption of service. Rep suggested to get a good list of phone numbers from Waste Management or Borough so they can provide these calls. They also suggest getting a good physical and mailing address so residents can get mailings.

Councilmember Perovich asked if multi-resident home will each place have their own service or one collection for entire building. Rep confirmed this is for each individual, not for the whole. Other option is dumpster if allowed per ordinance.

President Cardiff requested more feedback from board and also the members of the audience. He wants to see are people willing to participate in the recycling program for an extra 22/year. He wants to see if this a good thing or not. Mayor Llewellyn requested to have a vote on the website, and Ashley said this would need to be done to be ready for the next meeting so it is on the agenda. The audience had discussion and was in favor of the recycling. The agreed upon was bi-weekly due to not having this in the past, and this gives a lower cost. It is 1.83/month for bi-weekly – Rep said only the concern for bi-weekly is people forgetting what week they are in, and not knowing when to put recycling out.

President Cardiff asked if recyclables need to be washed out. Rep said yes with soap and water. If you have peanut butter for an example this would contaminate cardboard so all things need washed, and President Cardiff said to keep in mind, now you are using more water/sewage. He is not against this, just simply wanting Public to know all details to make an informative decision. Audience is in favor of the bi-weekly service. They said it is 22/year

Next item on agenda is permitting dogs in BY park… this has been brought up in past as a way to scare off geese, and just simply walk their dog. Of course, we need rules about picking up waste. Ashley said that the actual ordinance would need changed, and there would need to be a vote to allow this change, and then the ordinance would need amended. Members in the past have sent overwhelming responses in favor of allowing dogs in the park. The insurance broker said it is so common for dogs to be allowed in parks, so not much to this. Ashley Stack said she looked into having a dog park area, but decided initially against this because you would need fences. She did suggest waste stations throughout park. President Cardiff said to give this a 2 or 3 year trial so we can see if this reduces the amount of geese. When public works has rentals they do garbage and would do dog waste during this time too. Member said they need rules to have waste picked up, and also dogs on leashes. Ashley agreed to spell this out with a list at the park. (This is confirmed to be at BY park only)

2022 Budget presented by Ashley Stack- will not have draft until November for council. She is looking for feedback from council and residents on how to spend money. Right now they have some infrastructure and Hillcrest Dr. on here- storm water project, Meadow St. received a grant, but this will be next year, looking at doing paving, Terrace has roads that need taken care of, land improvement to make community look better like Irwin. Looking into Revitalizing Westmoreland. They would provide a grant up to 40k, and Borough matches 20k- Ashley asks audience If they want to see more work done on Briton? Cavitt?

Member of audience said leaf pickup used to be good, but last 2 years no leaves picked up. He was in favor of the orange fencing that borough used to have to control leaves that cause issues with storm sewers, and aesthetics. Edgewood, Fairmont and Gilmore have major leaf issue. Why doesn't Borough invest in a good blower? Irwin does not have the leaf issue that Trafford has, and he has brought up the concern before. The audience wanted to know why the orange fence was taken down. Ashley said there were more complaints to take down then there were leaving it up. A leaf machine to pick it up is broke down all the time, and to invest in a new one is approx. 100k. This is why the leaves have not been picked up in past. A member asked if this grant could help with leaves, but not enough money for this. Member of audience stated that councilmember Perovich is the only one he sees around town, and Cavitt has weeds everywhere, and this is very unsightly. Duquesne and 4th have weeds everywhere, and it looks horrible, around curbs, grass uncut until he called Perovich to get things done. The issue is usually rentals not being upkept. Rentals on sixth street have uncut grass. Ashley states that she would love to have Full Time code enforcement, but they only have part time. They requested to please if you know anyone who is qualified encourage them to apply. A lot of issues is due to not having full time code enforcement. Borough is willing to send to school and training and become a building inspector. Issue is once they are certified they leave due to Borough not being able to pay. They have tried to hire 3rd party, and this does not work. Mayor Llewellyn said part time code enforcement is not working for the Borough. He said abandoned houses are not being addressed.

Member of audience said they do want to say thanks for trying to listen to community, and help, but there are issues if no code enforcements what other avenues can we use? Question asked do you get a warning at first. Ashley responded yes warning first, and then they can go to magistrate, but they have not had much resolution going that route. A lot of time was wasted in putting into having FT Code Enforcement, but that effort did not work. Police do not have time, nor want to do code enforcement. Member of audience says that the little things to beautify the town needs to be done first before

Borough tackles big things. Little issues that with the help of everyone can address. Trafford is considered a rental town, approx. 40% is rentals, and this presents an issue for maintenance.

Member of audience said he would volunteer himself to help clean up, and Ashley said to remember you cannot go onto private property.

Member said she never sees road crew out cleaning up or pruning. Councilmember Perovich said he sees road crews out during the day all the time, in fact they were out today doing work. Member of audience suggested to have an adopt a highway type of program to help beautify town. Ashley said they cannot even get people join the rec board, so these are hard issues to find the work to get done by volunteers. Can public works pick up leaves in parks? Ashley said yes they are already doing this. The issue is the machine to pick up the leaves is so expensive. The fence was brought up again – audience is in favor of this again, and borough will look into revisiting this.

The issues are the fence blows over, it is not a permanent structure, so how can we get this to stand up?

President Cardiff suggests that a lot of things being brought up can we done from the online complaint form, so we put this in writing, and can work together. Website lists all of councils email address, encourages community to contact them for concerns. Councilmember Deabner had a suggestion that let's take care of the people here, and address their concerns. If others complain then we let them know they did not attend the meeting. Member of audience wants to know if Public works can check the orange fences once a week to make sure they are functioning.

Community member speaks up and thanks council for cutting shrubbery and putting up a stop sign- things that were addressed at the prior meeting. She was walking at memorial park, and saw pear trees- they have a fungus on them, and would like to see if money is funded to look at the trees because they add to the beauty of the park. Ashley said that the Legion actually handles that, but she will talk to public works to see if it is something they could handle.

President Perovich redirects community back to budget topic – President Cardiff said we need to look into the server issue to upgrade for the borough.

Next topic is further discussion, and a community member talked about a hole around the fire hydrant at Gilmore and 5th- the water company replaced the hydrant, but it needs more stone, the hole by the curb was never filled. Concern that someone could fall in the hall. The sidewalk at Gilmore and 5th it was brought up to ADA standards awhile back but it is not in disrepair.

A community member brings up a concern about speeding in the community, and not stopping at red lights. 6th street they drive like the Indy 500- where is police presence? There is aggressive driving, and Mayor will mention this to police force. Ashley speaks up and says you see this in Irwin too where she lives. This is an issue everywhere, not just Trafford. There are only 2 police at a time patrolling, so it is hard to get all of the speeders, but they do work diligently. Mayor will talk to Chief to address all of the speeding concerns. Ashley will check on speed limit signs.

Community member asks what is speed limit in residential area. Answer was 25mph.

Community suggest having cops sit in one spot to scare speeders. They named other areas where you know for sure there is police presence, and this works in having the community slow down.

Community member asks if the snow plows are work since the leaf machine did not work. Ashley said all 3 machines up and running. Commended public works for last Christmas with snow removal. They missed time with families to get out and plow and keep roads cleared, and did an amazing job.

A member of the community was concerned that the gate at the park is broken, and now the gate is removed. Member said that was not necessary to take it down, they need to just fix the fence- it is public works job. Ashley will talk to public works about the fence issue. He also suggests that a sign children at play, slow speed at the parks for safety. The issue is what is done for one park needs done for all. Member of community said there are only 6 parks so this is doable.

Next question was in regards to the fire department purchasing property. Member of community asked if they will make this a parking lot, and will this look nice. Councilmember Shoub said that is the fire department business what they do with the property. They said this was a sealed bid, and it was advertised, and fire department was the only place to submit a bid on property. This was purchased for 43,596. A community member is concerned where they got the money, and she donates money, but will reconsider now in the future since they had extra money to purchase property.

President councilmember thanks everyone for attending the meeting, and the input.

Next council meeting will be Oct 5th at 7pm in the council chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Perovich

Second motion to adjourn: Councilmember Deabner