

Minutes
Cheney Planning Commission
Regular Meeting – By Phone/Video Conference

September 13, 2021

Commissioners Attending: Richard Mount, Natasha Jostad, Dan Turbeville and Daniel Hillman.

Commissioners Absent: Jake Vibbert, David Early and Vara Lyn Conrath.

Staff Attending: Brett Lucas, Todd Ableman and Susan Beeman.

Councilmembers Attending: Vince Barthels.

Call to Order: Chairman Mount called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

Minutes: Commissioner Turbeville made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 regular meeting as distributed. Seconded by Commissioner Jostad, and the motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Participation: None.

Information Item: #2021-09
Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021 to 2026

Mr. Ableman explained that in 2009, the City discontinued a contract for solid waste disposal services with Sunshine Disposal, and created our own solid waste utility. Operations began on January 4, 2010. Since that time, our waste has been trucked to the Waste to Energy Plant, which is now operated by the City of Spokane. In 2014, we decided to develop a solid waste plan, giving us some leverage in terms of where we will collect, and where we will dispose of solid waste.

Since that time, we have contracted with the City of Spokane for disposal, and our Solid Waste Plan is updated at regular intervals. The current update covers the years 2021 to 2026, and will be posted for public review and comment.

Mr. Lucas reviewed the background of our Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan, and explained that our plan is intended to minimize long-term costs to ratepayers while maximizing future flexibility to produce a sustainable long-range solution to municipal solid waste, recycling and moderate-risk waste.

Mr. Lucas explained that establishing a solid waste utility is somewhat unusual for a city our size, and most communities elect to contract with private companies to provide this service.

Mr. Lucas reviewed the range of solid waste collection services provided, which include:

- Residential automated cart service;
- Multi-family residential automated cart, dumpster, or roll-off compactor service;
- Commercial automated cart, dumpster, roll-off container, or roll-off compactor service;
- Eastern Washington University 40-cubic yard compactor service.

He noted that all municipal solid waste generated from residential and commercial customers is currently disposed at the Regional Waste to Energy Plant.

Mr. Lucas explained that drop-off of clean, green yard waste is available at the Cheney Recycling Center at 100 Anderson Road between March and November, and curbside pickup service is offered between April and October of each year.

Mr. Lucas added that we do not offer curbside recycling at this time. There was been some interest expressed, but rates would have to be increased to allow us to add that service.

Because Cheney participates in the Regional Solid Waste Management System, citizens of Cheney can self-haul disposal items to one of three Spokane County regional collection sites. These sites collect a fee for disposal of solid waste and clean green waste, and provide free drop off services for Moderate Risk Waste and recycling products.

Mr. Lucas explained that in lieu of curbside recycling, since 1994 the City has maintained a Recycling Facility for drop off of certain materials, including:

- Ferrous and non-ferrous metals;
- Batteries (household);
- Cardboard (corrugated);
- Paper products (colored ledger paper, computer paper, magazines, newspapers, phone books, white ledger paper);
- Aluminum;
- Plastic products (HDPE and PETE)

Mr. Lucas added that the Cheney Clean Sweep was initiated in 2010 as an annual, one day event that allows citizens of Cheney to self-haul disposable items to a primary collection area located in the city. We partner with local businesses to encourage appropriate disposal of construction debris, metals, tires, car batteries, moderate-risk waste, and provide a shredding service for disposal of personal documents.

In conjunction with Cheney Clean Sweep, we also offer a large-item pickup service for utility customers, where for a moderate fee, the City will pick up and dispose of furniture,

appliances, and other items which are too large for disposal in the regular weekly garbage service.

Mr. Lucas stated that the total municipal solid waste generated within the City of Cheney is expected to increase by 24% by 2040. This forecast is based upon population figures in the 2017 to 2037 Cheney Comprehensive Plan, which assumes a 1.4% annual average population increase over the next 20 years. This figure was then used to forecast the growth in residential tonnage using a .40% per capita yearly increase in waste generation due to ongoing recycling education. The forecast applies a 1% annual growth rate in all other waste generation, which should grow at close to the same rate as the population.

Mr. Lucas explained that we have some issues with the yard waste drop-off area, which is currently undersized and will need to be expanded or relocated. We expect to see design work completed in 2021, and construction of the expanded facility in 2022. Mr. Lucas added that the yard waste collected at this facility is mixed with the city's wastewater bio-solids to produce a compost product, known as 'Eco Green.' Since the onset of Covid restrictions, we have sold our entire compost production to Dow Landscaping, which re-sells to the public, basically at cost.

Mr. Lucas added that we also incorporate an education program into this plan, providing information in our monthly utility bills on a broad range of topics, including solid waste, recycling, clean green disposal, and compost.

Both the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Washington State Growth Management Act require local jurisdictions to identify specific capital facilities, including a realistic financing plan, and make adjustments to the plan if funding is inadequate. There are some capital projects on the horizon in the next six years, including:

- Commercial front-end loader: approximately \$160,000
- Roll-off truck: approximately \$200,000
- Replacement residential truck: approximately \$300,000
- Recycling/clean green facility expansion: approximately \$230,000

Mr. Lucas noted that the three truck replacements are expected based on a service life of 15 to 20 years. After that point, both engine wear and hydraulics that are in constant, daily use become costly to keep in running order.

Projects anticipated in the 7 year to 20 year timeframe include:

- Solid waste transfer facility: \$1.3 million

Mr. Lucas explained that this might be needed if we were to discontinue our agreement with the City of Spokane for use of the Waste to Energy Facility. There is not an immediate plan for this, but we want to have alternatives mapped out in case we need to change directions.

Mr. Lucas reviewed our Level of Service standards:

- The current Level of Service (LOS) for solid waste collection is .4 tons (800 pounds) per capita;

- Based on a projected population increase of 3,096 additional residents in the next 20 years, while maintaining the same LOS, the City will need to fund capacity expansion to collect an additional 2,000 tons of solid waste.
- The City of Cheney will be able to maintain the current LOS for its municipal solid waste collection.
- The City of Cheney will continue to dispose of its municipal solid waste at the City of Spokane Waste to Energy Plant and will continue to contract in good faith with the City of Spokane for municipal solid waste disposal.
- Expansion of the Recycling Facility and Clean Green disposal site will provide substantial capacity to accommodate future collection and disposal of source-separated recycling products and clean green waste.
- Currently recyclable products are monitored annually as recycling habits change and markets open new opportunities for other types of recyclables.
- The LOS for Clean Green waste combines the Clean Green waste with the City's Wastewater Treatment bio-solids process to make a saleable byproduct, Eco-Green compost.
- The system currently has capacity to meet future clean green waste disposal needs.

Mr. Lucas stated that there is opportunity for public involvement in the update and development of this Solid Waste Plan, and public comment is being sought. The current version of the Solid Waste Plan is available on the City's website:

<https://www.cityofcheney.org/204/Solid-Waste-Recycling>

Mr. Ableman added that we only get 5 to 7 years on a garbage truck because of the heavy use; we are currently on the third version of trucks since we began the solid waste utility in 2010. We try to rotate them out before they lose a ton of value. He said that the Solid Waste Transfer Facility is in the Capital Facilities Plan as a placeholder, in case we need to look at other options, not because we are anxious to move in that direction.

Discussion followed. Chairman Mount asked if we have begun budgeting for upgrades or replacement of garbage trucks. Mr. Ableman explained that we have kept a couple of trucks as 'backup trucks,' and we currently put away about \$70,000 each year toward replacement, so we can upgrade them as needed.

Chairman Mount asked if there has been any planning for the location of a Solid Waste Transfer Facility. Mr. Ableman said that there has been discussion, and the desire is to have it away from town. We own quite a bit of land surrounding the Waste Water Treatment Plant, so that is the direction we are looking. We are considering an enclosed facility, with a height of 14' or more. Another option might be a rail system, such as is being used in Spokane Valley. However, we have a contract with the City of Spokane that is working to our mutual benefit, and we are looking at extending that for another five years.

Commissioner Turbeville asked how the population increase is projected. Mr. Lucas explained that we receive official estimates at the county level from the Washington State

Office of Financial Management. We estimate Cheney's growth based on a proportionate share of that county allocation.

Commissioner Reports: None.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Ableman reported that EWU is gearing after remote-only classes last year. Traffic-wise, we effectively have a double dose of incoming freshman this year who need to learn their way around town. He added that it has been a hot, dry summer, but our water production was able to keep up with demand.

Mr. Lucas added that dorms are opening again, as the University tries to limit occupancy to one person per dorm room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

Susan Beeman, Secretary

Richard Mount, Chairman