

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY
SPECIAL MEETING

January 4, 1993

Committee Members Present:

Joan Barr, Lonnie Clark, Michael Pollock, Clifford Singer, Charles Smyth (Chairman), Bonnie Tarr and Joseph Whelan

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Bruce Walden, Jack Waaler, Bill Gray, and Mayor Markland

Others Present:

Members of the News Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chairman Smyth called the special meeting of the Committee on Environment and Public Safety to order at 8:08 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Solid Waste issues.

Chairman Smyth presented a Solid Waste Ordinance Summary of Option D from the November 1992 "Update Report" of Solid Waste Management Systems Assessment which follows.

- A. Licenses for haulers:
Residential Hauling license fee per residence served.
- B. City to guarantee provision of minimum curbside refuse:
Up to 2 curbside cans once per week on recycling

day are collected.

All other pickups at back door.
All cans require stickers.

Additional items require a sticker.

City determines price of stickers (e.g. first can sticker free, extra at \$2 per can per month; bulky items and bags in unstickered cans at \$.50 each).

Sticker sales will support U-Cycle program costs.

Haulers providing curbside pickup provide the same customers access to back yard refuse and yard waste pickup with single combined billing system.

- C. Require meeting Illinois law for liability and workers' compensation.
- D. City to establish vehicle standards, registration, and inspection.
- E. License requires all acceptable waste to landfill or yard waste site.
- F. Billing information for sticker charges from hauler; billing method to be negotiated.
- G. Haulers required to assist in education efforts.
- H. Haulers required to submit frequent weight and volume records for trash, yard waste, and recyclables as applicable.
- I. Penalties for violations as in present city code.
- J. The City of Urbana shall enter into negotiations for one or more contracts with IEPA-licensed landfills for delivery of all of the residential and municipal solid waste. Contract shall establish limits on landfilling charges for a period of at least five years. Contract shall annually be automatically extended to at least a five year period except by advance written notice by either party. City's Solid Waste Management Plan shall provide procedures for ensuring landfill access in the event contract is not extended.

- K. Large apartment unit owners provide recycling service.
- L. Maximum protection for city against contracting with business with anything but "squeaky clean" waste business histories.
- M. License revocation for illegal actions.
- N. Comprehensive Contracts: To the extent allowed by applicable law, solid waste contracts with the City shall include provisions for settlement of any outstanding legal actions between the City and the contractor.

Mr. Pollock requested comments from Committee members, stating that this plan is very close to what the City should consider in order to reach solid waste goals.

Mr. Pollock moved to send the Solid Waste Ordinance Summary to staff with instructions to draw up enabling ordinances. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barr.

In response to objections by Mr. Clark and Mr. Whelan that this is premature, Mr. Pollock responded that there is nothing on this list that could not be amended at this meeting before it goes to staff. At this point it is close enough to what is needed and he is prepared to have staff work on it.

Mr. Whelan also objected to the requirements put on the haulers to provide the City with records of their business.

Ms. Barr stated that it is time the Committee starts to move forward.

Mr. Clark questioned allowing pickup of two cans of waste per week at curbside on recycling day.

Mr. Pollock said this is an attempt at volume based pricing. If there is a curbside program, payment will be more for two cans than for one. The intent of requiring a license or stickers is to provide revenues through the waste stream to pay for the recycling program.

Mr. Pollock explained that this plan is completely voluntary and does not mandate anything. It will provide incentives by providing a service to those who throw out less and recycle more to continue. The more involved services will not be

provided for the base low price. This is a way to encourage waste reduction and recycling.

Mr. Clark asked how U-Cycling will be paid for. Mr. Pollock responded that license fees on the cans, charges for additional stickers, and haulers' license fees will be sources of revenue.

Ms. Tarr questioned the meaning of "all other pickups at backdoor."

Mr. Singer stated that only two approved containers per week, yard waste and recyclables will be allowed at the curb.

Ms. Tarr questioned having no restrictions on hours of operation. If the City has a local transfer station, there should be restrictions on the hours of operation.

Mr. Whelan said that the garbage haulers have worked out a practical system and the restriction on hours is not necessary.

In regard to licensing, Mr. Whelan stated that in plan A the residential licensing is based on residences served. Commercial is based on the number of trucks. He stated that a license should not be issued on the number of customers. In both cases the City could more accountably license based on trucks in both residential and commercial. The critical question is how to increase the licensing to a threshold that is by state statute acceptable and legal, to pay for some of the things we are trying to do such as education.

Mr. Pollock stated that his thought behind the difference between licensing fees for residential and commercial is that a lot of residential haulers are small operations with small trucks. Commercial operators have large trucks that carry more tonnage. If there is a strictly by-the-truck license fee, the hauler that has a smaller truck will have to pay a disproportionate fee because smaller trucks do not haul as much as larger trucks. It would be more equitable to tie the fee to the business being done by the truck.

Regarding noise and hours of operation, Mr. Smyth stated that the City restricts loud noise after 10:00 p.m., hence there should be no problem restricting the noise from garbage haulers after that time.

Ms. Tarr moved that within one year of the construction of an Urbana transfer facility that collection be restricted to

6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth.

The motion to have staff draw up the language restricting hours of residential collection from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. upon the opening of a transfer facility carried 4-3 by a show of hands vote.

Mr. Pollock asked that this be added to the Solid Waste Ordinance Summary as item O.

Mr. Clark requested an explanation of item H. How are the haulers to furnish this information and how often is frequent.

Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden replied that the information requested is only that which is necessary to comply with provisions of State law and/or the County Solid Waste Plan.

Mr. Clark questioned what the State law is and is it realistic?

Mr. Pollock asked if the reason for making sure the City has access to figures on the amount of waste that is recycled or tonnage dumped in the landfill is to determine if the City is complying with State regulations?

Mr. Walden stated that Mr. Pollock was correct.

Mr. Clark asked whether this is something the City is doing now or something it will need to impose.

Mr. Smyth said the City is required to recycle 15% of its solid waste. In the future that requirement will be 25%. The City needs some ability to determine the percentage of recyclables to report to the State that its mandates are being met. Presently the solid waste plan is filed with the State and the County follows up with the reports. The City needs to have access to information to comply with State law.

Mr. Clark moved to change the wording of Item H. to read as follows:

"Haulers required to submit frequent weight and volume records for trash, yard waste, and recyclables as applicable necessary to comply with State law."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer.

Mr. Pollock moved to amend the motion to add after State law "or the County Solid Waste Plan or City of Urbana Solid Waste Plan." The motion was seconded by Mr. Singer.

Mr. Whelan asked where the figures that are used for various reports are obtained.

Mr. Walden replied the only reliable information the City has dates back to 1988, which is the last year the Urbana landfill was operated. Any information arrived at since then is an educated guess or speculation.

Mr. Whelan asked how the State mandate could be accomplished without meddling with the haulers business?

Mr. Walden said there is no way to comply with State law without knowing waste volume and if the State says it has to be done, it will be done.

Mr. Whelan stated that some locations in the state estimate that information based on the reports received from the landfill.

Mr. Smyth reminded the Committee that it is discussing a motion to add the words "County Solid Waste Plan or City of Urbana Solid Waste Plan" to Mr. Clark's motion to change the wording of Item H. to read: "Haulers required to submit frequent weight and volume records for trash, yard waste, and recyclables as applicable necessary to comply with State law."

Mr. Pollock's motion to add "or County Solid Waste Plan or City of Urbana Solid Waste Plan" carried 5-2 by show of hands vote.

The motion to amend H. carried 6-1 by show of hands vote with Mr. Whelan opposed.

Mr. Pollock said that he would like to hear suggestions from those who do not feel this summary is a way to go. He sees a willingness to respond to the haulers but is not sure the unwillingness to discuss what is presented is best for the City.

Mr. Smyth said his biggest concern is that the plan for using stickers be as simple as possible.

Mr. Whelan expressed his hope to have another option to present to the Committee very soon. He does not believe this summary is the answer but rather than just condemn it he will try

to present an option.

Mr. Whelan also stated he feels the haulers could give the Committee some help with this as it is their business and they know what they are doing. The Committee needs to come up with a system that benefits the citizens of Urbana as inexpensively as possible.

Mr. Clark commended Mr. Pollock for his hard work and diligence in working with this program. Mr. Clark feels that there has to be movement both ways. The Committee needs feedback from the haulers to know if we are on the same track. The bottom line is to recycle and find a method to pay for it.

Mr. Smyth said he hopes an agreement can be reached that will be satisfactory to all parties. The most important aspect is paying for the recycling program, which was originally paid for from tip fees at the Urbana landfill. The citizens of Urbana need to understand that the present U-Cycle program is being paid for by tax monies, revenues that have come from the taxpayer. It has never been a free program.

Mr. Smyth stated further that item B of the summary sets up a volume based mechanism for paying for the recycling program. It is an economic incentive to encourage people to recycle. The alternative to volume based pricing is property taxes.

Mr. Pollock pointed out that included in this summary of prototype D is a complete summary of prototype A. In either of those prototypes there is a licensing provision that would license the current operating haulers and anyone else in the City who is interested in getting a license. It is the least restrictive except those options that recommend that the City do nothing.

Mr. Singer clarified the intent of the motion on the floor which was to direct staff to prepare an ordinance based on the Solid Waste Ordinance Summary.

Mr. Pollock stated that the Committee wants all the information on the enabling ordinances as soon as possible, in the next packet if possible, or in time to discuss at the next Committee meeting.

The motion for staff to prepare enabling ordinances passed by a show of hands vote.

Mr. Pollock asked the status of the County Solid Waste

Plan under which the City is supposed to be operating. His understanding is that the County has expressed an interest in transferring to the City the planning authority for the solid waste plan for the City of Urbana. In the ordinances that the Committee will be considering there will be some type of arrangement of fees to support the recycling program. Does the City need to have a local solid waste program in place in order to enact and achieve the goals that it is looking at; if so, what is the status?

Mr. Walden replied that the County Solid Waste Plan is in place at the present time. The indications are that the County may unilaterally delegate the implementation authority to the corporate municipalities within the county. He further stated that he couldn't imagine accepting the implementation authority without the initial planning authority.

Mr. Pollock suggested that Legal staff gather information on the County Solid Waste Plan and what is happening there so the Committee can be prepared.

Mr. Smyth requested that staff also look into the possibility of a subscription service to offer those people who are part of Urbana but not within the city limits some type of curbside service.

Mr. Walden stated that such a service has not been explored in detail but initial thoughts were that it might be possible. It will be investigated.

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Secretary

*This meeting was taped.
**This meeting was boardcast on cable television.

Committee on Environment and Public Safety
January 4, 1993
Page 9