



**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
COUNCIL INITIATIVE WORKSHOP**

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A Murray City Council Initiative Workshop was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

**Members in Attendance:**

Brett Hales	Council Chairman
Dave Nicponski	Council Vice Chairman
Jim Brass	Council Member
Diane Turner	Council Member
Blair Camp	Council Member

**Others in Attendance:**

Frank Nakamura	City Attorney	Janet M. Lopez	Council Administrator
Jan Wells	Chief Administrative Officer	Mike Terry	Human Resources Director
Tim Tingey	ADS Director	Russ Kakala	Public Services
Laura Hanson	Jordan River Commission	Doug Hill	Public Services Director
Kent Sutcliffe	Resident	Janet Towers	Exec. Asst. to the Mayor
Ian Sutcliffe	Scout/Resident	Kellie Challburg	Council Office

Chairman Hales called the Council Initiative Workshop to order and welcomed those in attendance. He stated that Mayor Eyre would be arriving shortly.

**Discussion Item**

**Recycling in City Parks- Diane Turner**

Ms. Turner stated that she received an email from Pam Sanders, a resident and the Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Ms. Sanders had just held a social event at the park and questioned why there were no recycling cans in the park. Ms. Turner decided to research the issue further.

Mr. Hill said that he and Mr. Sorenson and others contacted a number of cities in the State, and only found one city, Salt Lake City, that recycled in their parks. Some of the other cities had tried recycling with little success due to the contamination of the cans in the parks.

Mr. Hill contacted Salt Lake City and was told that they place a green recycling can next to all the

black garbage cans in their parks. The green recycling can has a hole drilled in the top of that can that allows for easy entry for plastic bottles and cans. Salt Lake City employees said that they have little success with the program also. Salt Lake City typically finds about 30% contamination in their recycling cans. They have hired recycling compliance officers in the City to deter levels of contamination. The recycling compliance officers inspect the cans and determine the level of contamination and decide if it can go to the recycling truck or if it is too contaminated and has to go to the garbage truck. Mr. Nicponski asked what happens if there is contamination in the cans. Mr. Hill said if there is any contamination, then the can or entire truck just goes to the landfill and doesn't get recycled.

Salt Lake City is very green and progressive in the sustainability aspect. They have an entire department dedicated to sustainability which oversees the recycling program. Salt Lake City also has their own garbage trucks, and does not contract with an outside provider. As a result of that, they are able to pick up the recycling cans on an as needed basis. Salt Lake City has a philosophy that believes people expect recycling and wants to set an example and educate the residents.

Mr. Hill spoke with staff at Rocky Mountain Recycling, the company that Murray uses. They stated that if a truck is contaminated, the entire truck goes to the landfill. Salt Lake City takes a proactive approach and tries to find the contamination before it goes in the truck.

Mr. Hill stated that he has spoken with Murray City employees and believes that Murray would need to purchase a garbage truck specifically for recycling. The cost of a recycling truck would be close to \$200,000. The other option would be to contract out the recycling services. He spoke with Ace Disposal and they had some reservations about recycling, also due to the levels of contamination. They stated that they only get paid for the loads that are not contaminated, and would probably need to charge a fee that is similar to a regular garbage can, recognizing that there would be little savings if the can was contaminated.

Mr. Hill stated that another concern with cans in the parks is that they need to be picked up multiple times per day, and on weekends. Ace Disposal said that they are unsure if they could do weekend and multiple pick-ups during the day. It may require a little more research into different providers to determine whether it would be possible or not. He asked if the Council would like him to do more research and find out more specific costs. He stated that the garbage fund cannot afford a new program without looking into a possible fee increase to fund the program. Chairman Hales stated that the program appears to require a lot of costs. Mr. Hill replied that it would require additional manpower and equipment costs that are currently not in the budget.

Ms. Turner clarified that the program may require the purchase of a new truck which would cost approximately \$200,000. Mr. Hill said that was correct and additional staffing would probably be needed. She stated that while it is the right thing to do, she doesn't know if the City can afford it at this time.

Mr. Brass commented that one pizza box can contaminate the entire recycling load. He recently spoke with TransJordan regarding green waste, and they had to hire someone to pull out the contaminating objects. Regrettably, the costs are still as high as they were a few years ago when this subject was discussed. He stated that Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling sort it out at the transfer station, with a cost that cuts into the recycling revenue.

Mr. Hill said that the program could work, but will result in additional costs and the decision would have to be made how to pay for the program; whether it be a fee increase to all the residents or to pay for it out of the General Fund.

Ms. Turner said she believes that residents will start expecting greater recycling efforts in Murray, and not just in Salt Lake City. Although, she understands the budgetary restraints that will make it difficult to go ahead with the proposal.

Chairman Hales agreed with Ms. Turner on both aspects. Ms. Turner said there are other budgetary issues within the City that are probably more important at this time. She stated that she will not give up on the issue though.

Mr. Camp asked Mr. Hill if it was possible to get some approximate costs on moving forward. Mr. Hill asked if the Council would like a recycling can next to every garbage can in the park. If so, he could get some counts on the cans needed. Mr. Nicponski said the cans need to be the proper can that restricts other garbage. Ms. Turner specified that the cans needed would be the cans with holes in the top for bottles, cans, etc. Mr. Hill said Salt Lake City doesn't use those cans because they require hand sorting. Salt Lake City prefers an automated sorting process and uses the regular blue cans. Mr. Brass noted that he believes that in order for the program to work, a green can must be located next to every black can. He added that he would be curious to see hard numbers also. Mr. Hill said the cost of purchasing the cans would be included.

Mr. Kakala stated that in many places in the Country, they are going to a single can and employees are sorting through the garbage can for recyclables. Mr. Hill stated that Utah isn't using the single stream process of garbage collection yet. Mr. Kakala added that it isn't cost effective in Utah, because the landfill fees are cheaper, due to the open space in Utah.

Mr. Hill stated that he would determine the costs and get back to the Council.

Chairman Hales adjourned the meeting.

Council Office Administrator II  
Kellie Challburg