

**CITY OF IRON RIVER  
PUBLIC HEARING  
SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS  
Wednesday, February 18, 2009  
1:45 PM  
MINUTES**

Mayor Roger Zanon opened the Public Hearing at 1:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Edward Marcell, Ray Coates, Thomas Beber, Michael Brozak and Zanon.

Absent: None

Also present: Manager John Archocosky, Attorney Mark Tousignant and Clerk Kathy Anderson.

Public in Attendance: Ben Smith, Diane Renaud-Smith, Scott Reed, Al Perlongo, William Vajk, Craig Richardson, and Reporters Allyce Westphal (IC Reporter) and Wendy Shimun (WIKB).

Purpose of the Public Hearing: to receive public comment on amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance.

It is been proposed that each residence be limited to the equivalent of three 33-gallon bags or containers per week, and any additional bags be affixed with authorized stickers at a cost of \$2.00 per sticker. Should a sticker not be affixed to additional bags, the property owner shall be billed, in addition to a monthly charge for solid waste, \$5.00 for each additional bag.

Modifications have also been proposed pertaining to the weight of solid waste that may be placed in a container or bag for pickup, whereas the weight can not exceed 50 pounds.

William Vajk expressed objections to the proposed amendments, and stated such in a letter to the Editor in the February 18, 2009, Edition of the Iron County Reporter. He provided copies of the letter (see attached).

**Public Comment**

Ben Smith questioned the specifications outlined in the original Solid Waste Request for Bids and whether it was based on the existing or proposed Ordinance.

Archocosky noted the Bid Request was very specific and was based on information provided by Waste Management. Archocosky will provide Smith with a copy of the Request for Bids.

Perlongo questioned the proposed language pertaining to when garbage may be placed out for pickup and in what container; i.e. bag or designated container; (Section 51.04). He felt the language should be clarified.

Tousignant explained that the ordinance precluded setting out plastic bags to mainly prevent animals from getting into bags placed out before the scheduled pickup day.

Diane Smith asked who would determine when a residence would be billed for not having a proper bag or sticker affixed, and if a "straight" tag or bag system had been considered. Zanon stated the contractor would have to contact the city offices if this occurs. Beber noted that past experience indicates a "straight" bag or tag system would not be well received.

Coates noted his brother is billed \$25 per month for solid waste pickup two times per month.

Zanon stated the proposed amendments are an attempt to continue to provide a service to city residents without a rate increase, and the proposed amendments affect the weight of containers that are placed out for pickup and limits the number of bags picked up per week.

Archocosky noted the low bidder (Great American Disposal) has guaranteed the pickup and tipping fee price for the next five years, subject to Cost of Living index and fuel cost.

Perlongo questioned if the ordinance will lessen the influx of waste coming in from other areas. Archocosky hopes if this does occur, it will be done legitimately and at no cost to the residents.

Perlongo asked if bags not affixed with a sticker would be left sitting at the curb, and if the City Manager would monitor the activity, as stated in the ordinance. Archocosky assured him that should this occur, he will deal with it at that time.

Marcell moved to adjourn the Public Hearing at 2:24 p.m. Coates seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Kathy L. Anderson, City Clerk