

Item 23-1405: Resolution #R-12-23 Closure of the Whitman Yard Waste Site

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 4:30PM

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:03:08

The next item is 23-1405 resolution 12-R-23 the closure of the Whitman yard waste site. Based on the, I guess, lack of information, my assumption is that we would want to refer this to staff with a timeframe. Maybe, Director Block, do you have any idea of the amount of time it would take to research something like this? And then I'll ask Alder Doran to comment as this is his resolution.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 1:03:41

Sure. I think during the 2024 budget process as the question on duplication of services or services provided occurred as we discussed the sanitation fund, staff had worked to pull a lot of that information together. So, if this were—I know there's a break due to holidays, or there's like gaps in the in the committee timeframe, but 30 days or the next committee meeting following 30 days, we could provide that initial stack of information to be considered. If there's additional, I guess, topics that committee members are interested in for us to bring back, if we would know that now, we could add that to the memo as well.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:04:29

Alder Siebers.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 1:04:30

One thing I'd like to know—this happened before you were born I think. I'd like to know why the reason for having a yard waste site at Whitman was initially proposed.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:04:46

And then I did send my question by email but I like I guess I should let—I'll take this opportunity to let everyone know. My neighbors and my husband have been taking their yard waste to the yard waste site, um, because we are a leaf vac area. And I'm wondering if we have any information or data about the usage of this site—I guess particularly Glendale based on where the leaf vac sites are—if we expect more usage once the city is all leaf vac area?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 1:05:21

So, Deputy Director Loper can add any detail that I might be missing here. But when we took a look at this and just in general, our services provided future build out of the entirety of leaf vac throughout the city. we felt confident that there is enough capacity at Glendale to accommodate additional brush and yard waste drop off.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 1:05:25

Do you want to add anything or is that—Okay, great. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:05:54

Thank you, chair. I don't know if this is going to be discussed today or if this is going to be held today. But my question that I would like addressed whenever it is discussed is what are the details of the MOU between our municipality and Grand Chute and what are the—what are the terms as far as time that that is taken into account?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:06:13

Thank you. Okay. Anyone else? Alder Meltzer?

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:06:18

Now—Alder Hartzheim covered my question, but I think also, I'm really interested in the financials, the financial details of that memo of understanding.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:06:31

Alder Croatt, did you?

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 1:06:32

Thank you. Yeah, the MOU was something I was gonna ask about as well. But also, I would like to understand the overall customer experience if we go to one yard waste site and what that means for wait times, potentially at peak times, off peak times. Will the line be down in Glendale to get in? Are people gonna get frustrated? I hope that's part of the analysis. Thanks.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:06:56

Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:06:59

Thank you, Chair. Just on feedback on this site, my constituents reached out to me speaking, the fact that they're sick and tired of their resources in the city being threatened to be taken away while paying high taxes. So, their frustration is with us continuing to take away services from them.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:07:22

Did you have any other items that you want staff to look into before the next?

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:07:28

Yeah, feedback from the community on whether or not they want the services taken away.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:07:35

Perhaps—perhaps we could talk about how we are going to reach out to let people know that this is something that's being considered. Any other—Alder Doran, did you have anything to add?

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 1:07:51

Well, I guess, if you all have asked your questions of staff, my question for staff, I guess, would be if staff feels they need additional time to research this or—because it's been discussed a number of times already, do they feel comfortable that they have the information to answer those questions?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 1:08:10

I think the customer experience, customer counts, wait time, and length of lines we need just a little bit more time on. We had customer counts. So, the next municipal services committee meeting is December 11. No. So if we could have till January, that would be very helpful.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:08:33

Okay. Alder Meltzer.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 1:08:36

Thank you. Another kind of nuance to the questions. So, I'm curious what, from an accessibility standpoint, like ADA or otherwise, what are some what are the differentiations between the Whitman site and Glendale? Are they're sort of accessible features that only exist at the Whitman site and not at the Glendale site?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:08:59

And I think also, I'd be interested in knowing if we aren't—I don't know much about the Whitman site itself. If we were to discontinue service, how would we use that property in a different way? Alder Hartzheim?

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:09:20

Thank you, chair. And in terms of the customer experience question, I—it would be helpful, I think, to us to know whether there's been outreach between Outagamie County because they have a very robust system there. And if there wouldn't be—like we wouldn't we shouldn't necessarily rely on customer deciding, "Oh, Whitman's close, we're going to Glendale." They may choose to go to the county site as well. So, I think we have to kind of play that into the story of what will the customer experience be?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:09:53

Okay.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:09:53

Thank you.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:09:55

Any other feedback? Questions for staff to research? All right. If there's no other discussion, I guess I would entertain a motion. Go ahead Alder Siebers.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 1:10:11

Oh, I'm sorry. You want to do a motion on holding?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:14

Yes, to hold until the first meeting in January.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 1:10:16

I'll make that motion.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 1:10:17

Second.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:18

We have a motion and a second to hold until the first meeting in January. Any discussion on the hold? Alright, with that, we'll vote. All those in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed? That motion passes five zero.

[Someone said something off microphone]

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:35

Sure. Director Block, I don't have my computer in front of you.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 1:10:40
February 8, and now I'm hearing 11. January 8.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:10:48
January 8. Thank you.