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Barron questions Ellzey's ranking for garbage service vendor



Members of the Chiefland City Commission (from left) Commissioner Teresa Barron, Commissioner Rollin Hudson, Mayor Teal Pomeroy, Vice Mayor Betty Walker and Commissioner Chris Jones prepare to start the meeting on Monday night (July 10).

Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © July 12, 2016 @ 2:47 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- Chiefland City Commissioner Teresa Barron chose on Monday night (July 11) against accepting the recommendation of city staff in regard to signing a five-year contract, with a possible three-year extension, with Waste Pro to be the garbage-collection company for the city again.

City Manager Mary Ellzey provided a point-by-point analysis of three companies -- Waste Pro, WCA and Advance Disposal, which in the end showed rankings on a scale of 1 to 100 of
Waste Pro - 94;
WCA - 74.6;
and Advance Disposal - 59.3.

However Barron asked the city manager to refigure the statistics for how much would be paid by commercial customers and how much would be paid by residential customer, and to report at the next regular meeting, which will be July 25.

As far as the numbers, Ellzey took the averages for the various forms of bidding. This was the same mathematical method applied to bids in 2008, when Waste Pro was rated at the top.

The four other city commissioners fell in line with Barron's command to Ellzey, without a lot of discussion at the meeting.

If the first suggested contract had been signed on Monday night, then the 745 Chiefland residential customers would have seen a \$27.48 annual decrease or a \$2.29-a-month decrease in fees for garbage service, according to what was said at the meeting.

When asked, Barron said she is not seeking new numbers to possibly favor the five multifamily customers, 153 commercial customers, or the few other specialized commercial customers. Instead, Barron said she is simply looking for a total bottom-line figure for the various types of customers combined.

Therefore, Ellzey said she will reapply the numbers submitted by bid for the various forms of customers and have a detailed accounting for the City Commission to consider in two weeks.

Since Advance Disposal was not completely compliant with the bid request by not submitting a figure in one of the categories, Ellzey said she would return to the City Commission with bottom line figures for Waste Pro and for WCA.

City Commissioner J. Rollin Hudson Jr. asked about methods to get out of a five-year contract, although the most recent contract with Waste Pro was from 2008 for five years, and then with a three-year extension, just as this next contract would be with either Waste Pro or WCA.

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Attorney W. Blake Fugate, standing in for his father Chiefland City Attorney Norm D. Fugate, explained that the city may end the contract if the provider fails to meet its obligations as noted in the contract.

Hudson did not make a clear statement about why he was questioning early termination of a contract. He hinted that some people may be unhappy with their garbage service.

Dr. Robert Mount, a dentist with an office in Chiefland, said he has found bicycles in his dumpster, and there have been times when he could not close the lid. Apparently, people other than Dr. Mount are putting their garbage in his business's garbage receptacle.



Stoney Smith

Whitney "Stoney" Smith, a businessman who owns a number of enterprises in Chiefland, and in Dixie County and other in counties, said he is very happy with the service he receives at his businesses from Waste Pro.

He said he was happy to hear reduced rates for 6-yard and 8-yard commercial dumpsters if Waste Pro is selected as the company.

Smith reminded the City Commission that the rating system showed Waste Pro as 20 percent better than the second place finalist.

"Whether you want to do it tonight or wait some more, I don't see those numbers getting any

better," Smith said.

Smith tried to help the Chiefland City Commission members understand that there are local people employed by Waste Pro, which has an office in Fanning Springs, a city where Smith used to be a City Council member. Years ago, Smith was a member of the Chiefland City Commission.

"I'm here to say I am in favor of Waste Pro," Smith said. "I use them. They are very fair. They have city agreements. They have fair pricing in the county where they can charge anything they want to, I guess."

Mayor Matthew Teal Pomeroy asked if the county required a particular vendor for garbage service.

The businessman answered the politician by saying he uses Waste Pro in Levy, Citrus, Dixie and Lafayette counties.

Smith said the revenue from residential customers in Chiefland is probably more than the combined revenue of all of the commercial customers in Chiefland.

Barron said she wants the actual numbers – totals for each type of customer – before she votes one way or another.

City Commissioner Chris Jones said the 745 residential customers are far more than the 153 or so commercial customers. Jones said he does not see different numbers resulting from the method Barron wants, however like the rest of the City Commission, he went along with Barron's demand rather than accepting Ellzey's and staff's initial recommendation.

IN OTHER ACTION

In other action by Chiefland City Commission, it voted 5-0 on the first reading for new rules for the city parks.

Vice Mayor Betty Walker, who is the liaison for parks, said she felt there should be a rule against burning picnic tables. The other commissioners seemed to think that was not a needed rule, probably because there are state laws against the unwarranted destruction of public

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property.

Walker said two picnic tables were burned in Buie Park. There was no action or discussion about the destruction of that city property.

Mayor Pomeroy did not seem to have any knowledge of the burned picnic tables.

Chiefland Police Chief Robert Douglas gave a report to the City Commission about the activity of the CPD during the past two weeks. Douglas told the City Commission about the suspect arrested for attempted murder (as noted in a story first published July 4 at 10:07 a.m. in *HardisonInk.com*).

Just as he appeared to not know about the burned picnic tables, Pomeroy seemed to be unaware of a man being captured after attempting to kill another man within the city limits.

Chief Douglas said his officers also captured a man who had just been released from prison who stole a Ford F-150 pickup truck from the Ford dealership in Chiefland, that used to be named White Ford.

That suspect was nabbed in the truck, when he was parked a couple of blocks away from the dealership. Douglas predicted that suspect will be returning to the state prison system.

Douglas said his officers failed to capture the suspect who stole cash from the Discount Liquor store up by Walmart. That armed robber got away, Douglas said. Businessman Smith owns that liquor store.

Douglas did not tell the City Commission about the counterfeit \$50 bills passed at a local business in the past two weeks, but he has said before that counterfeit money is found in Chiefland on occasion.

Merchants need to be aware. Just as there is the Latin phrase, *caveat emptor*, meaning "let the buyer beware," there is also the Latin phrase *caveat venditor*, which means "let the seller beware." This Latin term also implies that the seller should take care not to let something go at too low of a price to a ruthless buyer who recognizes something of great value being sold at a very low price.

(By the way, *caveat lector*, means "reader beware" or "reader take heed").