

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**November 2, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chamber**

A Council work session was held to discuss litter.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, PJ Kovac, Brian Myers, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach.

Gary Edwards, City Manager; Chris Connally, Interim City Manager; Bryan Carter, City Attorney; Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director; Chuck Kempf, Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Director Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relations Manager; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

A memorandum from Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director, in re: Community Appearance, dated October 6, 2020, was previously distributed.

Mr. Thompson said creating a neighborhood clean-up program is one of the City Council's Strategic goals and has been a topic of discussion at the neighborhood level. City staff has been actively working with neighborhood associations towards this goal and Isobel McGowan is going to present a recommendation towards this effort on how the City can partner with a neighborhood association in a program to help clean up St. Joseph. Then Tama Wagner will present information to address trash and community appearance on a long-term approach.

Isobel McGowan, 809 Hall St., reviewed "I Heart (Love) St. Joseph," a program to foster civic pride to clean our community.

Tama Wagner, Executive Director of Community Alliance, said they are completely supportive of Ms. McGowan's concept and will do everything they can to help make it a success. She spoke about a "Community Comprehensive Waste Program" (information attached). She urged the City Council to bring together stakeholders to develop a comprehensive program to remove one of the stigmas in our community. She said the interested stakeholders could be independent trash haulers, interested citizens and City staff.

Jessica Gould, 2939 1/2 Easton Road, said she is passionate about eliminating litter in our community, suggested that a Kansas City group called "Bridging the Gap" be consulted, including more information on the website about available options and she would be very interested in being on a committee to help with this effort.

Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Brian Myers and Marty Novak said they would be interested in being the lead on getting a committee together.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Christopher Connally, Interim City Manager

FROM: Clint Thompson, Director of Planning & Development

DATE: October 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Community Appearance

During public comment at the October 5, 2020 Council Meeting, Jenny Bigham discussed a concern related to trash in the public right-of-way. This concern is not new to Saint Joseph nor to other communities across the country. Communities have tried creative ways to address this problem with limited success. The City of St Joseph, through the Property Maintenance Division, works to enforce codes related to community appearance on private property. A property owner will receive a notice for code violation instructing them to remove garbage and debris from their property. Most times, this trash/debris consists of larger items related to the individual resident. If a property owner causing blowing trash can be identified, the City will send a notice of violation to the property owner to clean the property. Failure to comply with the notice of violation results in a summons to appear in Municipal Court or abatement by City's Abatement Crew.

Trash/debris located along the public right-of-way not identified with the property owner is not currently enforced under the City's Property Maintenance Codes but through the citation process by the Police Department. To help reduce trash/debris in the public right-of-way, the City's Neighborhood Services Coordinator works with neighborhood groups to provide free bags for trash pick-up; leaving bags on designated corners for the City's Property Maintenance Abatement Crew to collect for disposal at the landfill. The City also provides dumpsters to neighborhood organizations, in all areas of the community for neighborhood cleanups. Approximately \$20,000 is allocated annually for these events.

Recommendation

Create a public service announcement to educate residents on the importance of a clean community – Recent Community Alliance survey identified community appearance as a concern. An effort between the City and Community Alliance to help inform residents of proper trash disposal.

Consideration of a uniform city-wide trash collection in residential neighborhoods. – Define method to ensure all occupied properties have a licensed trash hauler. Involve Community Alliance along with neighborhood organizations as outlined in the 2040 Plan “adopt a comprehensive solid waste collection program that includes curbside recycling.”

I ♥ ST. JOSEPH

A Program to Foster Civic Pride to Clean our Community

- Who:** A partnership of stakeholders that could include the City, the Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Mosaic, Community Alliance, St. Joseph School District, Historic St. Joseph Foundation, Neighborhood Associations, non-profit organizations, and businesses.
- What:** A city-wide program to place 1000 branded trash receptacles throughout the City with the aim of reducing litter city-wide.
- Where:** Receptacles will be placed on corners throughout neighborhoods, in front of businesses, at City parks and greenspaces, on each corner around public schools, and other strategic locations.
- When:** The program targets placement of the first 50 trash receptacles by the end of 2020, 450 more to be placed in 2021, and 500 more to be placed in 2022.
- Why:** St. Joseph's streets and sidewalks throughout residential neighborhoods and along commercial corridors are littered with disposable cups, fast-food containers, wrappers and packaging, and other unsightly litter. This program will foster a community mindset against littering by creating a visible, branded presence of receptacles where litter can be deposited instead of thrown on the ground.

Concept Outline

This program will enlist the partnership of key stakeholders to purchase, install, and maintain branded trash receptacles. Receptacles will be painted yellow for best visibility, and each receptacle will bear a label on one side that is personalized with the name of the street or location. On reverse side of a trash receptacle, a label will be placed stating "Please don't litter!" and label will bear the name of the sponsor organization, business, or individual who agrees to regularly maintain that receptacle including disposing of the waste on a regular schedule.

Litter receptacles will be designed to shed rainwater and to discourage dumping of large items or bags of trash. All receptacles will look the same to create a recognizable brand. A public outreach and education effort will be launched to help citizens understand the new program, with special focus on educating school-aged children.

Costs to purchase and install receptacles could be shared between program sponsors. Cost could be reduced if Mosaic - *CollaborAction Grant* application is successful. Cost to purchase and install one receptacle, including signage, is estimated at \$400.



Declining Community Satisfaction with Current State

Historically, a statistically valid sample of community members have expressed ongoing concern with our present method of enforcing trash collection.

In 2018, only 19 percent of respondents had a favorable impression of "enforcing cleanup of litter and debris on private property."

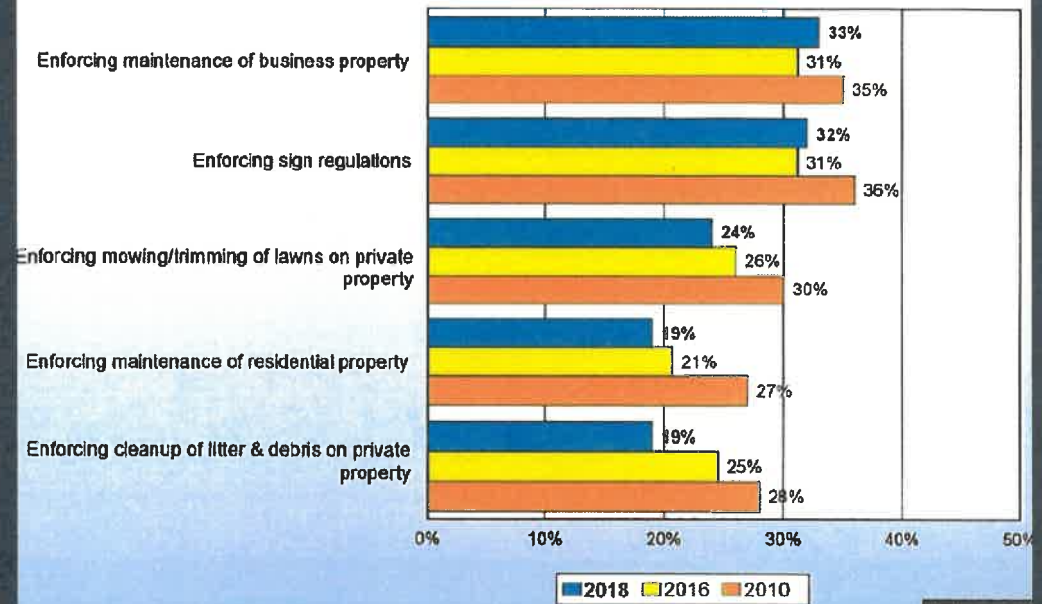
Recognizing the issues blocking our way to creating a better future, the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 plan, developed by more than 1,000 citizens and launched in 2018, recommends:

"To address trash and litter, the City adopts a comprehensive solid waste collection program that includes residential curbside recycling."

Adopting a comprehensive system will provide a more consistent method of residential trash collection and recycling, work to eliminate litter, inspire community pride, be better for the environment and make St. Joseph a better place to live.

Satisfaction with Various Aspects of Codes and Ordinances - 2010, 2016, & 2018

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding "Don't Know")



Source: ETC Institute DirectionFinder (2018 - St. Joseph Community Survey)

Trend

Source:

St. Joseph Community Survey, Community Alliance St. Joseph. ETC Institute, Olathe, KS. June 2018.

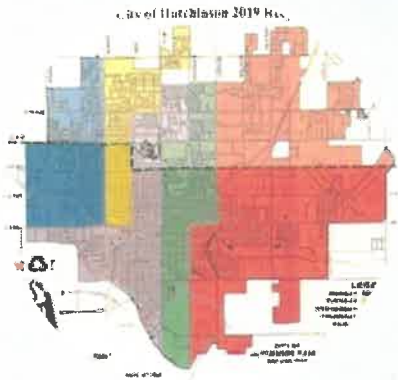
Methodology:

Random sample by mail, phone and online, households within the City and County.

Sample size:

Total = 640, 95% confidence level, +/- 3.9% overall margin of error.

Community Comprehensive Waste Program *Example*



1

Divide the community into Waste Collection Zones, City staff develops comprehensive collection, recycling and litter reduction guidelines.



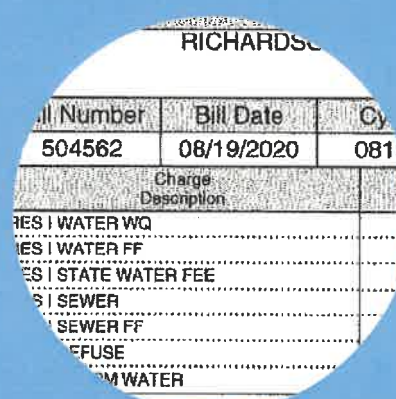
2

Independent contractors bid for zone coverage and agree to be responsible for implementing the guidelines: residential and "I love St. Joseph" collection and recycling, may sub-contract work.



3

Independent contractors create a coordinated collection schedule working with city staff to ensure comprehensive coverage and adoption and enforcement of the guidelines.



4

The City coordinates billing and includes all services in one statement: water, trash, recycling and sewer. Plus a nominal surcharge for "I love St. Joseph" collection.