

COMMUNITY PROTECTION & SERVICES COMMITTEE

December 8, 2016

A meeting of the Community Protection & Services Committee was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Wiesner in Council Chambers, City Hall. **Roll Call:** Members Mr. Wiesner, Ms. Catarozoli and Mr. Ward were present. Also present was City Administrator Josh VanLieshout, Bob Bordeau, Chief Arleigh Porter, Jim Stawicki and Alderman Stewart Fett.

Moved by Ms. Catarozoli, seconded by Mr. Ward to adopt the following agenda:

1. Roll call.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Consideration of: Compost Site Change Options
4. Consideration of: Lighting Request at N. 8th Avenue between Michigan Street and Louisiana Street
5. Adjourn

Carried.

Compost Site Change Options

Municipal Services Director, Bob Bordeau, explained to the committee that his department is looking at ways to either reduce costs or bring in more funds. He proposed some ways to do this by making changes to the compost site. At this time, every City resident can use the site for free. Town of Sevastopol and Town of Sturgeon Bay residents can purchase a \$100 annual permit to bring yard waste into the compost site. Contractors and landscapers may purchase a \$1,000 annual permit to use the site. Numerous requests from residents of other townships, especially Nasewaupsee, are interested in purchasing a permit to use the site, as well.

It is believed that many non-residents are using the site for yard waste since there isn't any other site in the County. It is expected this to continue as trees are dying from the Emerald Ash Borer; they will need to be removed to prevent the spread of it. It has also been heard that contractors and landscapers use the site to dispose of brush and yard waste without purchasing a permit. Due to increased use from non-residents and permit holders, the cost to operate the compost site exceeds the revenue generated. Since the site is not manned, it is difficult to control the use of it.

Possible changes for the Compost Site include: closing the site or charging a fee for City residents to use the site has been discussed; regulate the hours of operation so that it can be managed by City staff; allow residents of the Township of Nasewaupsee to purchase an annual permit; continue to charge non-residents a fee for mulch; and charge residents a fee to schedule a brush collection at their residence and no longer have a city wide pickup.

Ms. Catarozoli asked if there is a fine for non-residents using the site. Mr. Bordeau stated there was, but it is not enforced. Ms. Catarozoli then asked if this would be something the Community Service Officers could check at times. Chief Porter commented that enforcement would be a challenge; unless there was an ordinance written stating specific requirements for site use. The City tried enforcement with CSO presence and the use of game cameras, but it was hard to know if material being dropped off by a non-resident/permit holder was their own; or if it came from a City residence.

Mr. Bordeau stated the City sells about \$4,000 worth of compost each year. Mr. VanLishout noted the State mandates how much can be on-site; 20,000 cu. Yds. Cost to grind materials that are dumped is over \$20,000/year. If the City can man the site, it might cut illegal dumping by half. Implementing fines may also help. Mr. Wiesner asked what it would take to man the site during 'prime dumping hours'; Mr. Bordeau stated they are not sure what those hours would be since it is open 24/7.

Chris Kellems: 120 Alabama Street, Sturgeon Bay

Ms. Kellems said she uses the compost site all the time. She has witnessed contractors filling large trailers and hauling mulch outside the City limits. She has also noticed contractors dumping yard waste. When she lived in California each resident had a 95 gal. drum for yard waste, and were allowed four free bags of mulch each year. Ms. Kellems suggested creating a focus group or holding an open meeting with residents to talk, develop a plan and find a possible solution.

Mr. Bordeau says he does not plan to hire an additional person to man the site; his budget will allow him to place a seasonal employee there for now.

Mr. Ward asked if it would be possible to allow anyone to dump yard waste; but once it is ground up could the compost/mulch be placed in a restricted area so it can be managed or bagged and sold. Mr. Bordeau can look into what it would take to implement a Class I compost as an option, and explore this idea.

Mr. Bordeau stated his goal is to get a recommendation to the Common Council on how to proceed; but there is plenty of time to figure it out and does not expect it to happen at this meeting.

Lighting Request

Mr. Wiesner was requested by residents to address the issue of lack of street lights on the block of N. 8th Avenue between Michigan Street and Louisiana Street.

Sue Tomes: 35 N. 8th Avenue

Ms. Tomes addressed the committee regarding the concern she and her neighbors have regarding the lack of lighting on their block. Together they sent a letter to the CPS Committee asking to consider placing a street light mid-block and in the back alley. Ms. Tomes stated a lot of children play in the alley, and their garages are accessed through the alley. It is currently not safe.

Mr. Ward commented that he agrees with Ms. Tomes; he has driven through the area and it is very dark. He also has had constituents phone him regarding the area in his jurisdiction off Claybanks Road that is very dark and without street lights. Mr. Ward feels it might be a good idea for the City to re-assess the situation and take another look at the street light issue.

Cindy Pfarr: 45 N. 8th Avenue

Ms. Pfarr spoke on the subject; she too is a resident of the N. 8th Avenue block in question. She stated that at the time the light was taken out in the front of her house, they were told that it would be replaced. It has not. She agrees that maybe the City could re-assess all streets; especially ones with sidewalks. She said there is a lot of foot traffic in her neighborhood.

Jim Stawicki: Sturgeon Bay Utilities

Mr. Stawicki explained that there was a City-wide assessment done and as a result about 400 lights were pulled. Some areas were said to be over-lit. A cost savings of about \$35,000 was the outcome to the City.

Mr. Stawicki said that at the time of the assessment, letters were sent to residents and a notice was also on the City's website informing them of the street lights that would be removed. At that time, SB Utilities did not receive any response from the neighborhood on N. 8th Avenue to discuss the decision. Fran Felhoffer was the only one to reply and say he did want a light in front of his house, and he would pay for it.

Mr. Stawicki stated the light that was taken down at 45 N. 8th Avenue was deteriorating and rotten; the older poles were also larger and unsafe. New poles are hard to place as there is too much rock underground in the area to place a light pole; which needs a 24-36 inch hole. Decorative poles, like the carriage-type lights, only need 12 inches. These lights, however, are fiberglass poles that you cannot get a good top on; one that doesn't cause light pollution.

Mr. Ward questioned what the cost for new lights would be. Mr. Stawicki stated the cost for new lights, LED lights are used, would roughly be \$10.50/mo. plus \$13/mo. energy cost; it could be covered with taxes and would cover the cost of energy and continued maintenance of the lights.

Ms. Catarozoli questioned if it is unheard of to request putting a light back up. Mr. Wiesner stated first a pole needs to be placed, which has cost associated with it; then a person would need to agree to put the pole up and take on any costs associated with it. Figuring \$5,000 to place a light pole mid-block is not a good use of tax payers money; plus, adding one pole will more than likely bring on additional residents requesting a pole be put up in their neighborhood.

Mr. Ward did some figuring; to restore all light poles that were previously removed it would be about \$96,000 in operating costs. Agenda items #3 and #4 are somewhat related; department heads are trying to find ways to save money for the City. However, he stated, in 5-10 years the standard of living will basically erode if ways are found to consider options. Mr. Ward affirmed he was still concerned about the lighting on the

westside subdivision off Claybanks Road; and does feel another assessment would be beneficial. He thinks it deserves more discussion. Ms. Catarozoli agreed. She stated that it wouldn't hurt if the subject was brought back for discussion.

Item #4 has been tabled at this time. It will be brought back to CPS on next month's agenda.

Moved by Ms. Catarozoli seconded by Mr. Ward to adjourn the meeting of the Community Protection Services Committee. All ayes. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Spude-Olson
Police Department
Administrative Office Manager