

City of Cosmopolis

Workshop Minutes
January 05, 2011

Mayor Vickie L Raines presided

Councilmembers Present: Jim Ancich, Carl Sperring, Frank Chestnut, Debbi Moran and Karen Cox

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Attorney Stephen Hyde, and Public Works Director Raines

Mayor Raines called the workshop to order turning it over to Public Works Director Darrin Raines. Darrin said that we were to discuss the new commercial rates for containers, city clean-up and composting. Darrin said that if we are going to do something with composting, we should probably adjust the rates. If we are going to do it this year we need to make a decision now.

DelRoy Cox, J Del Consultants, explained that the main issue right now is that when the City sets the rates, we set it for residential only. The containers and drop box rates are set by the Washington State Utility and Transportation Commission. In the past this has worked out really well. It has been a long time since the container rates were raised. UTC has increased the rates substantially this year, so the company is offering to leave the rates the same as the previous rate schedule; as per addendum. Jeff Harwood, District Manager for Waste Management, said the idea is to have the rates that are being charged fixed into the contract until the end of 2011 and then they would be adjusted by the same formula.

DelRoy explained that he incorporated the rate structure into the addendum at the bottom of page 1, exhibit A, continuing on page 2 and 3. These rates were adopted in January 2009.

Jim Ancich asked how much the increase would be if we do not adopt this addendum. Jeff Howard, Waste Management, said that it would be 58% higher if we use the proposed UTC rate. Jim asked how wide spread the 58% increase is. Jeff said that it is throughout Grays Harbor County. The rural areas do not have the volume to make up the revenue that they do in the cities.

Frank asked if we were going to talk about rates for composting. Mayor Raines said that we were going to discuss the possibility of having the drop boxes during the summer month for compost vs having the little totes at every home. We can maybe try it this summer and see how it works out. We might be able to afford trying it June, July and August.

Mayor Raines said that she is concerned about the spring clean-up amount. We discussed, but did not make any moves on an increase fee to cover the cost. It is too late to collect enough to cover the difference in what we collect now, about \$1500, and what the clean up actually costs us, about \$3072. Mayor Raines said she would like the City to find the difference within the budget this year instead of passing the cost on to the citizens.

Jim asked if we collected \$10 for city clean up this could help cover the cost. Mayor Raines said that she would rather not do that at this time. The last couple of years have been pretty hard for everyone.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor

NEW BUSINESS

