

**CITY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**December 12, 2006**

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session in conjunction with the Harvey County Commission on December 12, 2006 in the Harvey County Courthouse Community Room. Those in attendance were Vice Mayor Heck, Commissioners Harris, Scott and Treaster and County Commissioners Roberson, Krehbiel and Westfall. Also attending were City Manager Heinicke, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, City Attorney Myers, Director of Finance/City Clerk Ahsmuhs, PIO McDaniel, Deputy City Clerk Duerksen, County Administrator Simons, Solid Waste Superintendent Patton, County Clerk Truskett, Director of Special Projects Waltner. Mayor Nightingale was absent.

**1. Call to order**

Harvey County Chair Roberson and Vice Mayor Heck called the meeting to order for each entity.

**2. Waste to energy**

County Administrator Simons reviewed the waste to energy concept. Harvey County has authorized a bond issue up to \$4 million to purchase a waste to energy plant. In 2005 proposals were sent out for incineration or gasification plants. Four proposals were received ranging in price from \$7.7 million to \$23 million. In June they received a call from Quality Recycling saying they would change their proposal and give Harvey County the equipment if they would run the plant as a demonstration plant that others could tour. Harvey County is currently working on a legal agreement to make the proposal a reality. Simons then shared the environmental aspects of waste to energy versus a landfill. In order to have a waste to energy plant, permits would need to be obtained from KDHE as well as the EPA. City officials questioned where such a plant would go. There is concern among citizens about the aesthetics of such a plant.

**3. City solid waste collection discussion**

Because the City is getting more recyclables than trash, an alternative system for collecting trash is needed. City Engineer/DPW Loomis made a presentation on what the City is facing regarding trash collection. Trucks need to be replaced at this point and the vehicles currently used can no longer be made. What started out as an efficient way of recycling has become inefficient due to the amount of recyclables being collected. A shuttle truck is necessary to roll off the recyclables to a trailer because the recycling compartments on the trucks are too small to accommodate the flow. The City is now recycling 40 percent of the waste stream. With the current system, route times have increased as well as worker fatigue and there is an increase in blowing paper/litter. Loomis suggested going to single stream recycling. A split body packer could handle both the trash and the recyclables. These trucks would be

smaller and would compact recyclables to 10 percent of their original volume. Citizens would be given a poly-cart for all recyclables.

John Stutzman with Stutzman Refuse Disposal, Inc., noted dealing with single stream recycling has some problems. The end paper product is not as good due to glass particles and contamination.

Harvey County Commissioner Roberson questioned the City's commitment to recycling and if that had changed, the County needed to know up front. City staff responded the City is committed to recycling and has demonstrated that by the production of recyclables being delivered to the transfer station. Harvey County noted that single stream recycling would be very costly and difficult to provide at the present facility. Separation of recyclables would have to be done by hand. Usually single stream recycling systems are installed in areas with very large volumes of recyclables, where automated machinery is cost effective. The County just does not have the volume to have such a system. City officials felt it was important to keep the recycling as easy as possible for the citizens. The most cost effective way to do business for the long terms is what needs to be considered.

#### 4. South-side development

City officials shared information regarding the south-side development. Plan development for a sewer interceptor project is underway. This will extend the service area to south of 36<sup>th</sup> Street and eliminate the lift station at 36<sup>th</sup> Street. The City will consider a contract with Tom Phillips & Associates to evaluate development sites along the south corridor at their upcoming Commission meeting.

It was suggested meeting again in 60 days, after both entities have had some time to process all the information. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk