

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Ryan Mayor
Nancy Connolly Council President
Andrea Blum Councilor
Richard Esterman Councilor
Michael Preedin Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Cory Misley City Manager
Paul Bertagna PW Director
Joe O'Neill Finance Director
Kerry Prosser City Recorder

GUESTS:

Kristin Steiner General Manager, Republic Services
Randy Stutzman Finance Manager, Republic Services

Mayor Ryan called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm, and City Recorder Prosser took roll call.

1. Republic Services Request for Rate Increase

Kristen Steiner, General Manager for Republic Services, reviewed a PowerPoint on the state of garbage and recycling services in Sisters which included:

- Waste and Recycling services included curbside trash, commingle recycle, yard debris, and free residential Spring and Fall cleanup.
- Rates have been static for three years.
- Financials and 2020 projections: The cost of recycling was projected to reach almost \$48,000 next year. Costs that had increased included wages and benefits, disposal/recycling, depreciation, equipment maintenance, and the organics program. On average, US customers had seen prices rise 13% over the past four years.
- The State of the Recycling market: China had increased the level of acceptable quality on imported recyclables, causing the market to crash. Recycling facilities were finding new local markets but at a substantially higher cost.
- Republic proposed a 9% rate increase beginning on July 1, 2020.

Council President Connolly thanked Republic for the twice a year yard debris pick-up. She asked if Republic could offer a twice a month pick-up for those that did not need weekly trash service. Ms. Steiner replied it was possible and had been offered in other municipalities. She thought there was language in the franchise agreement regarding pick-up every seven days.

Mayor Ryan asked if they needed Council approval to increase the rates. City Manager Misley replied yes, it was reflected in Section 3 of the franchise agreement. He noted Council had some latitude in deciding when increases would take effect. City Manager

Misley said Council could act by June 30th, and rates would take effect on July 1st. Ms. Steiner noted their practice was to give customers a 30-day notice on rate increases.

Councilor Preedin asked if this rate increase put them back in-line financially, how many years would it be before they asked for another increase. Ms. Steiner replied they did not know what would happen with the market. She said they could do more frequent lower increases or less frequent higher increases. Council discussed options for current and future rate increases.

City Manager Misley said staff would work with Republic and come back to the next meeting with a handful of options.

2. COVID-19 City Operations Update

City Manager Misley updated the Council on operational changes due to COVID-19:

- Recycle Center had reopened
- The campground had 1/3 of the spaces opened
- City Hall was closed to the public
- The Farmer's Market was the first public event that had occurred
- In-person board meetings had resumed
- The Parklet program had been well received
- Staff was prepping changes to the business license fee

Councilor Blum asked if we could open the playgrounds. City Manager Misley replied Phase II, which went into effect yesterday, allowed for the opening of playgrounds. He noted Cliff Clemens and Fir Street splash pad would be opened with safety signage in place. There would be a ribbon-cutting at the new Village Green play structure soon.

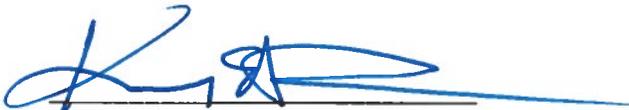
3. Update on East Portal Acquisition and Concept

City Manager Misley explained there had been a discussion on the acquisition of the East Portal for a long time. He noted the property was zoned open space and was not in the comprehensive plan as commercial property. City Manager Misley said the City and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) were putting together an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) as they thought the property was a strategic site for transportation. He thought part of the property would be looked at as a transportation and mobility hub. City Manager Misley said this property was a strategic opportunity for the City, and we would have to come to the table with some funds for acquisition. City Manager Misley noted staff had budgeted for a masterplan on the East Portal this year.

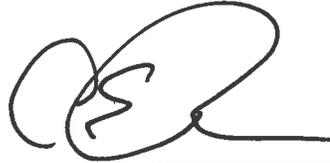
Councilor Preedin asked if there was any cost to the IGA. City Manager Misley replied only staff time. Councilor Blum would like to get going on this project.

4. **Other Business-Staff/Council-None**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.



Kerry Prosser, City Recorder



Chuck Ryan, Mayor