

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 6/17/2020

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 22, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Joe Cavataio, Bethany Brown, Bob Blaus, and Kris Zimmermann present.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of November 20, 2019.** Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Symowicz to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2019.

Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Brown, Cavataio, Zimmermann, Blaus, and Symowicz. Voting Nay: 0.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

4. Items For Consent

None

5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

- A. **Review current priority list**

Chairman Beebe announced he will discuss 2020 events and their timeframes at the February Environmental Commission meeting.

Residential Waste, Recycling and yard Waste Collection

Mr. Wilcox distributed copies of the resolution extending the residential solid waste, recycling, and yard waste collection contract with Groot Industries, Inc. The Commissioners discussed some of the additions to the contract including timeframes for the Holiday Light Recycling Program and the Pumpkin Recycling Program. Both will need to be looked at and discussed further.

Organic food waste composting is allowed in the contract starting in 2020 when residents elect to use a calendar year yard waste subscription service. The \$200 annual service includes a 95-gallon cart used for placing yard waste and acceptable organic food waste items each week during the yard waste collection period (April 1 – November 30). Discussion included cost comparison between stickered Kraft bag and the cart service, an option for a smaller cart at reduced cost, and the possibility of pooling with a neighbor to purchase the service. The list of organic food waste items was also discussed. There was some disappointment voiced that food soiled paper products, such as napkins and pizza boxes, were not included on the list of accepted items for composting.

There was also a question raised whether all of the items listed for recycling in the original contract are still collected or if some are not.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None

6. Other Business

Commissioner Blaus discussed information from the last Clean Energy Job Act (CEJA) meeting he attended. He said there are numerous communities locked into expensive long term energy contracts.

The Senate Bill SB1240 was mentioned and discussed. The proposed bill would create the Checkout Bag Tax Act imposing a tax of \$0.07 on each checkout bag used by a customer at a retail establishment in Illinois. The tax would apply to single use plastic, paper, or compostable bag provided by a retail establishment at the checkout, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting goods out of the retail establishment. Some municipalities like Chicago have already imposed such a tax.

Other items discussed included banning the use of Styrofoam, lead pellets for hunting/fishing, and pushing for return envelopes for long life smoke detector batteries.

Commissioner Blaus spoke about unserviceable clothes and fabric recycling. He said Kane County has started taking clean clothes and textiles in any condition. Damaged or worn textiles are turned into wiping rags or insulation blankets. The remaining damaged or worn fabric is sorted for use in fiber products like insulation, packing material or carpeting. Wheaton started a program January 11, 2020 to recycle textiles as well. Commissioner Blaus said he would look for a group that recycles old clothing to attend the next paper shredding event.

Commissioner Symowicz mentioned that ComEd has almost completed switching all Chicago street lights to LED.

Commissioners Zimmermann and Cavataio both shared their stories about seeing a bald eagle in the area recently.

7. Adjournment

At 8:00 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cavataio seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works