

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

via Zoom

Present: Members: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Barnard and Alderman Robinson. Others: Alderman Panus; Alderman Anastasia; Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

- a. PL #07-21: (Crawford) To form a Recruitment, Retention and Rebranding Taskforce for the City of Olean.

A motion to postpone PL #07-21 to the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

- a. Discussion – Refuse Contract

Mr. Ring explained that he sent a PDF to the Council regarding the proposed changes to the refuse contract in the City. He explained that about a year ago the contract was discussed, and at that time the possibility was discussed to also include an option for residents to pay monthly. He explained that the current contract was for ten years and expired last year, and we are currently working on rebidding the contract. He explained that a popular idea is to go with a hybrid system that will allow residents to either continue to use the current sticker system or to use a City-managed tote system. He explained that the tote would be delivered and owned by the refuse hauler, and the resident would pay a monthly fee to have it emptied each week.

Mr. Ring explained that the main idea behind the hybrid system is to start transitioning to a tote system. He explained that there has been discussion about completely switching to totes with different sizes and colors at different costs.

Mr. Ring explained that recycling would be a part of the contract, and yard waste pickup would continue to occur six times a year. He explained that there is a possible cost to pick up recycling because haulers are now charged for it as well. He explained that we don't want to do away with recycling but things have changed a lot, and it could be included with the cost of a tote.

Alderman Robinson asked if the City would stick with the current type of recycling done or if we would transition to zero sort recycling. Mr. Ring explained that after the meeting with the hauling group, he feels that it would be best to stick to zero sort recycling and allow the hauler to figure this into a cost for a sticker or the monthly total for recycling and a tote. He explained that other communities will have cardboard picked up one day and other types of recycling pickup other days, but as far as the routes go in the City, that doesn't make sense for us.

Alderman Witte asked if the plan is to stick with two different size stickers, and Mr. Ring explained that we would continue to offer 15 gallon and 30 gallon stickers. He explained that we are currently selling around 10,000 a month of 15 gallon stickers and 7,500 a month for 30 gallon stickers. He explained that he was shocked when he heard how many we are selling each month.

Alderman Crawford explained that as far as feedback on our current process, he gets very little, if any, complaints or concerns from citizens regarding current rates. He explained that from that perspective, if it isn't broke, don't fix it. He does have residents ask to have stricter rules as far as the bins that are put out and if we can have some kind of uniform system. He explained that people will just put a garbage bag out and stray cats will get into it and rip up the bag, leaving garbage everywhere. He explained that this is really the only complaint that he received about this. He explained that he would like to see the two options for residents as well.

Mr. Ring explained that having two garbage companies in town is causing twice as much breakdown on roads. He explained that he would recommend an exclusive contract. Mr. Ring explained that we get five percent of all of the money collected and for us to manage a monthly system, this is revenue for us. Alderman Crawford asked if an exclusive contract would mean no other private business could be operating in the City, and Mr. Ring explained that this would be for residential only.

Alderman Witte asked if there are any issues with yard waste. She explained that she has some folks putting out bushes and big branches, where others use bags. She asked if there have been any complaints regarding yard waste. Mr. Ring explained that the only issue is that it used to be taken to Farwell, which is now closed. He explained, though, that it will be up to the hauler to find a new site. He explained that regarding feedback from the haulers, they recommended a long contract, such as a five or six year contract with the option for extensions like the prior

contract. He explained that this will help spread the cost of the totes out over time. He explained that after six years, we could modify things that were not working in the contract.

Alderman Anastasia explained that as long as stickers are still done as well as totes, he is okay moving forward. He explained that he only has garbage twice a month, so he would prefer stickers for himself rather than a monthly fee.

Alderman Crawford asked about the timeline and if the RFP will go out relatively quickly. Mr. Ring explained that he would like to see a bid opening before June 1<sup>st</sup> with a new contract taking effect in July. He explained that if a new hauler comes in, we would need to work with them on routes and convert some residents to totes if we decide to move forward with this option.

Mr. Ring explained that he will have a bid reviewed and it will be taken to the Council to award the bid when it is opened and reviewed. Mayor Aiello explained that changing the requirements for putting refuse out at the curb would require a change of Code.

Alderman Barnard asked about the cost for recycling, and Mr. Ring explained that the companies are currently charged around \$22 a ton for recycling, and they need to take recycling to a facility in Rochester.

#### 5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

#### 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.