

**WORK SESSION OF THE
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 19, 2015
5:30 PM**

PRESENT:	Tyler Vincent	Mayor
	DJ Bott	Councilmember
	Alden Farr	Councilmember
	Ruth Jensen	Councilmember
	Tom Peterson	Councilmember
	Mark Thompson	Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Dave Burnett	Public Power Director
	Mary Kate Christensen	City Recorder
	Jared Johnson	Community Development Director
	Paul Larsen	Economic Development
	Kirk Morgan	City Attorney
	Raymond Poulson	Waste Treatment Manager
	Jason Roberts	Finance Director
	Mike Nelsen	Police Chief

Annual Training on Open and Public Meeting Law

Mr. Morgan gave the required annual training for the Council on the Open and Public Meeting Law (*see attached*).

Councilmember Farr asked if someone accused the Council or City of doing something they did not think was right, if it would be appropriate to defend the City or correct inaccurate statements. Mr. Morgan said the Council can respond at any time to any statements made, but cannot vote on anything that is not on the agenda. However, the best practice is to only discuss things that are on the agenda, then all citizens are aware of the items that will be discussed at the meeting.

Discussion on Operations and Potential Changes to the Compost Green Waste Recycling Facility

Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Poulson came to the table. Mr. Pugsley said the compost site is highly used by residents and non-residents. The site is open to recycling and green waste drop off seven days a week. It is open for product sales from the first week of March to the end of November. The site is open to product sales Wednesday through Saturday during the summer season.

There is some system improvement money in the department's budget and they would like to expand the facility. This will allow them to separate the drop off areas to make them more user friendly and so they are not getting the contamination they have been experiencing.

A big concern at the site is illegal dumping. The site is not manned the entire time that the gate is open to the public for green waste/construction waste, and recycling dumping/tipping. As a result, there is a lot of illegal dumping of items that cannot be used in the operations. The City pays several thousands of dollars monthly in illegal dumping. One week in December the tipping charges exceeded \$5,000 because of illegal dumping. This cost does not include manpower and equipment that is used to haul this material to the landfill. It was estimated the City spends over \$30,000 per year on illegal dumping. There have been

countertops with the sinks and faucet still attached, cabinets, mattresses and furniture. Approximately 70% of their construction waste is not usable in the composting operation.

Melamine, particle board, plywood, painted and stained items contaminate the product which makes it less desirable to customers. They have a large surplus of this processed material in the form of wood chips that is not being sold. The County Landfill will take this processed material for free but there are grinding costs along with manpower and transportation costs associated with getting it to the landfill. There are two options with this waste: 1) take it to the landfill as is and pay the tipping fees, or; 2) pay \$400-\$500 to grind it then take it to the landfill for free as long as they need it for a tracking pad. There have been some contractors interested in paying to allow this waste to be dumped at the City facility. Mr. Pugsley felt that by the time the City figures how much it would be to cover the City's cost it would be more than if the contractors took it to the landfill themselves.

Mayor Vincent said he has had contractors ask him about paying once a year. There was a discussion on the best way to do this.

Another concern is that residents with green cans are putting regular trash in with their green waste. They need to do some kind of education on this. Councilmember Peterson suggested that when the green can first be used for recycling that the City hire a few temporary employees to staple a note to the can stating that it can now be used for green waste and list what can be put in the can.

The site currently has a surplus of 5,800 cubic yards of wood chips. Last year they sold 808 cubic yards of wood chips. In the 2009/10 budget year they spent 34 hours grinding green waste. They are projecting that in the 2014-15 budget year they will spend over 70 hours grinding the material. The amount of construction and green waste that is dumped at the site has more than doubled over the past five years. However, sales have not increased. Over the past five years sale of wood chips have ranged from \$74,763.50 to \$59,542.76. The highest year was in the 2011-12 budget year.

Mr. Pugsley said they are recommending full time manning of the facility by hiring three part time employees. The cost to hire these employees would be \$45,000-\$50,000 per and can be justified by the amount of money they are spending on illegal dumping.

Another recommendation was to adjust the hours of operation at the facility. It is not working to have the facility open until 9:00 PM. They recommended having the site open for product drop off from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM seven days a week.

Mr. Pugsley also recommended an increase in tipping fees for all nonresidents and commercial users. This would increase revenue which could be used for site improvements and pay for manning the facility. Brigham City residents would be required to show proof of residency for free dumping and tipping. There is currently a resolution that allows the City to charge \$5.00 for single axel and \$10 for double axel. Most commercial operations wait down the road until the site is closed and then dump their load.

Mr. Pugsley asked the Council for the following actions:

- 1) A \$7.00 single axel and \$14.00 double axel load charge for all non-residents that use the site for dumping of green waste and construction waste.

- 2) A charge of \$14.00 for single axel commercial dumping/tipping and \$28.00 for double axel tipping.
- 3) No melamine, particle board, painted or stained plywood be accepted.

It was estimated an additional revenue of \$15,000 would be generated by collecting fees from non-resident and commercial tipping fees.

Mr. Pugsley said staff plans to:

- 1) Make necessary adjustments to the drop off locations that will make the site more user friendly.
- 2) Install additional asphalt surfacing at the facility.
- 3) Construct new signage for the site that will help educate users.
- 4) Do more public education by placing articles in the News Journal, posting information on the City website and through social media.
- 5) Focus on looking for ways in which they can increase revenue.
- 6) Tour other similar operations and look for ways to improve and expand their product and product sales.
- 7) Update the tipping fee resolution.
- 8) Update product sales fee resolution.
- 9) Update site security.
- 10) Post signage with list of acceptable items that can be tipped.
- 11) Consider staffing to monitor site activities.
- 12) Increase fees as listed:
 - a) Leaf compost from \$20 per cubic yard to \$30
 - b) Increase dairy compost from \$20 to \$25
 - c) Increase bio solid compost from \$10 to \$15
 - d) Increase top soil from \$15 to \$20
 - e) Increase top soil compost mix from \$20 to \$25

They estimated there will be an increase of \$7,870 from the product price fee increases and \$3,030 from increase in sale of top soil.

The Council discussed how to control commercial tipping after hours and resident vs non-resident. Offering reader cards or bumper stickers was suggested. The Council directed Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Poulson to look into reader cards. Each card would have a code that would track when people are there and staff would know when to charge commercial users.

Mr. Pugsley stated that they have had a lot of citizens ask them about curbside recycling. They have not done a lot of research on this, but if this is something the Council might consider they can do so.

One of their long term goals is to develop a future waste transfer station. This would allow them to collect and sort the recyclables out of all of the waste collected in the community. Potentially the City could increase revenue by selling recyclables directly to distributors. This would save the City a significant amount of time in manpower and equipment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.