

SPECIAL MEETING NO. 3
Council Chambers, City Hall

January 31, 2023
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Galloway, McAntire, Hull, Pope, and Mayor Johnson.
Council Member Roe was absent.

Hull moved, seconded by Galloway to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-1. Absent: Roe.

Mayor Johnson inquired if there was anyone from the audience who wished to address an item on the agenda. Jeff Dudman requested to speak about Item No. 1, Bridge City Sanitation.

City Admin. Rath began, council requested this mtg. to have open dialog with Bridge City Sanitation. He introduced Jason Blunt and Keith Lewis to share some opening comments.

Mr. Lewis stated we have noticed much improvement for this newer contract compared to the first ten yr. contract. Very pleased with the open lines of communication between entities. We have spent about \$1 Million to replace nine trucks and two auto arms. A call log at the office shows approx. 8-900 calls rec'd per month; of those, 100-120 are misses (items not picked up according to their route schedule), other being mostly bulky item pick-up or yard waste collection calls.

Questions/Concerns: time of pick-up (around 4:00 A.M.), drainage/seepage from the garbage trucks, bulky items, and communication barriers with non-English speaking citizens.

Mr. Lewis responded by clarifying they are only allowed to pick-up one bulky item per wk., per the contract. Mr. Blunt added, we have discussed putting together a plan on how to bill customers who desire to put more than one bulky item out per week but nothing has come to fruition. Drivers must complete pre-route checklists before they leave premises; they try to stay ahead of schedule in order to collect from all stops in the route. They aren't supposed to be much earlier than 6:00 A.M. (per the contract), but we do want them out on the route as soon as they can; we will check with staff because it shouldn't be 4:00 A.M.

Comm. Dev. Dir. Simonson responded to communication barriers. The City promulgates the rules in place for waste pick-up. This is a project for us to get info available in other languages for our diverse citizen base.

Mr. Blunt responded to the question about spillage from the trucks; these trucks have an enormous amount of moving parts that all require hydrolic oil to keep maintained. We spend thousands of dollars every month just to keep leaks fixed. The fluid is extremely toxic and eats through the seals. We do the best that we can to patch holes and replace hoses as soon as we are aware of the issue.

Mr. Lewis added, another issue is loose trash on the streets. All trash must be bagged and placed inside the trash receptacle. If not, when the automated arm dumps it into the hopper, trash will blow out. Citizens can purchase add'l trash bag tags, but need to understand they are to be used for up to a 32 gallon trash bag (and not large contractor bags, etc.).

Galloway replied, as citizens in Ottumwa, we need to make sure that our trash is bagged properly and that we are not overfilling bags or cans.

Mayor Johnson added he's received comments about the bulky items and office staff not being overly professional or customer focused. Need to maintain a professional demeanor at all times.

Mr. Dudman shared his experience with BCS. Can see cont. abuse of bins/rough housing by the employees; it took four weeks, with calls made every single week, to get my trash bin replaced; the last call before it was replaced, I was told that a truck was broken, which has nothing to do with replacing my trash bin; oversized bulky items sitting in neighbor's yard for over three wks.; my yard waste bags left in yard to rot and not picked up. I encourage other citizens to come forward.

Mr. Yasfir Torres also decided to speak on this item; asked if they had ever thought about sub-contracting some work out for those residences that get missed or bulky item pick-up; make a list of addresses that need picked up from and a sub-contractor can go do, for a nominal fee.

Mr. Jim Cain shared that his service has been perfect, never been any issues.

Rath moved onto ATV/UTV Ord. Discussion. Draft Ord. was provided by Ahlers & Cooney. The state kicked this off with legislation changes in July, 2022. The city still has the ability to est. roadways used by various vehicles; with an ext. or allowance for ATV/UTV on certain roadways. This is only a discussion item tonight, but will be brought before Council for adoption. This draft does not change anything for ATV, but does allow operation of UTV within the City. Suggestion of removing the section in our current code that allows for ATVs, motorcycles and dirt bikes on designated frozen ponds. It is not recommended to allow them to be driven upon any of the ponds within the park; ponds are too small and irregular shape. Overall, it is not a safe activity to allow on city owned property; inconsistent weather (freezing/thawing) and hard to tell if the ice is thick enough. Would also recommend including an exemption for municipal purpose (campground hosts and Main St. both use a Gator). Council members are in agt. with all items in the draft ord. Request to move forward to legislatively adopt Ord.

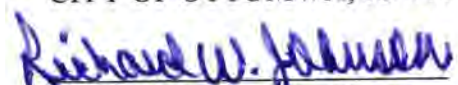
Mayor Johnson inquired if anyone from the audience wished to address an item not on the agenda. There were none.

There being no further business, Galloway moved, seconded by Pope that the mtg. adjourn. Motion carried 4-1. Absent: Roe.

Adjournment was at 6:36 P.M.


ATTEST:

Christina Reinhard, CMC, City Clerk

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

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