



City reviewing its waste options

Trash pact proposals being accepted

By Monique Ching

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SAN ANGELO, Texas —The clock is ticking on San Angelo's trash service contract. Officials have a few months to take proposals, pare them down and negotiate a contract.

"It's going to be fast turnaround," said Shane Kelton, director of operations. "It's going to be fast and furious."

San Angelo's current solid waste contract is with Republic Services. The contract expires at the end of July.

At Tuesday's council meeting, city staff recommended that the council designate two of its members to serve on a selection committee to review the trash contract proposals.

"I have objection to having a board in and of itself," Councilman H.R "Winkie" Wardlaw III said at the meeting. "This is too important an item."

Typically the selection committee would review and rank the proposals to determine which ones fit the city's needs. The committee then could make a recommendation or bring the top two or three proposals before the council.

"As a council member I'm willing to hear all of them," Councilwoman Charlotte Farmer said.

Because a lot of proprietary and sensitive information is involved, Kelton said that proposals must be heard in executive session and that the council must not discuss the proposals with anyone other than the city's purchasing manager or another council member.

"We're working through some of those issues right now with legal staff and purchasing staff," Kelton said. "To make sure we're getting it accomplished by the letters of the law."

The trash service contract could potentially serve local and regional needs and be a long-term service, Kelton said.

The council “understands the value of this proposal,” he said. “They want to be involved through the process.”

The request for proposals went out Feb. 11, Kelton said, and respondents have until March 14 to submit a proposal. So far, interest has appeared high, he said.

“Seven companies contacted me prior to the 11th to make sure they were receiving (requests),” Kelton said. “It’s a wait and see, now.”

Officials also plan a meeting for potential respondents in which they will go over the proposal timeline, review some of the base services that meet San Angelo’s needs and field any questions from company representatives.

“Our timelines are going to be very condensed,” Kelton said. “It’s fairly fast for contracts or proposals this size.”

Kelton’s goal, if everything goes smoothly, is to make a recommendation to the council for contract negotiations by mid-April.

“By the May 20 agenda I’m hoping to have a document that is final or almost final” for authorization, Kelton said.

That way, regardless of whether San Angelo signs a contract with Republic Services again or with a new company, the contractor will have time to make sure it can meet all the negotiated requirements.

At this point, Kelton said, officials are awaiting more proposals and figuring out how to ensure that the selection process goes according to the law.

“We’ll just keep plugging away,” he said.



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