

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES – JULY 23, 2018

Call Work Session to order at 8:46 p.m. by Mayor Dodge.

PRESENT: Mayor Dodge, Council Members Butterfield, McNeilly, and Stieve-McPadden

ABSENT: Council Member Boder

STAFF: City Administrator McCallum, City Attorney Sullivan, City Engineer Martini, Public Works Kuntz, and Deputy Clerk Gildemeister

ALSO PRESENT: None

1. **Presentation from Republic Services:** Representatives from Republic Services shared a power point presentation on the direction of recycling trends. Prices for scrap paper and plastic have collapsed, leading local officials across the country to charge residents more to collect recyclables and send some to landfills. Used newspapers, cardboard boxes and plastic bottles are piling up at plants that can't make a profit processing them for export or domestic markets. Recycling and organics are growing faster than disposal, with most customers demanding recycling. For decades, China has been the largest importer of the world's recycled commodity, and the U.S. was 40% of the inbound stream. In 2017, China announced efforts to clean up the country which included dramatic changes for acceptance criteria of imported recyclables, otherwise known as the "China Sword". These reductions took effect in March 2018, and are driving costs and changes at recycling facilities to meet new standards. As a result, some facilities are unable to handle daily material volume. Some factors that are driving recycling costs up are higher participation rates, pounds per set-out vs. service cost per household, processing costs, lack of education and cross contamination costs, and commodity value.

Republic Services is looking at a new business model to adjust to the new cost of recycling. Based on the new business model Republic Services proposes to increase the monthly bill by .53 cent and then based on a one year look back, adjust the increase again.

Council thanked the representatives from Republic Services for coming and asked Staff to bring back topic for discussion at future Work Session

2. **Discussion on Snow Removal Operations:** Tabled

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Attest: _____
Janell Gildemeister, Deputy City Clerk

Mike Dodge, Mayor