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Bronson accepts 5-year WCA contract renewal with no bids



Town Clerk Shirley Miller and Town Councilman Robert Partin are among the people present for the Town Council meeting on Monday night. Town Clerk Miller just started with Bronson. Partin was absent from the most recent Town Council meeting.

Up to 3 percent increase set for each year

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 22, 2018 at 9:48 a.m.

BRONSON -- With a possible \$116 per-resident special assessment fee looming over every single piece of property with a house on it in Levy County, including in the cities, there was a 3-2 vote Monday night (Aug. 20) in Bronson that shows the path for that town in regard to picking up garbage.



Bronson Mayor Greenlee (left) speaks to the people as Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts and Town Councilman Jason Hunt listen on Monday night.

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Among the town workers present for the meeting Monday night were Deputy Town Clerk Melissa Thompson (seen here), Town Attorney Steven Warm, Public Works Director Erik Wise and Bronson Fire Chief Dennis Russell.



Town Councilwoman Katie Parks looks at notes. She tried to persuade other members of the Town Council to seek requests for proposals from garbage-hauling companies before signing a 5-year deal with WCA. Only Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts agreed with Parks.

WCA, a garbage-hauling company based in Gainesville, has served that

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town for two sets of three years most recently.

On a motion by Town Councilman Jason Hunt, seconded by Councilman Robert Partin, the leaders of the town voted 3-2 to approve a new five-year contract with WCA. Mayor Bruce Greenlee cast the swing vote with Councilwoman Katie Parks and Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts wanting to allow Waste Pro to submit an offer before accepting the WCA contract.

That contract shows the town agrees to WCA raising its fees by as much as 3 percent every year for five years.

The only method of the town to get out of the contract is if there is a level of service that reaches an objectionable level. In the past six years, according to what was said at the meeting Monday night, has been relatively low.

The contract becomes binding in November, Mayor Greenlee said, after there was some discussion about the Levy County Transfer Station (the county dumping area) reducing tipping fees as a result of the proposed \$116 per-improved property fee countywide.

Skip McCall of WCA was present for the meeting. He claimed WCA would consider the impact of its cost of business and possibly lower its rate if Levy County reduces or does away with tipping fees for commercial haulers.

Dana Miller of Waste Pro, which has a service office in the city of Fanning Springs, was present for the meeting. She requested the town's leader to allow Waste Pro to submit an offer in competition with WCA. Councilwoman Parks tried to explain to the other town leaders her reason for letting a competing company to bid on the service.

Linda Cooper, a woman who attends meetings and provides input to elected people, addressed the five elected people from her seat in the audience. Cooper said the Town Council needs to remember that companies like WCA must spend on vehicles, employees, insurance and fuel. Therefore, Cooper surmised, tipping fees may not be a large part of that company's bills.

In the end, the 3-2 vote sealed the deal – at least for now, and perhaps for five years, for the Town of Bronson.

Mayor Greenlee reminded listeners that the Town Council could tear up the contract if something happens between Aug. 20 and Nov. 1 to cause the leaders to seek requests for bids – however, that WCA-Town of Bronson 5-year deal seems to be relatively done at this point.