

**ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING/LOMPOC CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP  
REVIEW OF SOLID WASTE RATE STUDY  
LOMPOC CITY HALL/COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor DeWees

Councilmembers Present: DeWayne Holmdahl, Janice Keller, Will Schuyler, Mike Siminski, Mayor Dick DeWees

Staff Participants: City Administrator Frank Priore, City Attorney Sharon Stuart, Community Services Director Marlene Demery, Management Services Director John Walk, Solid Waste Superintendent Claudia Stine, Solid Waste Program Technician Karen Weston.

Other Participants: Dave Davis, Ralph Harman and Claude Lee

**Review of Solid Waste Rate Study**

Community Services Director Marlene Demery briefly described how current activities and programs in the Solid Waste Division warrant the need for a comprehensive review of a Solid Waste Rate Study and stated that the City has not reviewed solid waste rates since 1995. Ms. Demery noted the workshop is intended for discussion of rates and not to set rates. She also stated that staff will make recommendations to the City Council towards the end of June 2001 with possible implementation of a new rate structure by October 1, 2001.

Ms. Demery introduced Mr. Dave Davis, MSW Consultants, who provided a slide presentation showing the results of the study. Mr. Davis discussed the mission of the Solid Waste Division, the need to set rates to support that mission, how costs were determined for landfill and collection service, impact to the rate payer, and impact to the City.

Discussion ensued regarding solid waste materials which are removed from the city via recycling haulers and materials which cannot be recycled and are buried in the landfill. The study analyzed landfill rates compared to rates of other landfills, revenues and expenses for just the landfill operations, the standard tipping fee, the tipping fee for recyclable material, the policy of not charging city residents, and holidays observed at the landfill.

There was general discussion regarding costs per ton for disposing of solid waste and that the cost of processing recyclables at the landfill is different than revenue actually received.

Collection services were discussed to include current services and rates, costs of services and costs of services in other jurisdictions, green waste recycling, commercial recycling, and variable residential rates.

**BREAK**

At 8:35 P.M., Mayor DeWees announced a recess.  
The meeting reconvened at 8:50 P.M. with all Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Keller discussed the issue of whether raising rates would cause illegal dumping and Ms. Demery responded that staff did not believe this would be a problem with the City Code Enforcement Program but could revisit the issue if necessary.

Councilmember Holmdahl stated that he noticed that many apartment complexes have overloaded containers and it appears there is a need for additional containers. Ms. Demery stated that currently where additional pick up is needed property owners can call for a special haul pick up. General discussion ensued regarding container sizes for multi-family residential.

Public Comments:

(1) Ralph Harman had several questions regarding mobile home parks and whether they were considered multi-family, additional service for multi-family, use of City coupons, disposal of additional green waste, and non-recyclable items. Mr. Harman also noted he did not see a problem with a possible rate increase.

(2) Claude Lee stated he and his wife have lived in the same house for 35 years. He stated that there are times he doesn't put his refuse container out because it is not full. Mr. Lee had several questions regarding control of the landfill, additional charge for disposal of green waste at the landfill, where are recyclables shipped, and out of area disposal at the landfill. He also stated he is only concerned with this landfill and not landfills in other areas and wondered why we compare our rates to those of other jurisdictions.

Ms. Demery stated, in response to Mr. Harman's questions, that mobile home parks are considered multi-family residential and coupons are used for curbside bulky item pick up. Ms. Demery also affirmed that the City Solid Waste Ordinance states that the Landfill is for the benefit of the Lompoc Valley and that the State or the County has no jurisdiction on what is an issue of local control.

Ms. Demery responded to Mr. Lee's questions: there will be no charge at the landfill for hauling of pickup size loads of green waste and other recyclables, that recyclable materials are hauled to Health Sanitation Services located in Santa Maria for \$11 a ton, and that the City compares itself to other landfills because of the potential for possible diversion to our landfill of waste from other areas. Solid Waste Superintendent Claudia Stine added that variable rates would be beneficial in cases such as in Mr. Lee's where a 90-gallon container is too large and a 60-gallon container would be more suitable for small quantity generators.

Councilmember Siminski stated, in comparison to other communities, the City of Lompoc provides services utilizing City employees for such services as electric, water, wastewater, and refuse. The City compares itself to other similar communities in order to benchmark City services (price and responsiveness) to the private sector.

Ms. Demery also noted that an E-Waste drop-off location is planned for the City Solid Waste Yard for household electronics. Ms. Stine noted that computers and televisions have recently been regulated to be hazardous waste items and are not permitted to be landfilled.

Councilmember Keller added that public education is critical to the success of the program and noted that magnets and other informational material could be used to educate people on program changes. Councilmember Keller also asked about recycling contamination issues. Ms. Demery noted that staff would be designing an information program in both English and Spanish. She noted that generally the contamination of recyclables is made up of green waste and food waste.

Mayor DeWees discussed solid waste coupons and staff clarified the proposed program to distribute them. He also mentioned the 3-can system and that residents may have a problem with increased storage. Ms. Demery noted that the residents who want to recycle commingled and green waste can migrate to a 60-gallon container, reducing space requirements.

Ms. Demery added that waiting six years to review rates is never popular because the increase must be larger, but the delay was necessary in order to see how challenges to Proposition 218 would affect solid waste operations.

Councilmember Holmdahl asked for clarification of commercial recycling containers where an additional refuse can is added. Mr. Davis noted that the free container is a recycling container added to the one or two 440-gallon refuse containers. He also stated that Lompoc enjoys an excellent reputation with our Solid Waste program and favors the new fee structure.

Councilmember Keller inquired about the cost of the 60-gallon containers. Ms. Demery responded that the proposed budget includes container purchase. Management Services Director John Walk noted that staff wanted to provide the Council with the future rate studies so that recommendations could be provided in the next budget.

Councilmember Keller asked about costs for replacement of broken green containers. Ms. Stine noted that the broken green residential containers are replaced with new gray containers and green, blue, or brown lids as appropriate. replacements.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Harman asked staff about recycling material such as film plastic, batteries and smoke detectors. Ms. Demery stated that the film plastic is not recyclable and noted that there is hope for a future market for this material. Ms. Stine stated that batteries are handled through the Household Hazardous Waste Facility and smoke detectors will be treated as E-Waste.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:40 P.M., Mayor DeWees adjourned to the Joint Meetings with Utility and Planning Commissions of May 29, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

Dick DeWees, Mayor  
City of Lompoc

ATTEST:

Jane C. Green  
City Clerk  
Dated: June 13, 2001