



Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

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9:00 AM

Remote

3 RLH TA 21-421 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 667 LAUREL AVENUE. (File No. CG2103A1, Assessment No. 210110)

Sponsors: Thao

*If property owner switched out cart to the smallest every other week by October 21, will
1) reduce from \$109.06 to \$59.23; 2) reduce Q4 2020 from \$93.07 to \$57.60 and Q1
2021 to \$59.23; 3) PW staff to reduce pending assessment for Q3 2021.*

Greg Crawford, Appellant appeared via phone

Staff Sarah Haas Clare Pillsbury from the garbage hauling program

[Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Staff Report by Clare Pillsbury: Yes, we received a letter from the property owner stating that they do not require garbage pickup because they are zero wasters. They stated the Republic has been overcharging for garbage pickup. They would like to note that they did not request the service, nor did they sign any contracts with Republic Services. They did request that we make billing corrections to the lowest rate since the beginning and remove any charges against their home that is on their property tax, that we remove any penalty fees and interest charges and that we submit by mail one bill showing the correct charges for the time of garbage service. Our response is that under city wide garbage services all units are residential properties with up to four units are required to have a garbage cart and receive garbage services for each dwelling unit and they must provide garbage service for all occupied dwellings. There is currently no option to opt out of city-wide garbage services. The property owner is responsible for paying the outstanding charges because garbage service was provided from April to June 2021. We did want to note that the property owner appears to have two 64-gallon carts, but it appears they are only being charged for one, and they do have the option of switching to a 35-gal every other week service for a lower monthly charge.

Crawford: I tried to make it as concise as possible in the letter. You glossed over the fact that we have never had trash pick up for over years. We are what some people refer to as zero wasters, so without having trash pick-up for over 15 years we were forced into a trash removal system that we didn't request, and we do not need. But since it is obvious, I can't remove myself from this system right now we have a gallon unit and its sitting in my back yard and its four weeks and its less than half full. I only put it out when its full even your 35 gallon every two weeks I assume is your system we are way below that. So even in the end you are going to charge me more for a trash removal than what is actually occurring here. I haven't explored any other legal options

so at this point I am resigned to the fact that it's not going to go away. I have stated in the letter that if I am given a bill with a value that reflects the amount of trash or the lowest level of trash way below what you have now. I would pay a bill if it is corrected that represents the beginning of this system and I would pay it in full. So, I am not even compromising at this point, I guess that is my compromise, but I don't know what other options are available to me. I know this phone call represents one billing period and my letter referenced the period that this whole system has existed. If you want to check for the whole backlog at the lowest rate than I am willing to pay that.

Moermond: I noticed that you are delinquent in your property tax payments on the Counties website some \$526. Does that represent your calculation of the garbage hauling service?

Crawford: I believe that's it I've sent letters to them saying that the amount is not correct, and I have refused to pay that, but there's complications when you refuse to pay part of your property taxes.

Moermond: I can help you with some of what you're talking about but not all of what you're talking about, let me walk through where I do have some authority and there some areas where I have none and neither does the city council. For the assessments that have been certified to your property taxes so those that show up on your 2020-2021 property tax statements there is absolutely nothing that we can do and those have been certified to the taxes and your due process options have expired those were not appealed in a timely fashion, notice of the appeals process is on the back of the invoices you received originally. Those that have come forward this year there are three. One that I have in front of me and two that have been ratified. I can look at those and still ring the bell on the other two. I am willing to look at doing that, but I am going to ask you to do what I ask everyone in these circumstances to do, when saying you're a zero waster. I totally respect if that's where you're coming from. I can't change the contract right now everyone in a single-family home to a four plex is bound by the same rules under this current contract and ordinance. You can switch to the smallest level of service possible, and I can switch all of three bills to reflect that even though the larger cart has been there. To undo the last two, we would have to send the past two through a special resolution to council to do that, but we would be more than happy to do that. Are you willing to switch to the smaller size?

Crawford: Its irrelevant what size container is back there so I don't care

Moermond: We do.

Crawford: Its your system, I told you what I want. I put out maybe 10 gallons a week.

Moermond: I am looking to treat your situation in the same fashion I treat other zero wasters and that is to get you to the lowest level of service and documentation on your end that you are buying into that is switching to the can that represents the lowest level of service. I am stepping up and looking at three assessments rather than just this one which I think is a good faith step on the part of the city to work with you on this as far as I can work with you on this. What this would mean practically speaking is that we can let the hauler know that next Thursday you are going to put your larger container out and they can switch it to a smaller container is that something you are willing to do?

Crawford: It's fine with me.

Moermond: Perfect, so when they come by next week, they will take the larger one and replace it with the smaller one and I will go ahead and go backwards in time reduce those previous assessments to reflect the lowest possible level of service that we can. Being a zero waster, we are hearing from zero wasters in the community and it's something we want to take into account moving forward for the next contract it has a learning point we are about 3/5 through this contract and we are putting together information that we want to work with on the next contract so what you are sharing is information that we are looking at for how we move forward and your voice is being added to others we've heard on the same issue and we do appreciate you for that.

Crawford: Ok, what else is required in this conversation.

Moermond: The assessments that come forward they will be payable online on the cities assessment system or they will be added to the 2022 property tax statement. You have the option of going online we will get them reduced it may be on the council's agenda on October 20th, and the computer system will reflect the lower level not too long after that

Crawford: So, after October 20th to pay the bill with the last three changed, it will be on a website I will not get a paper bill.

Moermond: No you already received the paper bills we are going backwards and fixing what was there you can go on the assessment website and the communication we make to you we can definitely give you that information or it will go onto your 2022 tax statement and that will represent the paper billing.

Crawford: Include that to our address so I can monitor it after the 20th

Moermond: and any other assessments you have such as street lighting you will have from the city such as street lighting will show on the same location so it's a good general reference, we'll be happy to include that. Do you have any additional questions?

Crawford: No

Moermond: I appreciate that you are willing to work with us and put that container out next Thursday and we will have the haulers to have that switched out to the smaller size.

Laid Over to the Legislative Hearings due back on 10/21/2021