

**Infrastructure Committee
Minutes
February 9, 2016**

ATTENDEES

Councilors:

Gibran Graham
Sarah Nichols

Joshua Plourde
Benjamin Sprague

Sean Faircloth
Joseph Baldacci

Staff:

John Theriault
Paul Nicklaus

Catherine Conlow

Dana Wardwell

Members of the Public:

1. Permit Policy- Organic Waste
(Memo Attached)

With the recent paper mill and bio-mass generation facilities closings, the market for wood chips is currently very low. Historically Public Works has received brush from residents and non-residents including commercial entities. We then have had a contractor chip this brush and pay us \$3 per ton for the wood chips. About 3 years ago there was a concern by some councilors that resident businesses that pay taxes should not provide a free service for non-resident competitors. The ordinance was revised so non-residents pay \$100 per year for a permit to use the facility. Due to present market conditions the contractor has stated that they will chip the existing brush pile at no charge. What money we will receive or have to pay to have the pile chipped in the future is unknown.

So far in FY16 we have collected \$2850 for non-resident permits for disposing of brush and yard waste (leaves, grass clippings etc.). Most of the non-residents purchasing this permit are landscapers that dispose of mostly leaves and grass clippings. We receive about \$6,000 per year selling about 2000 tons of wood chips. From my observations out my window it appears that a very high percentage of the brush comes from handful commercial entities, the majority of which are non-residents. If market conditions do not improve and we have to pay to have the chips removed it is likely that residents may have to pay to dispose of non-resident brush. Staff recommends we cease selling permits for brush disposal to non-residents immediately.

Vote: Unanimous

2. Ordinance Amendment: Stormwater Utility Billing
(Memo & Council Order Attached)

This Ordinance amendment would adjust and clarify several procedures related to stormwater billing.

The amendment would clarify that an approved stormwater credit would be applied beginning with the previous complete billing cycle, and that any funds owed to the City by the property owner must be paid before the credit is processed. The amendment would also give ratepayers 28 days to pay their stormwater bill from the date the stormwater bill is sent, to match the period for paying sewer bills, and would clarify that the fee is owed whether the bill is received or not, as is the case with taxes and sewer fees.

Vote: Vote: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned.