

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

January 10, 2011

The Council-Manager Briefing was called to order by Vice Mayor Terrence Senger at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Terrence Senger, Tim Abbott, Tim Meyers, Mike Oler, Marty Judd, and Mike Snyder. Staff present: Angie Johns, Dave Crouch, Mike Dickey, Dave Butsch, Dennis Stuckey, Tim Bachman, Mary Hopton, Carol Mayhall, Jim Bell, and Don Bennett.

Butler County Solid Waste Management Update

Councilmember Meyers introduced Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District Coordinator, Anne Fiehrer Flaig. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained they are in the process of updating the Solid Waste Management Plan. She explained she is here ahead of the ratification process. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained the Solid Waste District is required to submit updated management plans to Ohio EPA. She further stated we have a 15 year plan and are currently updating our five year plan, which is going to be starting in 2011. She stated the last update was ratified in 2005 with an approval rate of 99% of the elected officials endorsed the plan. She explained the funding is a \$2 per ton solid waste generation fee, which means that all the waste that is generated in Butler County and tipped in an Ohio landfill is assessed a \$2 per ton fee. She discussed the average solid waste generation fee is about \$4.46 and we are at \$2. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained they are governed by Ohio EPA, a Solid Waste Policy Committee and County Commissioners. She discussed the Fairfield's representative on the policy committee is Dave Butsch. She discussed the Solid Waste Plan schedule update noting the draft plan was submitted to Ohio EPA in November 2010. She explained the plan will go to a public comment and public hearing period in late spring and the policy will officially adopt the plan after the public hearing period and then the plan will need ratified by city officials and county commissioners. She stated the City of Hamilton has veto power as the city with the highest population. Mr. Fiehrer Flaig stated the final plan is due February 2012. She discussed the two keystones of a Solid Waste Management Plan that need to be satisfied are demonstrate adequate disposal capacity for all waste generated in Butler County and establish waste reduction strategies in compliance with the recycling goals of Ohio EPA's State Solid Waste Plan. She stated we are able to adequately demonstrate based upon Rumpke's current capacity, which takes about 92% of everything generated in our county. She explained the access goal is to ensure the availability of recycling programs in 90% of the county. She stated how they go about doing that is through curbside recycling programs in all the municipalities in Butler County, drop box program with over 30 locations and a recycling incentive program. She stated 100% of the populations count toward the 90% access goal in Butler County and it is very important that cities retain the curbside program. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed the re-tooling of the incentive plan is to establish with the townships that they understand that their residents are paying a lot more for recycling and trash collection. She stated on average city residents pay about \$12.45 and township residents pay \$17.93 for trash collection only. She discussed the recycling incentive program where communities are awarded funding for their recycling performance based on total tonnage collected as well as the diversion rate. She discussed the Recycle to Win Program in which Fairfield is in the number two spot. She commented since 2006 the district has spent almost \$600,000 on the Recycling Incentive Program; however, countywide our recycling performance has only increased about one percent per year. She stated they believe the most effective strategy for increasing diversion is to increase the number of residents with access to curbside recycling programs in the township and to enlist municipalities to consider enacting pay as you throw trash collection in their cities. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained the intent of the Recycling Incentive Program is also to entice high population townships to consider contracting for waste collection and curbside recycling. She discussed the estimated amount Fairfield received from the incentive program was about \$125,000 for 2006 to 2010. She explained these numbers for most of the jurisdictions in Butler County and based on the current service delivery model these numbers will stagnate at this level unless we change the container method in which recyclables are collected in or the size of the trash can and ask residents who generate more trash and are more wasteful to pay more for that service much as you would for a utility. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed on average contracted communities are generating 66.7 pounds per person for recyclables and townships are generating about half of that. She discussed communities with pay as you throw generate about twice as much as communities that just have curbside recycling and trash. She stated the data shows that you need to limit the trash and increase the capacity for recyclables. She discussed recycling incentive reward hierarchy, which is a voluntary program. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed the pay as you throw program could include bid specs for a provision of a 65 gallon recycling cart for all residents, which will increase capacity for recycling, reduce litter and residents throw away less trash. She further discussed the City of Montgomery's program in which all households received a 65 gallon recycling cart in 2008 and a reward for recycling program. She explained their recycling rate has jumped from 18% to 28% and their tonnage has increased from 970 to 1456. She stated they are doing a survey of residents and they said residents based on their feedback believe it is the capacity not the coupons that are making them recycle. City Manager Pizzano asked if the grant source from Montgomery who supplied the carts, if there is some movement for that organization to make these cart available at no cost like they did for Montgomery. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained ODNR provided the grants and that could be pursued. Mr. Pizzano stated that is a fairly large front end expense. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained the most successful programs have had a wheeled recycling cart together with a wheeled garbage cart. She stated base cost for a large garbage cart would be \$22 per month and as you decrease the size of your cart you decrease the cost. She explained in Madeira there is a tag system for any additional bags you put out. She briefly discussed the Madeira program in which their recycling rate is 30.1% and they save \$65,000 annually. She stated the County would have \$50,000 grant on a one time basis for enacting a pay as you throw program for a minimum of three years. She explained the

ongoing annual incentive plan will be scaled back to allow funds to be allocated of this one time incentive plan. She explained the current incentive from \$17 per ton would be reduced to \$12 per ton; however with pay as you throw she is confident we would be in the over 20% diversion range and accruing a higher incentive range. She discussed a revised incentive plan and its major benefits. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained the funds are coming out of the allocation they have for this incentive plan, which is \$150,000 on an annual basis. She explained by scaling back the ongoing annual incentive they are able to accrue more money for this one time grant program and that money will support this through this plan cycle. She explained the major benefits including in volume based trash collection contracts, a "direct to consumer" economic incentive means households throw away less trash and recycle more material; cities and township get a one-time incentive grant and cities save money when they move to the pay as you throw service; residents receive a higher level of service in contracted communities, effectively getting recycling and trash collection for an equivalent or lower price than trash collection alone; the Solid Waste District significantly improved access attainment goals and recycling diversion; promotes mission of reducing waste and improving resource recovery; and uses the power of the marketplace to attain the best available service cost for area residents and jurisdictions. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed other provisions of the plan include providing information and technical information on recycling; implementing strategies for managing scrap tire, hazardous waste and electronics; reporting to Ohio EPA on the status of the plan; and incorporating economic incentives into plan. She briefly discussed their various outreach and education programs; special collection programs; outreach to businesses; recycling grants; and Pollution Prevention Internship Program. She discussed the total investment in the Fairfield community by the Solid Waste District from 2006-2011 at \$242,035 including recycling incentive awards for \$125,375; a grant to Fairfield schools for \$10,600; secured grant funds (ODNR) for field of dreams for \$100,000; and pollution prevention intern at Tedia for \$6,000. She explained all is funded by a \$2 per ton generation fee, which costs on average \$6.38 per household annually. She explained Fairfield is the first to hear this presentation. She explained the ODNR was able to provide the City of Montgomery with a subsidy for the purchase of their large recycling cart. She stated there are some technology costs as well as infrastructure costs. City Manager stated when the front end costs were last explored for recycling bins; the best estimate for single family was about \$600,000. He further stated the City of Cincinnati recently went to bigger bins for about 2.5 million dollars. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig briefly discussed Rumpke's needed equipment and their plan for upgrades in the next two years.

Metrics Update

Mr. Pizzano commented this discussion is a result of the Council retreat to periodically keep Council abreast on where we are with metrics. He explained that per Council an additional measurement will be added throughout the year and right now those are scheduled quarterly. He explained the first of those were shown in red on the last metrics report and just the new items will be discussed tonight. Finance Director Mary Hopton explained capital expenditures, which are large building and or improvement projects, are significantly down. She stated for the most part those are from restricted funds and most of that does come from income tax. She explained changes due to the ByPass 4 will be seen next year. Mr. Pizzano stated the percentage of our annual taxes received year to date through November is actually increased by almost 8.5% from the last year and our annual budget expended compared to last year this time was down a little over one percent. Public Utilities Director Dave Crouch explained he selected waterline main breaks because it costs a lot of money and it is a past and present goal of the City Council to sustain our systems as well as develop our infrastructure and provide service continuity. He stated the business indicators of this are the impact of cost for overtime, with 63 breaks last year the overtime costs in the normal scenario was about a \$44,000 expenditure for payroll. He stated it should reduce labor costs and service interruption. He further explained there is an equipment and fuel factor for going out to do these repairs and our lost/non-revenue water is about 13%, which is two percent below the industry standard, electric costs, insurance cost and restoration cost. He stated he would like to have a goal of ten, which will help us recover some water that we are losing in the system. City Manager Pizzano explained what we will be moving towards is not only the number of breaks, but our cost efficiency, which Dave has given verbally. Public Works Director Dave Butsch explained he selected street repairs because it is a hybrid of the ICMA metrics and the individual repairs as part of the numbers we have are ones that include the restoration for the water main breaks. He explained in addition to that the spot repairs and this gauges the streets and the deterioration of the streets and we can focus in our paving program around it also. Mr. Pizzano explained what this shows is that even though the material costs have gone up because the number of areas repaired were generally smaller jobs than larger, our cost per repair have gone down, so there are efficiencies even though the costs have gone up. Parks & Recreation Director Jim Bell explained the management plan prior to building the golf clubhouse; the architect told us if this was built you should capture five dollars a head for every golfer that came through. He explained prior to that we had a concessionaire capturing less than \$3 a head and we were getting a small percentage. Mr. Bell stated we are at the \$4.99 bench mark, when we did the original study we were getting less than \$3 a head and getting only a small percentage of that. He stated this year we have become more efficient even though we had less golfers we captured more money from them. Police Chief Mike Dickey explained adult arrests, juvenile arrests and warrant arrests have been added and the warrants are largely papers from the court for failure to pay fines, failure to pay costs. He explained the adult arrests, juvenile arrests and non-violent crimes are down. Fire Chief Don Bennett explained First responder calls mean how many times an engine company is sent to cover an EMS call. He explained the ripple effect of that is during that if we send one of our other EMS units, 50% of our personnel are tied up on a run. Chief Bennett explained it is up nine percent from the year before. Development Services Director Tim Bachman explained the metric building permit valuation, which is not only revenue coming in to the city, but it is a good reflection of

what is happening in our piece of the economy with regards to new construction. He explained we were actually up for the year by 35-36%, but down in November. He explained it is all building permits, but did we did not do a single new commercial or industrial building it is all remodeling and additions.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns
Clerk of Council