

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

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, Feb 12, 2024 4:30PM

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 02:54

Our next action item is 23-1405 the resolution 12-R-23 the closure of the Whitman yard waste site.

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:03

Move to deny.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 03:04

Second.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 03:05

We have a motion to deny and a second. Any discussion? Alder Meltzer?

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:13

I'll let the author of the resolution speak first.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 03:16

Alder Doran?

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 03:17

I was just gonna see if staff wanted to comment on the work that they had been doing the last couple of weeks, I guess.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 03:25

Is that for Director Block in particular? Director two.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 03:34

Thank you, Chair. Correct, since the last time we had discussed this resolution at committee, there was a question related to circling back with Grand Chute. So, we were able to organize that meeting. The town of grand chute public works director and their administrator, their new town administrator, getting him up to speed and having the conversation. So, they elaborated a bit more on what they would be looking for if this change was made, and they did give us specifics in terms of how they would determine some sort of decrease or their negotiating stance, whether it be based on the acreage that was eliminated the additional travel time—you know, they expressed a way that they would want to quantify that and renegotiate the MOU. So, we thought with that risk, they, again, were we're fairly clear that they could not give us a specific dollar amount and I can understand their position as well. So that is what formulated this last memo. So, it's the final sheet attached to this section.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:38

Did you have any questions for staff, Alder Doran?

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 04:41

Well, just a couple follow up, I guess. So, they have a what sounds like a set criteria, what they would want to use to determine what sort of reduction they would want to pay or...?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 04:51

No, I wouldn't say they know the criteria they would use. They gave several options about how they might begin to determine the loss in, you know, level of service. So, they threw out those options and that's what I had listed there. They expressed a desire to calculate a loss of service.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 05:10

Okay. And I know that from where this started, I guess, initially with this resolution, to where it is now, this is sort of have seemed to have centered on the this renegotiating of the contract and what that might mean in the reduction of revenue I guess from Grand Chute. Aside from that, all of the other benefits that we've previously discussed—staff, I assume, still doesn't feel like that outweighs what the reduction in revenue would save us or cost us, I guess?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 05:41

At this time, correct.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 05:43

Alder Hartzheim—oh, I'm sorry. I did—Alder Meltzer did allow Alder Doran to go first. Alder Meltzer.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 05:43

Okay.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 05:51

Alder Hartzheim. Hold on. There you go.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:51

Thank you. I plan to vote against this. I've heard from a lot of my constituents. One of the comments or comment that was repeated was that the city is too big for just one yard site to serve us and that keeping both open would be the preference. They were open to compromise with the sense that you know if a compromise is necessary, but they emphasized that the weekend scheduling is really important, and they would really rather see more yard waste site hours as opposed to any kind of reduction. And a lot of people just said that they'd like to keep things the way they are. Thank you.

Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:52

Thank you, Chair. I have two questions for staff if I may.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 05:58

Sure.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 05:58

Could you refresh my memory, please, as to what, in 2023 or 2024, we are being paid by Grand Chute for the services. The MOU says a number from 2019 and then a 3%. Is this a compounded 3% every year? Something to that effect?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:01

I had this figured out last time, but I don't have those notes with me.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 07:04

I thought it was like \$60,000—

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:05

It was like \$67,000

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 07:07

—something? Yeah. And that's okay, if we don't have that right now. But what I'm wondering then is what—can we say what percentage of the Whitman Avenue site's activities are paid for by the Grand Chute contribution?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 07:28

Well, if I understand it correctly, Director Block, the cost that we had for operation was around \$50,000. When we looked at this at budget time, I believe the reduction was \$50,000, but the MOU was \$10,000-ish higher than the amount for operating that portion of the site. Now I don't know if that's just operating yard waste, or if that was a portion of staffing that site, but that's what I recall.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 08:03

I'm looking to Deputy Director Loper on this one.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:06

And you are three?

Deputy Director of Operations Nathan Loper (Public Works) 08:10

So

Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:12

Is the mic on?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:14

Is it green? Ope.

Deputy Director of Operations Nathan Loper (Public Works) 08:17

District three. There we go. Number I have here from Grand Chute was \$63,300. That might have been last year's number. So—but that gets us close. Does that cover all the costs? No. Or probably covers the labor and equipment there, just the labor to run the site, but then all that material we need to handle again, grind it up, haul it away. So, then it becomes about a for it—maybe both sites together, what Grand Chute pays us now, it's probably about 20% of our operating costs. So, the cost to operate both sites are pretty significant once you include the chipping and hauling of all that debris that gets brought in. That that's the majority of our costs.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 09:11

So, if we're assuming—let me just make sure I understand what you're saying. So, the—if we're talking about closing that site, that site would still be used for other purposes, it would still need to be staffed. Is that correct? Or it'd be staffed at a reduced rate?

Deputy Director of Operations Nathan Loper (Public Works) 09:32

If the site closes? Yeah, we wouldn't have an employee there at all.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 09:35

Okay. So, when we're comparing the—you're talking about disposal of what's being brought into the yard waste site, it would be safe to assume a majority of that would still go to the Glendale site.

Deputy Director of Operations Nathan Loper (Public Works) 09:50

Correct.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 09:52

So, what we're talking about difference-wise is really the staffing if that were to close.

Deputy Director of Operations Nathan Loper (Public Works) 09:56

Yeah, really the savings closing that site would be 90 percent labor.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:01

Okay. Does that help?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 10:03

Thank you, Chair. Yes, it does. I understand that we are sort of at an impasse, and I believe that probably denying this at this time is the appropriate thing for the Council to do. However, I do still see that—and I'm fine being a good neighbor as far as a municipality, but I still feel as though there is some—we need to look a little further into whether Grand Chute is toting the appropriate load for what they're paying as far as this service for the city. Thank you.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 10:38

And I think that our discussion at budget time around yard waste and waste in general was pretty robust as to figuring out if maintaining, you know, two sites or maintaining any sites is valuable to our constituents. So, I think that's something that we'll still look into. Any other questions for staff discussion?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:04

All right, hearing none, we'll vote. All those in favor of the denial say aye. Aye. Any opposed? That motion passes four, zero.