

**MEETING OF THE
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING TASK FORCE
MARCH 20, 2012**

Members Present

Alyson Best
Kay Brandon
Tony Davies
Bob Davis
DJ Hardy
Jim Lewis
Bob Mays
Vic Nussbaum
Mark Taylor

Staff Present

Dale Wyrick
Nancy Lindemeyer
James Dickens, Legal Department

The first meeting of the Waste Management & Recycling Task Force was held on March 20, 2012, in the Plaza Level Conference Room beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Introductions

Councilwoman Vaughan welcomed members to the new Task Force and stated that she appreciates the new members agreeing to serve. She stated that she and T. Diane Bellamy-Small were the liaisons for this Task Force, and were available to take questions and attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

Each member introduced themselves and stated their appointment district and also gave some personal background information.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councilwoman Vaughan stated that a Chair and Vice Chair should be elected to serve the Task Force. It was the consensus of the Task Force members that Bob Davis serve as Chair and Kay Brandon serve as Vice Chair.

Meeting Schedule

After some discussion of the Task Force members, it was tentatively determined that meetings would be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, beginning at 3:00 p.m. It was also noted that some of the meetings will take place at other locations. Members will be notified of these locations as they are determined.

Strategies and Goals

- Request for Proposals

Chairwoman Vaughan stated that recycling Request for Proposals (RFP's) will be issued soon and will be due around the first week in April. The Task Force members will be asked for their input on the RFP responses, but the final decision will be made by City Council. Dale Wyrick

stated that the major components of the RFP will be presented at the March 27 Council work session.

Bob Mays asked if the RFP for solid waste disposal will be put out soon and Dale Wyrick stated that they are developing an RFP for that as well. He will discuss the solid waste disposal RFP at the March 27 Council work session.

- **Methane Gas to Energy**

Councilwoman Vaughan stated that she and Dale Wyrick wanted to discuss possible issues the Task Force may want to work on. Dale Wyrick stated that two RFPs have already been discussed, i.e., recycling and solid waste disposal. A third RFP for Methane Gas to Energy is being considered. The Task Force may be interested in appointing a sub-group to review the concept and help staff as they move forward with ideas related to gas to energy. The Task Force could potentially help in the development of an RFP and in evaluating the responses.

There are many possibilities for using gas, and the ideas need to be reviewed to see which ones are practical for the City and the surrounding areas. The City currently has an agreement with Cone Mills Denim Plant (ITG), where the City supplies ITG with methane gas from Phases I and II of the landfill. ITG has expressed an interest in creating a partnership.

The Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant could be run on methane gas from the landfill, which is a \$2M dollar electric bill for the City of Greensboro.

Councilwoman Vaughan asked if there was staff available to work with a sub-group of the Task Force. Dale Wyrick stated that HDR Engineering has been the City's consultant for some time and suggested that an HDR representative begin getting together the basic components with a group that is interested in working on this effort.

- **Mattress Go Round**

Councilwoman Vaughan stated that a second issue she would like the Task Force to look at involves used mattresses, which take up a lot of space in the landfill and in the trucks going to the landfill. A relatively new company, Mattress Go Round, founded by Andrew Brod and Bob Savino, recycles old mattresses by stripping them down and sterilizing the springs. The recycled mattresses are used in colleges, hospitals, etc. Mattress Go Round is interested in developing a partnership with the City to get mattresses before they are sent to the landfill.

Dale Wyrick stated that the City currently has a pilot program with Mattress Go Round and is providing them with bulk trash mattresses. Mattress Go Round is currently successfully recycling mattresses for Pitt County.

Councilwoman Vaughan encouraged the members of the Task Force to visit the plant to see for themselves what a good job they are doing.

- **Carolina Energy Development**

Councilman Jim Kee introduced Dr. John Rodenbough, president of Carolina Energy Development, one of the waste energy companies that bid on the solid waste disposal RFP last year. Dr. Rodenbough stated that they have just signed contracts with Fort Irwin and the Army to begin building waste energy projects for military bases.

Carolina Energy Development is also in the process of developing and getting ready to move forward with the commercialization of this technology for municipalities. They are looking for a place where they can build the first commercial unit and are interested in building a facility at Greensboro's transfer station to ensure that the smallest amount of materials goes to the landfill.

Bob Mays questioned Mr. Rodenbough, who confirmed that his company had no functioning machines handling MSW for municipalities. The current machine they have handles 40 tons of MSW per day on an Indian reservation in Mesa, CA that is not subject to EPA or California air standards. Bob stated that this is a long-term solution for solid waste, but there are other examples of this very technology from a number of different companies, some of whom are owned by waste management and owned by other large vendors in this business. Bob stated that this would be an interesting project for a sub-group of the Task Force.

- Other

DJ Hardy asked about local participation and suggested an incentive mechanism that could capture participation. Dale Wyrick stated that Coca-Cola has approached staff with a program called, "Give It Back" wherein people who recycle correctly are eligible for a \$50.00 gift card from Harris Teeter. He will bring more information on this program to the Task Force and City Council in the near future.

Bob Mays suggested that Task Force members use the website as a resource as there is a tremendous amount of information available. Councilwoman Vaughan suggested that everyone be sent an e-mail with those links. She also suggested that members be made aware of the CNBC Trash, Inc. link.

Bob Mays stated that one thing he learned during the RFP process is that trash is big money and he feels the Task Force would be remiss not to look at what it costs to put trash in the ground, what it costs to recycle and what it costs to utilize gas technology. Councilwoman Vaughan stated that when this Task Force was put together, Council stated that the White Street landfill was off the table for municipal solid waste disposal. She asked that the past 22 months of discussion regarding the use of White Street not be rehashed.

Councilwoman Vaughan and other Council members left the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Chairman Davis took over the meeting.

James Dickens, Legal Department, provided binders to each Task Force member and copies of the Resolution were also presented. He briefly went over the charge of the Task Force, as covered in the Resolution and further information as included in the binder.

Dale Wyrick stated that the reason for the attendance of the Court Reporter is to be able to record minutes for summarization or even verbatim transcript capabilities, if needed. A specific mailbox for the Task Force members and staff will be created through the City's IT Department, to save pertinent information and to communicate with each other.

Chair Davis stated that 2 members are asked to volunteer to serve as liaisons to the City Council. Alyson Best and Tony Davies volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Mark Taylor asked the Chair to set aside some time at the beginning of the next meeting to allow Task Force members to express some goals, objectives and questions about what the Task Force can reasonably be expected to accomplish in the limited amount of time available. Mark Taylor asked if any background document would be made available to the members to boil down the vast information for readability purposes. Dale Wyrick stated he would see if he could come up with a summary of information.

Bob Mays stated it was helpful to him to read some of the RFPs as there is a tremendous amount of information in them. He urged the other members to get their thoughts together before the next meeting, next Tuesday, especially in regard to sub-groups and goals and objectives.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

***** The next scheduled meeting of the task force is Tuesday, March 27th, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber to hear the Council Work Session regarding the Recycling and Solid Waste Disposal RFP's.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Davis, Chair

BD/jd