

Cloquet City Council Work Session
Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Present: A. Bailey, D. Bjerkness, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, R. Maki, Mayor Hallback

Absent: J. Rock

Staff: J. Barclay, A. Cottingham, C. Peterson, J. Palmer,

Other: F. Yetka, City Attorney; K. Backstrom, M. Drysdale, J. Domke, SKB/Shamrock; J. Peterson, Pine Journal

SKB Extending Hours of Operation/Increasing Paper Sludge Limits

- Mr. Cottingham gave the background of the Conditional Use Permit Amendment request by SKB Environmental/Shamrock Landfill. The CUP is to amend the hours of Shamrock Landfill to operate between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, seven days per week. They are also requesting the removal of the 20% cap of the total annual volume of paper sludge waste and allow for the acceptance of the sludge on a 24-hour basis. A public hearing was held on December 13, 2016.
- The Planning Commission has reviewed the CUP amendment application and is recommending the approval of the hours of operation, seven days per week and extend the volume of sludge cap to 40% with stipulations. The application was put on hold until Council meets with Shamrock. As a separate issue, SKB/Shamrock has received a “Special Event” approval to extend their hours from 5:00 to 7:00 to bring materials from Ashland dredging to the facility .
- Mr. Drysdale, attorney for SKB discussed the 2 amendments that are being requested. The amendments reflect new information and changes since 2011 when the original CUP was approved such as the restricted hours and percentage of paper sludge. In 2014, a noise study showed no significant impacts to neighboring properties. Mr. Drysdale also stated they are willing to install a state of the art monitoring gas collection program if there becomes a concern, which there currently is none.
- Mr. Drysdale emphasized that if the City approves the proposed changes, the need for the flexible hours for a special event clause goes away. There would be no reason to challenge “special event”.
- Mr. Yetka verified that they are not asking for Council to take action at the Council meeting tonight, but to be on a future agenda.
- Mr. Yetka asked for verification of taking the special event language out if the Council approves the CUP amendment. Mr. Drysdale replied the Council may want to leave the language in, however the amendment approval would address SKB concerns and they wouldn’t need to challenge the language.
- Council Bjerkness asked for explanation of what their competitive disadvantage is. Mr. Backstrom stated the existing ordinance limits flexibility for SKB to give verbal quotes to potential clients by not having complete information to meet a bid. A customer wants to partner with someone who will give them the least amount of risk and can bid a project.

- Discussion on methane gas. SKB staff stated that the basis for 20% was due to the prior owner being unwilling to install a monitoring system. SKB is willing to comply and address adequately through monitoring and collecting if it becomes necessary. An MPCA permit is required for a facility such as this.
- Councilor Bjerkness questioned what the City's obligation to this amendment is or future changes? Mr. Yeka answered that the city needs to make a decision when the applicant has requested this to be placed back into the system. An action needs to be taken to approve or not approve based on valid reasons. If there is no action, the amendment is automatically approved.
- Mr. Cottingham added that the city's landfill consultant worked with SKB/Shamrock Landfill consultant on the paper sludge resulting in satisfaction with monitoring and collection.
- Mr. Drysdale assured that if something detectable were to come up, it would be dealt with immediately.
- An invitation was extended to the Council and public to tour the facility at any time. Information such as test results and numbers are available at any time. Council members agreed to tour the facility as the August 15th Work Session to better understand. Mr. Yetka stated the Council needs to be prepared to take action after the tour at the Regular Meeting.
- Mr. Drysdale stated that they would not request the Council to act on a motion at the August 15th meeting but at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Barclay
Interim City Administrator