

IONA TOWN MEETING TRASH COLLECTION SERVICE
APRIL 6, 2010 8:00 P.M.
IONA COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT: Mayor Brad Andersen, Council President Jane Shaw, Council member Dan Gubler, Council member Bruce Case, Council member Dennis McArthur, City Clerk Robyn Keyes.

VISITORS: Barbara Schreier, Michael Schreier, Sharon Welker, Mike Taylor, Lynn Morgan, Linda McArthur, Gordon Johnson, Anna Jean Sweat, Dee Johnson.

Mayor Andersen welcomed the attendees. He then explained the reason for the meeting was to hear public opinion and suggestions regarding the trash collection services in Iona. The Mayor explained there were 4 different trash services picking trash up on 4 different days in Iona and these heavy trucks damage the roads. Unsightly trash bins line the roads on four different days, which also make it harder to plow snow in the winter. Mayor Andersen said the Council had been thinking about the issue for the last year and in support of the people who want to haul their own trash, the program will not be mandated. The City was looking for a contract similar to a franchise. The City could contract with one company, and if a patron wanted to subscribe to trash service they would be required to go with the contracted server. By contracting with one company, the rate for the service may be less than the current rate.

Mayor Andersen asked the public for their opinions.

Mike Taylor asked if one company could handle all the patrons in Iona. Council member Gubler said one company could handle the city's trash.

Mike Schreier said he was in favor of the idea as long as it was not mandated and he could still haul his own trash away.

Sharon Welker asked what would stop the company from raising the prices. Council member Gubler said the City would enter into a contract with the company. Council member Gubler said raising prices would be inevitable due to rising fuel costs, but if the company wanted to raise the prices that were unreasonable when the contract was renewed, the City would ask for new proposals from the other companies.

Mike Taylor asked what would happen if the County started charging a use fee and the trash company had to pay that fee. Council member Gubler said the company would be locked into a price rate and would have to absorb the rate increase. Mayor Anderson said that unexpected increases in fuel or additional dump fees might require a fuel surcharge or slight increase in garbage fees, but the rates would still be likely to be less than individuals would have to pay because of the savings in larger numbers for the garbage company.

Council member McArthur said it would be in the best interest of the trash company to stay competitive in order to keep the contract. Otherwise they would have the four or five hundred trash bins to store someplace instead of using them to make money.

Mike Taylor said a company might not want to enter into a contract if they were not guaranteed a certain amount of patrons. Mayor Andersen said the City would not enter into a contract if the company required a quota. The Mayor said according to the Comprehensive Plan Survey, 70% of the City's patrons were in favor of the service, which would be at least 420 patrons.

Council member Case said he, along with the rest of the Council, were considering the best interest of the City's patrons and would not enter into a contract that would not be beneficial to the people. Council member Case suggested the people in attendance talk with their neighbors regarding the ideas presented at the meeting.

The Mayor reiterated the proposal suggestions, which were;

1. Non-mandated service
2. At least 420 patrons subscribe to trash collection service
3. Billing would be administrated by the trash company
4. Service would be exclusive and the City may enter into a franchise with the company patrons outside the city limits would be offered the same rate
5. Fee rate would be set for 2-5 years
6. Patrons fee would not be raised if the County started charging a use fee
7. Additional containers rate would be negotiated, the company would be flexible with people who leave for extended periods
8. People who had paid for the entire year would be given a credit if the provider was a different company than the one they had used, or if the annual cost was reduced by the current company.
9. If the company offered commercial service business owners

Mayor Andersen thanked everyone for attending and said the City would issue a request for proposal with the local trash companies. The Mayor said the process may take several months to finalize, and if the Council did not like the proposals, the trash collection would just remain the way it was.

Meeting closed.