



City of Lambertville
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
25 SOUTH UNION STREET
MINUTES

COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Fahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the City Clerk to read the statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act into the record.

The City Clerk read the following statement:

"Adequate notice of the regularly scheduled work session held on July 2, 2019, has been provided through the posting of the annual meeting schedule, by emailing notice to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times and to various individuals on the list serve in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act."

ROLL CALL

Mayor Fahl asked the City Clerk to call the roll:

Present: Councilman Sanders, Councilwoman Taylor, Council President Asaro, Mayor Fahl.

Absent: Councilwoman Warner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Fahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The City Clerk led the public in a moment of silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces in Country and Abroad.

NEW BUSINESS/CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

Garbage, Recycling and Third Can/Composting Changes

Mayor Fahl informed the members of the public that this work session will focus on composting and will talk generally about changes in gross municipal waste and recycling. She said she understands that constituents want to talk about other issues, but this will allow the Environmental Commission to address public information voids. We will turn towards public participation where you can ask questions or if you have other concerns regarding other issues in the city. We try to keep work sessions to one (1) hour but are mindful of other concerns.

The City has had a severe compliance problem with the third can/food waste recycling program. The Governing Body passed around photos at the last meeting, noticed the public through Facebook, and while we are not stopping the program, we want to implement processes to help us become compliant. The food waste vender reported finding metal forks, plastic tubs, Clorox bleach bins, ice melt all contaminated the food waste we delivered to our vender. So, with the help of the Business Administrator, we

City of Lambertville
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
AGENDA
Page 2

were able to secure a new temporary contract with Waste Management. They are taking our compost; they will be able to help decontaminate better than the smaller facility we were previously using while we address education and labor issues. This isn't a long-term solution and we have to drive to Elizabeth which is close to New York. It cost more in time, wear and tear on the truck, so basically this is a very short-term solution for a long-term problem. In our last meeting council committed to continue the service. The goal is to talk about what else we can do and to start to brainstorm what the governing body can do to support public works, the Environmental Commission and the public to do this better.

Mayor Fahl turned the meeting over to the Business Administrator.

Mr. Torpey, the Business Administrator, commented that this is not an issue that is singular to Lambertville. Folks in sustainability are reacting to facilities in China, changes to their contamination standard, now only .5% of materials can be contaminated, otherwise it gets rejected or assessed a fine which is what happened with our compost program. Municipalities all over the United States, for example Philadelphia 50% of recycling is going to an incinerator. In the past there is a cost structure: Per ton rate for every ton of waste we pay \$81 per ton to dispose of, recycling we pay around \$60 per ton, and for compost we pay \$49 a ton to dispose of, but by this can be reduced to zero if we do the composting really well such that the Food Waste turns into compost and turns into fertilizer which is something people can pay money for

If you look at the total waste stream as a pie, 25% is often food waste in most places. In Lambertville with so many food establishments, it might be a little bit higher. We probably have more food waste in our stream, and we are paying at the highest rate to throw out trash (including food waste in the trash), so the more we get out of the trash and move to recycling and compost we will be able to save real money. It is easy to calculate based on the number of moving from one stream to another, for example a ton of waste at \$81 moving to recycling at 60, or composting, at ideally no cost In a very short medium- and long-term cost to the city, the better we do at composting, and the more food waste diverted into a compost system, the better the savings. This isn't a problem that is unique to Lambertville. There is the potential for new markets, connected to local farms for instance, partnerships or within the community who grow veggies, that the city could take food waste and take it out and provide it back to you.

Mayor Fahl commented that we need to set a goal to clean up our waste stream, generate ideas that we can implement short term and talk broadly about the silver lining, the opportunity if we get this right to see some cost savings and direct benefit for environmental cleanliness.

Council President Asaro commented that there is a bunch of ways to do an education piece. She wonders if it might be better to stop the Food Waste/Third Can program and education people, make them come to a session and get authorized to participate. Then

City of Lambertville
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
AGENDA
Page 3

restart the program. Even people that I know are good at recycling get it wrong. Maybe pull it back and start over.

Mayor Fahl commented that over 18% of residents participate in the organic waste program and it is mandatory for the restaurants to participate. That was the work that the Environmental Commission was working on in 2014 and she felt it was an interesting discussion to have about continuing the composting program now, or if the answer is, we aren't feeling like we can provide this program in the same scope and breathe.

Councilman Sanders, asked if the figures given earlier by the Business Administrator represent the current contract? The Business Administrator commented that he didn't get the numbers back yet from Waste Management. Councilman Sanders responded that it is still cheaper than trash or recycling and he wasn't certain that it would make sense to pull back the program. He asked how long we can work with Waste Management? The Business Administrator responded that the expectation is to work for a more permanent solution.

Council President Asaro stated that if nothing changes, then Waste Management may say it is still bad.

Mayor Fahl stated that it will still be bad. Ag Choice was a smaller firm and they were cleaning our compost and fining us for that labor.

Councilman Sanders stated that it won't magically improve, but lower tipping fees and the concurrent move forward with improving the quality will help. He felt one of the challenges is to make some effort to identify the source; Some curb side passerby, not necessarily the generators of the trash. Part of our efforts should be to undertake the clinical diagnosis of why this is happening. We should survey existing members, do some spot checking, public works picking up, and if there was some sort of check they could do curb side, scoring sheet, the coffee pot comes out, to make a notation, not sure of the work flow, diagnostic, examination to figure out the source of the problem.

Mayor Fahl responded that she appreciated the input, she was unaware of further review and there was a part of the labor process was to examine the organic waste once it came back to public works lot. This happened intermittently. This doesn't answer ongoing offenders. Do we have an appetite from this council if we have public works pick-up or just flag cans that seem to be ill suited and to give a warning? Then it would be followed by a second warning, she wasn't in favor of fine. Councilman Sanders commented that he would be supportive of kicking them out of the program.

Mayor Fahl responded that if you have a repeat offender that increases public works time and there is a financial cost to the city for a viable service and for repeat offenders. Councilman Sanders responded that the financial penalty should be subsequent to the educational program.

City of Lambertville

WORK SESSION

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM

PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER

AGENDA

Page 4

The Business Administrator commented that stickers were effective in other communities. One problem is people opening bins and discarding trash. Other communities use bungie cords or clip the cans shut to reduce the problem. We can do hang tags, stickers fixed to compost bins with what is allowed and not allowed. We can improve the stream considerably by not picking up contaminated bags and putting a URL on the website with information on what you can and can't do. A permanent sticker and a device to keep the lid closed, especially for restaurants should help. If we can get a sense of what houses are doing it, it may point to one location like the Central Business District. It may give us some insight and give us data where we don't have anything right now.

Mayor Fahl responded that bins are badly branded, they say "Keeping Lambertville Green" and it doesn't say compost bin. To that point it was mentioned only 18% of Lambertville residents get information about the composting program. Stickers make a lot of sense and probably should be done simultaneously with a community wide letter.

Kathy Williams asked if dog poop was allowed. Mayor Fahl said it was but it had to be in a compostable bag.

Councilman Sanders commented that he was worried about public works and the turnaround time. Mayor Fahl responded that they have to inspect the trash on the curb side and while we are talking about that, the labor force we are using need an education process. They are from the Department of Corrections and it adds concern for the ability to examine the trash on site.

Councilwoman Asaro commented that it was previously suggested we get the kids involved because once you give them the rules, they will make the parents get involved.

Kim Gaglio, York Street, suggested that we relaunch the program. She said she visited the website and she couldn't find the information on the program. People walk by and put garbage in the bins all the time.

Mayor Fahl commented that in conversation with other mayors in similar municipalities, public verses trash is ignored in every Central Business District. That is a much harder hill to climb in terms of education than government to constituent. We have to admit we have a problem and then address it.

Judy Gleason, 86 North Union Street, commented that she wasn't getting it. We are talking about the waste stream, trash and third can, which would be food waste and trash and recycling. She said she couldn't believe that anyone doesn't understand. Is the problem with third can then fining them is exactly what we should do? Dog poo in no recycling bags, I have to think people are smart enough and care enough you know what they are, they signed up for it. Get in touch with them. The best way is cash, this is what it is costing you, this is how much more it will cost. Nobody wants people putting dog poo in their cans.

City of Lambertville

WORK SESSION

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM

PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER

AGENDA

Page 5

Mayor Fahl responded that she was in agreement and the City has to figure out how to move this forward in engaging people.

Councilman Sanders responded that there is a material difference between coffee pots and weeds, he said he wasn't sure grass clippings are well known, this is a gray area.

Deb Vari, 115 Clinton Street commented that recycling is an issue throughout the country. The green can program needs continuous education. She said she hasn't received anything since she signed up for the program. So, when she heard about the problem, it was disheartening. We wanted this to work and thought it was a great thing. She said a quick and inexpensive fix is signage. The signs must be consistent and say the same thing.

Nancy Anderson, 250 South Franklin Street said she is an avid composter. She used to work for the Waldorf School and started a program there. There are different levels of composting, food debris is one level, organic is another, and then weeds and grass clippings from town, all can be composted in a way that balances the gases. Is the town responsible for the waste, or can the chamber deal with it? She commented that there is a way for people to learn to compost.

Mayor Fahl responded that the city mandates the city pick-up restaurant waste. If we are going to mandate participation, then we need to talk about how we are going to engage restaurants.

The Business Administrator, Alex Torpey commented that any way we can help them measure what their food waste is and show them how much they are saving. We should make a competition out of it, and show them what they are throwing out.

Councilwoman Taylor commented that it isn't feasible to have our current staff do the checks, but if we are going to roll out a program, then maybe we could have volunteers do spot checks. Mayor Fahl responded, on a Monday, before pick-up, a volunteer crew goes out at 4 am, may need to make pick-up a little later, spot check the cans, then put stickers on failing houses. Grass Clippings may be the largest problem. Mayor Fahl asked the Business Administrator to reach out to Waste Management to help us define what the major offenders are.

Councilwoman Taylor commented that we need to address the fact that people throw their yard waste into public spaces and that because people don't know how to properly deal with yard waste, it affects the food waste, since people end up putting grass clippings, etc., in there.

Mayor Fahl responded that this is a short term and serious problem baked into a larger problem. We need to find a way to engage our citizens, define an education process.

A member of the public said she was new to the City and she never received information about the third can program. Mayor Fahl said this was an excellent point. There is a

City of Lambertville

WORK SESSION

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM

PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER

AGENDA

Page 6

newsletter in the process and the administration is actively engaging with commissions to do that.

Steve Chernoski, a resident, commented that he is a teacher and they had a problem with teachers not turning off lights. They had kids take pictures, make their own labels and print them out. He is happy to do this with kids and now they are off for the summer. He said he would love to be a captain and he does get up at 5 am.

Chris Plummer, volunteers at Fisherman's Mark and he thinks an educational program is fantastic. The other issue is, three days, Monday, Wednesday and Friday are their pick-ups and usually they don't get picked up on one of the days. It has to be picked up regularly because it is hard to keep it clean. Mayor Fahl responded that she appreciated that statement, and in defense of public works, this system wasn't built to succeed. We have an expectation for composting pick-up three times a week, it takes five full days to pick-up trash and recycling, and then between April and October we also sweep the street between 9 and 11 am. If you add up all of the work, they are supposed to be doing just on waste collection between 7:30 am and noon, I think you would agree that the system is built to break down. We don't provide enough labor nor do we have enough trucks to consistently pick-up trash, recycling and compost. A bigger conversation about a public waste pick-up system and the cost benefit analysis and the cost of privatizing, it's an ongoing question and in the meantime, it is important to stick to short term goals, education, work force, citizen, and to talk further about legislative agenda with the Environmental Commission.

Mayor Fahl informed the members of the public present that we needed to close out this discussion for now and move onto the other agenda items. She thanked the Council and the members of the public for coming out.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dave Haneman, 15 North Franklin Street referenced a letter he handed the Mayor about the proposed metered parking on Coryell Street. He asked that this be put on the July 8th meeting agenda. Mayor Fahl commented that she appreciates the letter, informed him that the July 8th meeting is just for the Route 29 Road Improvement Project. She further commented that the Governing Body devoted one entire work session to the metered parking and she opened it up for discussion.

Council President Asaro commented that the next full meeting is July 18th and that is the time to address the letter. Mr. Haneman commented that the Governing Body would also be voting on the ordinance.

Mayor Fahl responded that if the Council feels there is a reasonable argument for pushing the public hearing, we can make that decision then, however, we heard from the public in the affected areas.

Mr. Haneman said his issue was with access to his property through Coryell Street.

City of Lambertville
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
AGENDA
Page 7

Kathy Williams commented that she also submitted a letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council President read the announcements into the record.

Office Closures:

All City offices will close on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 for Independence Day.

Garbage and Recycling Pick-up scheduled for Thursday and Friday will be picked up on Friday, July 5.

Route 29 Road Improvements: The Governing Body will host a meeting with the State of New Jersey's Department of Transportation on Monday, July 8 at 7 pm at the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center to review the final plans. All are welcome.

Lambertville Human Rights Council will meet on July 8th at City Hall.

CLOSED SESSION: *The Governing Body will go into closed session to discuss pending litigation and legal advice as it pertains to the acquisition of property related to COAH.*

RESOLUTION

“Authorizing a Closed Session at the July 2, 2019 Work Session of the Lambertville City Council Meeting to Discuss Pending Litigation and Legal Advice as it pertains to the Acquisition of Property Related to COAH”

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Lambertville is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that a closed session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by N.J.S.A 10:4-12(b).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lambertville that a closed session shall be held on July 2, 2019, in the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, located at 25 South Union Street, Lambertville, to discuss the following matters: *pending litigation and legal advice as it pertains to the Acquisition of Property Related to COAH.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Lambertville Mayor and City Council.

ADOPTED: July 2, 2019

City of Lambertville
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019, 7:00 PM
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
AGENDA
Page 8

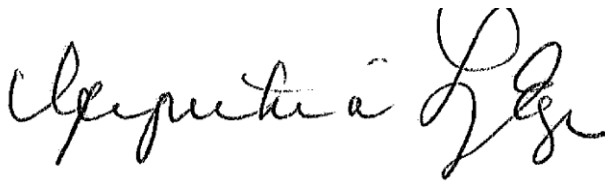
Mayor Fahl and City Council convened in closed session at 7:59 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Council President Asaro. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Fahl and City Council re-convened in regular session at 8:58 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor. An affirmative voice/roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Council President Asaro. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion to adjourn by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia L. Ege, CMR, RMC, City Clerk



The July 2, 2019 Work Session Minutes were approved by the Governing Body on July 18, 2019.