

MINUTES
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 30, 2009—5:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM—2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL

The Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, March 30, 2009 at 5:30 P. M. and reports the following items for City Council's consideration:

Council Members Present: John Howren, Chairman
 Councilman Dave Kirlin
 Councilman Dale Burkett

Guests: Gene Ratchford, Property Owner
 Gary Foster, Gastonia Housing Authority
 Nancy Paschall, Attorney

Chairman Howren called the meeting to order and recognized James Currence, Director of General Services, and Flip Bombardier, Assistant City Manager, for staff's presentation.

ITEM 1: SOLID WASTE COLLECTION TO MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS

At the Facilities Committee Meeting on July 14, 2008, the Committee requested staff review ways to decrease the City's cost of refuse collection and disposal for apartments and mobile home parks. During this study, it was determined that the estimated cost to provide bulk container service to over 100 individual apartment complexes and mobile homes in Fiscal Year 08/09 would be \$357,569. Additionally, the City provides for the collection of Christmas trees, sofas and mattress/box springs at no cost to these complexes as stated in the Code of Ordinances, Section 11-61 (a) (6). A survey with other North Carolina cities was conducted by the General Services Department. The findings reveal that most of the municipalities do not offer this type of collection, and for those who do offer this collection, a fee is charged.

Since apartments and mobile home parks are considered to be a "property business" in which a profit is derived from their operations, staff recommends effective July 1, 2009, that the City revise the Ordinance to classify multi-family developments consistent with that of other businesses. Staff also recommends that the Ordinance be revised to discontinue the collection of Christmas trees, sofas, and mattress/box springs and that this becomes the responsibility of the property owner/property management company.

Guests Gene Ratchford, Gary Foster, and Nancy Paschall each spoke before the Committee and requested the proposed recommendation to revise the Ordinance be denied.

Committee Recommendation:

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the revision of Article III, Section 11-61 of the City Code of Ordinances to classify multi-family developments in a manner consistent to other businesses and to discontinue collection of bulky waste and Christmas trees from the complexes.

Necessary Council Action:

Accept or reject the Committee recommendation.

ITEM 2: UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE “PAY-AS-YOU-THROW” PROGRAM

Chairman Howren recognized Jim Palenick, City Manager; James Currence, Director of General Services; and Flip Bombardier, Assistant City Manager, for staff’s presentation.

The General Services Department is in the process of examining the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program to determine the feasibility of a comprehensive change in the way solid waste and recycling is provided to the City’s customers. Under the PAYT program, the household would pay only for the trash generated by the household —the more trash the household generates, the more the household pays. A key component of this program would be consideration of an overall solid waste collection fee structure.

Chairman Howren thanked Staff for their hard work on this proposal.

No Council action is necessary at this time. Staff will continue to update the Committee on this program.

ITEM 3: UPDATE ON GIS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY PROGRAM

Councilman Howren recognized Myra Messer, Real Estate Administrator, for staff’s presentation.

Through this program, staff is pursuing ways of identifying surplus City property in order to generate revenue and decrease maintenance costs. The department heads and city management will review the results of the inventory thus far. Once the information is completed, these properties will be posted on the City’s website for public viewing.

No Council action is necessary at this time.

ITEM 4: OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, Chairman Howren adjourned the meeting.