

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Rapid City, South Dakota
May 16, 2005

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rapid City was held at the City/School Administration Center in Rapid City, South Dakota on Monday, May 16, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

The following members were present: Mayor Jim Shaw and the following Alderpersons: Ray Hadley, Malcom Chapman, Tom Murphy, Jean French, Ron Kroeger, Tom Johnson, Karen Olson, Sam Kooiker, Bob Hurlbut and Bill Waugh. The following Alderperson arrived during the course of the meeting: None; and the following were absent: None.

Staff members present included Assistant City Finance Officer Coleen Schmidt, City Attorney Jason Green, Public Works Director Dirk Jablonski, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Gerry.

Mayor Shaw introduced the agenda item as general public comments regarding Sanitary Landfill operations, as it relates to litter, birds and odor; explaining the City received a letter from Bill and Peggy Napoli, owners and operators of Motion Unlimited located on South Hwy 79 across from the sanitary landfill about arrant birds feeding at the landfill and their excretions.

Alderman Kooiker asked that the meeting be opened for public comment and asked interested persons to provide their name, address and telephone if they were interested in attending any task force meetings on the landfill. Kooiker indicated the purpose of the special Council meeting to have all the information out there in terms of concerns from the neighborhood. He reported the task force had met to organize and came up with three recommendations for consideration, (1) seasonal shift in the landfill, from the southeast side (summer months) to the northwest side (winter months); (2) planting more trees, reinforcing the fence; and (3) relocating the landfill, which is an enormous undertaking to consider. He asked to hear from neighbors on what their concerns are, to get an idea on how big of an issue this is, so that we could our arms around it.

Dave England, J F England Sons, Inc., Rapid City appeared before the Council indicating the bird problem is not a big problem for them as is blowing litter, paper specifically. He suggested odor was also a problem; and during the fall and winter months the odor was nauseating. He indicated he believed the odor was from the recycling portion of the operations, and not the dump. He pointed out this is becoming a bigger issue all the time and something needs to be done because the City is encroaching on the landfill. He explained he has an eight foot high fence on his property and the paper litter was stacked along the fence. He asked to be notified on everything that happens; and suggested it would be too expensive to move the landfill. He suggested the landfill would stifle the development in this area. Responding to a question from Kooiker about the birds and blowing trash, England indicated the trash is bad. England indicated there are more birds, but did not experience any bad problems with the birds.

Scott Nash, Fox Run Drive, Rapid City landowner appeared before the Council indicating his concern is the same as Dave England's. Nash indicated he owned property north of Catron Blvd. that he would like to develop. He explained a lot of the property is commercial. He indicated the odor is a problem. Nash indicated the landfill is good about picking up the litter. He pointed out they were assured by the Council when the recycling plant was put in that the citizens would not know the plant was there. He suggested he did not buy into that reasoning, and still does not. He other concerns is that we are going to put in a bunch of trees out there;

and the big trees are going to be bag catchers. He wondered how the City would remove the bags from the trees. He did not believe this was the solution, and suggested the City need to attack where the bags are coming from and get it stopped. He suggested the City needed to get the bags out of the landfill; and suggested a campaign to get people to use cloth bags. Responding to a question from Kooiker about blowing trash, Nash explained the blowing trash had been worse until landfill operations changed and more fences were put up. Kooiker indicated one of the ideas the task force has discussed, and has not been adopted, is a seasonal shift in the landfill. Right now, the southeast pit is being used and the idea is to use the northwest pit during the winter when the birds are a problem. Nash indicated you can move the birds, but you can not move the odor.

Kooiker indicated the Council can take a number of actions, but some of this can be done administratively within the budget. He suggested two motions, one to bring forward some solutions within the departmental budget, and one to bring forward some solutions that are beyond the frame work of the budget.

Responding to a request from Kooiker, Solid Waste Operations Manager Wright asked to defer the questions to discussions with the task force and staff to discuss options. He reported they try to keep the litter down, and they try to keep the odor down.

Public Works Director Jablonski indicated it would be appropriate for staff to get together to discuss the issue of odor, what to do or without the trees, and the birds. He indicated that staff has the responsibility to come back with options the Council could consider within the budget. Jablonski asked for thirty days to bring options forward for consideration.

Kooiker moved to ask the Public Works Department to develop recommendations within the budget; and also recommendations that would require special appropriation, and bring forward those recommendations in the next thirty days to the Public Works Committee meeting. Second by Waugh. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 P. M.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

ATTEST:

Mayor

Finance Officer

(SEAL)