

TRASH WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 4, 2005

A Special Trash Workshop Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on October 4, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmember's attending were: Heine, Johnson, Goodman, Whitlock and Fazzone. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Marshal Lee, Captain Anderson, Public Works Supervisor Reed, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Whitlock called the work session to order stating that the purpose of the work session is to discuss trash collection regulations in the City.

Jeanie Martin with the Arcadia/DeSoto Beautification Committee presented pictures of trash that she believes should have been pickup this week and was not. Ms. Martin would like an amnesty day, and to publish the names of violators in the paper.

Nina Rico asked if a letter could be sent with the water bills to explain what the criteria is for yard waste vs trash and other items.

Administrator Strube stated that the last notice in the paper was on May 1, 2005. He noted that most of the issues are due to what the landfill can accept as waste. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that garbage, metal, white goods and yard waste be picked up as separate loads. Administrator Strube reported that staff is currently working on a "door hanger" that could be left to inform the homeowner why the trash was not picked up. As of May the City has been picking up lawn clippings as part of the regular garbage pickup. He noted that a mixed load is charged as double the tipping rate by the landfill and when household trash is with yard waste the City can be charged double for the load. The current City Code calls rubbish and trash all miscellaneous trash with no distinction for concrete, wood, or building materials.

Fazzone noted that he has seen contractors working on homes; however they are not removing the debris they are leaving it for the homeowner to have removed as trash.

Johnson stated that the problem is with citizens in the community and their lack of pride in their home or community. He does not believe that this problem should be put back on the Council and that pressure needs to be put onto the citizens.

Ms. Martin believes that the problem is with Code Enforcement noting that the City had a designated Code Enforcement Officer for a year and nothing changed regarding the issue of trash.

Anna Demetiz of Valdosta Road spoke about trash at Ridgewood and North Arcadia Avenue noting that she can not mow due to deep ruts caused by heavy equipment used on the right-of-ways after Hurricane Charley. Public Works Supervisor Reed will have staff smooth out the ruts.

Fazzone noted that there had been talk about the City not picking up anything other than garbage and then having Code Enforcement issue citations.

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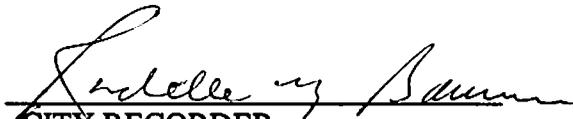
Administrator Strube stated that in years past during the months of July and March before the Rodeo, the City would hold amnesty days; however, Council decided not to do that again due to the excessive amount of trash that was put out. He then noted that since May the City has been divided into quadrants, and this is not working because of the problem with mixed loads.

Johnson stated that the Council needs to decide if they are going to continue to pick up trash noting that it will penalize the majority of residents if trash is not picked up.

Goodman would like to start with a clean sweep and amnesty.

Fazzone moved to pick up all trash that is out in November 2005 and to send out letters to inform the public regarding the schedule for trash pick up and on how to separate the loads; seconded by Goodman and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT