



Internal Memo

November 5, 2014

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *MEM*

SUBJECT: November Information Update

1. GEE! Award – The City is the 2014 recipient of the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Governments Encouraging Entrepreneurs (GEE) Award. The award was presented to Mayor Nelund, Finance Director Mike Huston, and I at the October 31st early bird breakfast. The award is in recognition of the City's Brownfield Remediation Reimbursement Program which was established in 2013. As Council will recall this program was a creative effort involving surplus Brownfield funds and establishing a program specifically to assist small entrepreneurs in redeveloping contaminated sites that are not large enough to warrant tax capture financing. The program reimburses developers up to \$10,000 for environmental evaluation and remediation expenses. The first two businesses to take advantage of the program are Firehouse Subs and Popeyes Chicken restaurants. Again, thank you to the City Council for approving the program which I believe will serve the city and future business well.
2. Street Reconstruction Update – The last remaining streets of the construction season include Rood Road between Hendrick Road and Neece Road as well as the Mount Garfield Road and Davis Road intersection. The top course of asphalt should be applied by week's end. All that remains for the 2014 street reconstruction program is shoulder work and similar punch list items.
3. Solid Waste Management – At their request, Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek and I met with several condo association presidents last week Friday to discuss solid waste management in the city. Associations represented at the meeting included Windflower Bay, Fairway Farms, and Just Off the Green. They had several questions regarding the City's pending RFP for solid waste management services and expressed their opposition to the concept. These associations have negotiated lower rates and higher service levels than many of the single family homes receive from area waste haulers. Further, they are requesting that City Council consider exempting condominium associations that have already adopted a "single hauler system". Attached is written information that they requested be conveyed to the City Council. In a related matter Ames Disposal sent the attached letter to their customers regarding the City's pending RFP. Unfortunately, the information regarding the timeline for the project is inaccurate after the original deadline was revised for receiving, reviewing, and discussing the results with City Council.
4. Council Requests List – Attached is an updated list for City Council's information.

/ss
Attachments

2014 GEE! Award
Governments Encouraging Entrepreneurs

Presented to

**The City of
Norton Shores**

In recognition for demonstrating
exemplary practices and process improvement
in government services important to
the business community.



MUSKEGON LAKESHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**POSITION REGARDING ISSUE OF SINGLE TRASH HAULER
FOR
CITY OF NORTON SHORES**

INTRODUCTION

We are four strongly united Presidents representing four separate Condo Associations within Norton Shores. I am Mitch Zaleski from Fairway Farms Condo Association, I am Micki Zaleski from Windflower Bay Ranch Condo Association, I am Marye Jane Comin from Just Off the Green Condo Association, and I am Carol Minnaar from Windflower Bay Condo Association.

Our combined Associations represent 400 co-owners and more than 600 votes.

OPENING STATEMENT

We acknowledge that implementing a single hauler system would reduce the potential wear and tear on streets by reducing the number of trucks picking up trash. Also, we believe the information and questions we present need to be reviewed and discussed before any decision the City may make regarding a single hauler system.

QUESTIONS

1. Has the City obtained current Condo trash pick-up costs from Associations within the City?
2. What options do Condo Associations have if the City contract costs are higher than current Condo Association costs?

3. Condos do not need yard waste pick-up. If the decision is made to contract with a single hauler, would there be a rate adjustment for Associations?
4. Some Co-owners have limited trash container spaces in their garages. Currently, co-owners have a choice of waste container size. Will homeowners continue to have choices other than the 96 gallon trash container?
5. Condo Associations currently have trash service contracts. If there is a City imposed trash hauler, will our contracts be honored and/or bought out?
6. Is the single trash hauler issue going to be an agenda item and voted upon at a City Council meeting? If so, can we be notified when that would take place?

BELIEFS

1. As Condo Associations, we are individual communities within the city.
2. Individual communities should have the option of selecting their own trash hauler.
3. Individual communities should have the ability to negotiate their own costs for provided services to stay within their own budgets.
4. We support local/independent trash hauling services.

SUMMARY

1. Each Association has contracted its own private hauler.
2. Each Association has negotiated its own waste collection costs.
3. We are all very pleased with the current service we are provided. We all only have a once a week pick-up cycle.

4. We are all pleased with the costs for our services.
5. Because each Association has a single hauler, the wear and tear on our community streets is already reduced or limited.
6. Our four Condo Associations represent more than 600 votes.

REQUEST

Accordingly, we each request that the City recognizes and acknowledges that our Condo Associations are COMMUNITIES within the City. Further, that the Condo Associations be recognized as separate zones and as such, be exempt from any city action adopting a single hauler system.

FINAL STATEMENT

It is our intent to discuss this matter in an open and professional manner. However, should the need arise, please be aware that we are able to present petitions and/or have many co-owners attend council meetings.

Do you have any questions or requests from us?

Thank you for taking your time to meet with us.

October 17, 2014

Dear Ames Disposal, Inc. customer:

We have been informed by the City of Norton Shores that they are bidding out your garbage disposal service.

Our bid must be submitted by October 28, 2014.

The city council will be considering all bids at a work session on November 25, with the bid being awarded December 16. The contract will become effective March 30, 2015.

We are uncertain of the outcome of the bid proposal at this time and would like to thank you for being a loyal customer.

If we are not awarded the contract, you will see a difference in the number of months you are being billed, depending on your billing cycle.

If you have any concerns regarding this bid process, please inform the mayor and the city council members. Their phone numbers and email addresses are available on the city website: nortonshores.org

We have enjoyed serving the people of your city the last 45 years and thank you again for your business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve & Karen Ames". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve & Karen Ames

Ames Disposal, Inc.

City Council Requests – October November 2014

Date Requested	Requested By	Received Via	Request	Action Taken	Date Completed	Completed By
3/14/12	Council Member Wiersma	Email	Consider consolidation of garbage carriers bid by regions within the city.	<p>The matter was discussed at the July and October 2012 work sessions. Staff surveyed rates and included a FAQ piece in the Spring 2013 Community Newsletter. The item was brought back for further consideration at the May 2013 work session. On Council's direction staff met with local haulers on July 17, 2013 to discuss alternatives other than a single contract and a report on the meeting was presented at the September 24, 2013 work session. City Council directed staff to survey residents regarding a single hauler contract. Survey results were shared with Council at the June 24 work session. Sixty (60) percent agree or strongly agree on a single hauler if price is the same or less and service is the same or better. Staff will also review the feasibility of using a millage to pay for the service. Further discussion was held at the July 22 work session. Staff developed a request for proposals which Council reviewed at the September 23, 2014 work session. The RFP has been issued with a December deadline. They will be reviewed by City Council at the January work session with potential action in February.</p>	Pending	DPW Director
04/2013	Council Member Beecham	Council Meeting	Look into regulating "donation boxes" that are popping up in business parking lots.	Staff is researching what other cities are doing to manage the drop boxes and also observing installations of drop boxes to determine if the practice is growing. Staff is also reviewing pending legislation regarding what local government can and cannot do to manage the drop boxes.	Pending	Administrative Services Director

03/25/14	Council Member Ostrom	Work Session	Consider building a boat launch ramp at Ross Park.	The item was placed on the October work session agenda. Based on the discussion staff will research grant funding opportunities and order a wetlands determination.	Pending	Parks & Recreation Director
03/25/14	Council Member Jurkas	Email	Reconsideration of Rental Inspection Program.	City Attorney was asked to research and render a legal opinion. He presented options to the City Council at the April 22 work session.	Pending	City Attorney

*Revisions since the last update are highlighted

Forms/councilreq.responses