UPDATE ON THE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Rich Knapp, Administrative Services Director, stated he had requested the front line utility staff to compile a list of anticipated questions/concerns specific to the recycle program in order for the Council to discuss appropriate responses. He distributed the questions and reviewed them with the Council:

1. If a resident has not received notification for a number of itemized reasons/OR
2. a resident is not found on the opt-out list after claiming they previously called in

Mr. Knapp pointed out some responses to consider for the first two questions and pointed out the billing dates associated with each option.

3. If a new renter moves in after the opt-out window. Mr. Knapp recommended the new renter could not discontinue recycling.

4. If a new owner moves in after the opt-out window. Mr. Knapp recommended the new owner could discontinue recycling, but only at the time of setting up the initial utility account.
5. If a resident/landlord desires to opt out before completion of the residential units, Mr. Knapp pointed out this would be a non-issue if new owners were allowed to opt out (question #4).

6. If a two unit residency only wants one can due to lack of space, Mr. Knapp suggested because unlike garbage, recycling was not an immediate public health issue; therefore, the Council could allow the sharing of one recycle can between the two.

Mr. Knapp reviewed other questions which should be considered:
1. Under what circumstances can a resident opt out after September?
2. Will there be a window for residents to opt out once they receive their first bill in November?
3. If the service charge increases from low participation rates, will residents be able to leave the program?

Mr. Knapp informed the Council of the City’s that 1300 of 5800 utility accounts had opted out of the recycle program to date which was equivalent to approximately seventy-seven percent still participating. He continued if 150 or more residents desired to opt out of the recycle program the City would be within the fifty to seventy five percent participation rate which was what staff anticipated. Mr. Knapp expressed his opinion the City probably wouldn’t meet the necessary participation rate if the Council allowed residents to continue to opt out after the August 31 deadline. He requested direction from the Council and a discussion took place.

The Council addressed question 5 and didn’t want the developer/builder to be able to opt out of the recycle program prior to the homes being sold and a discussion took place regarding when a resident would have the opportunity to opt out of the recycle program. Councilmember Benson stated she wanted a new resident/tenant to have the opportunity to opt out of the program. Councilmember Young expressed his preference that new residents and new renters should both had the opportunity to opt out. Councilmember Bush believed whoever resided at the home should have the choice to opt out. JJ Allen, Assistant City Manager, pointed out, by ordinance, the owner of the home or landlord, was the utility bill account holder. Councilmember Jones then suggested allowing a resident to opt out anytime the billing information changed. The Council agreed with that suggestion.

The Council discussed the proposed options specific to question 1 and 2 and determined the second option would be appropriate with a small administrative fee to retrieve the can. The Council agreed with all other suggested responses:

- A new renter cannot discontinue recycling.
- A new owner can discontinue recycling, but only at the time of setting up the utility account.
- A two-unit residence with two separate required trash cans can share one recycle can because unlike garbage, recycling is not an immediate public health issue.

A discussion took place regarding whether the City would offer an annual opt out for residents. Mr. Knapp reported published information regarding the recycling program stated there would not be an annual opt out period.
DISCUSSION ON A RAIN BARREL WATER COLLECTION PROGRAM

JJ Allen, Assistant City Manager, reported there seemed to be a movement with some cities, encouraged by the Utah Rivers Council, to subsidize a program/cost to provide rain barrels to residents for the harvesting of rain water. He stated nothing in City ordinance precluded a resident from harvesting rain water. He explained the idea. The City would purchase a rain barrel for $75 and then sell it to the resident for $40, allowing the resident to obtain it for a discounted price providing the opportunity to use the collected rain water for outdoor watering. He inquired if this was something the Council wanted staff to pursue.

Councilmember LeBaron suggested the Council begin discussing the issue in January to allow for an April implementation which would capitalize on collecting water during the rainy season.

Mr. Allen reported he had spoken with cities participating in the program that indicated the implementation was a way to help residents feel good about water conservation.

The Council believed there were better ways to use tax payer dollars then by subsidizing the program at $35 per barrel but wasn’t opposed to passing the entire $75 cost of the barrel on to the participant.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED
This 22nd day of September, 2015

/s/Mark R. Shepherd, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Nancy R. Dean, City Recorder

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Clearfield City Council meeting held Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

/s/Nancy R. Dean, City Recorder