



---

## CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL RECREATION COMMITTEE

APPROVED 2-27-2017

---

### MEMBERS

Frank Laflamme, Chairman  
Stan Walczak, Vice Chairman  
Shane Brooks  
Fred Krampits  
William Zaskey

### MINUTES February 13, 2017

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Laflamme, Walczak, Brooks (arrived at 6:59 pm), Krampits,  
**Not Present:** Zaskey

**Also Present:** Councilor Lamontagne, Councilor, Councilor Courchesne, Dan Garvey (Associate City Solicitor) was present but was excused early by Councilor Brooks), Nancy Fenton (Parks Commissioner), Maureen Buxton (Parks Commissioner), Glenn LaPlante (Golf Commissioner), Mike O'Neil (Golf Director), Tom Robak (Commissioner), Gary Lonzak (Commissioner) Rick Nadeau (Commissioner),

### Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

In compliance with the Open Meeting Law the Chairman asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting.

### ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT the Recreation Committee meet with the Parks Department for an update on the department's budget, equipment, Aldenville Pool, and general information and with the Golf Department to discuss the process for reopening in the spring, equipment needs, and general information.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated this meeting is for informational purposes.

**Tom Robak** stated that the Council approved two fairway mowers and previously some greens mowers were approved and this takes care of most of our big equipment for a few years. We still need some smaller equipment such as; smaller lawnmowers and sprayers. The club house needs some air conditioning modifications. Our Director has been working on getting some tournaments line up.

We our following our five year capital program that we had laid out a few years age and it has been working.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that within the next couple months we will update our five year capital program.

**Tom Robak** stated we have a preventive maintenance program and our equipment is lasting longer and saving us money.

**Councilor Walczak** stated he wanted more information on the new gas pump being installed.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that the two thousand gallon storage tank we have now will take a lot to get it back into compliance. We had it priced out months ago and it was about a thirty five thousand dollar job just to be in compliance. With our electric carts there isn't a need for a two thousand gallon tank so we're going to have the underground tank taken out and put a five hundred gallon above ground tank in because we still need the gas and the diesel for the maintenance equipment. We were required to have this mandated so it makes more sense for the above ground tank.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated under the new state code they will be checking it once a month. Removing the tanks will save future problems.

**Councilor Laflamme** asked for an update on the buildings.

**Tom Robak** stated that the roofs need repair on the club house and cart barn. This year we can get by with just repairing them.

**Tom Robak** stated that the club house has to be replaced. It's a hindrance of us getting bigger tournaments at the Golf Course. We are limited in capacity of seating. See what the feasibility is with putting up something new.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated he will send a letter to the Mayor to look into starting a committee. The building is getting old and it's wearing down.

**Tom Robak** stated we are at a disadvantage with our budget as far as maintenance we do the work ourselves to get things done up there. This year Chicopee Comp. helped us with making receptacles for the barrels but there is no one to help us, we have to hire from the outside.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated that we could look into getting some help through the Rocca program.

**Councilor Lamontagne** asked when the club house was built.

**Gary Lonzak** answered in 1965.

**Councilor Walczak** stated that the job corp. has carpentry, electrical, plumbing students. If you need some work done they can do it. Kathy Williams is the Director and Alice Buckner is who I deal with.

**Councilor Lamantagne** asked if you have any difficulties working with other departments.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that the Departments such as the DPW have been great to work with. He realizes that the city comes first but when they can give us a hand they've been very helpful to do so.

**Councilor Laflamme** wanted to talk about advertising.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that through TV, social media, online and newspapers. We have a commercial that starts in spring and runs through fall. We have been going after the Sturbridge, Worcester and Connecticut crowd. Our prices are compatible with other municipality Golf Courses. We get people to come back from these areas because of our prices. We are getting an online T-time that can be booked from your phone.

**Councilor Lamontagne** stated that he's glad to see they are modernizing at this end and taking proactive measures to target a certain audience to the golfing community. He stated that Facebook and boosting can target your golf audience.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that they started that this summer.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that he developed a newsletter that goes out in over three thousand emails. He stated that we will be attending the Western Mass Golf show this March.

**Councilor Brooks** stated that he thinks this will bring in revenue and additional golfers who are looking for a bargain.

**Mike O'Neil** stated that we plan to open on April 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated are staff is a cashier in the shop and outside staff golf assistance.

**Councilor Walczak** asked are there any plans to clean up the pond at the eighteenth hole.

**Tom Robak** stated we have been trying for years to aerate that and put the pumps out there but it would be very costly. We have a tree there for a year. Conservation has to study it before anything can be done.

**Councilor Walczak** stated that your revenue has increased for rounds played, carts and the range. Just to make a point in every one of these particular areas, you had increases. As much as you continue to make there are indirect costs that you have no control over such as; retirement pension funds - \$24,000.00, unemployment compensation -\$20,000.00, Irrigation interest \$80,000.00. There are a lot of things that could be profit but they are reduced because of other factors.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated we want information on the pool, equipment, and general budget and updates.

**Nancy Fenton** stated Ray Ashe Park is on schedule for the opening in June. We don't know if this snow will have an impact on the construction.

**Councilor Lomantagne** stated I asked for the information on the haven training on what's being done in the Parks Department and I have not received anything on it.

**Councilor Walczak** stated that I asked Carolyn if she could provide a conceptual drawing of the design on the water park spray features. So we're up in the air, we don't know what features are being introduced. He stated that Szot Park is done but the dugouts need to be completed.

**Nancy Fenton** stated that the dugouts are moving along and should be completed this spring. She stated that we wanted to name a bench after a long time Park Ranger employee.

**Councilor Lamontagne** stated there is a naming committee but it actually has to eventually get the approval of the City.

**Councilor Walczak** stated that the money from the Community Development funds are being used for Sarah Jane Park that have to be started and finished this year, what are the updates there. He also asked about the options for 2018 Community Development block grant, was there a park in mind for that.

**Nancy Fenton** stated that Carolyn Porter has listed multiple parks and what could be done for the Community Development grant but, I believe the greatest focus was on Nash Park being first in line.

**Councilor Walczak** asked if Fairview Park playground is getting done. He also stated that in the parks the metal benches get very hot in the sun.

**Maureen Buxton** stated that there is an issue with the drainage run off, the tree has a piping issue. The shade shelters are very expensive, trees would be better.

**Councilor Courchesne** asked to relay my question what is being done about the geese at Rivers Park.

**Councilor Walczak** asked how many job openings are there in the Parks Department.

**Maureen Buxton** stated four openings; one level (9) and three level (3's).

**Councilor Walczak** stated that a substantial amount of money is being kept in those line items because these positions aren't being filled, so in May you should know exactly how much money you need to finish the year out with the people you have hired and the extra money you do have, plan to use it for projects and equipment.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated that we are a little frustrated as a committee. He stated that he will call another Recreation meeting.

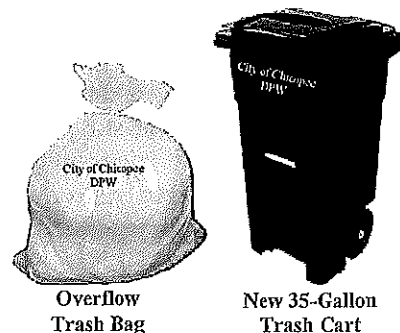
Councilor Krampits motion to place on file for informational purposes for Parks Department and Golf Course – Councilor Walczak 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – motion passed.

Committee vote        4 – 0 favorable

Minutes – September 14, 2017 – Councilor Walczak motion to approve – Councilor Laflamme 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – motion passed.



# City of Chicopee Trash Reduction Program



Overflow  
Trash Bag

New 35-Gallon  
Trash Cart

## **Q: What is the Trash Reduction Program all about?**

**A:** The Trash Reduction Program is about decreasing trash, increasing recycling and reducing costs. It provides an incentive to reduce curbside trash and increase recycling, and is a more equitable system for sharing costs.

## **Q: Why did the City of Chicopee adopt this new Trash Reduction Program?**

**A:** The Chicopee landfill is scheduled to close in the near future. The landfill closure forces our city to change the way we handle and fund our solid waste program. For many years, the City has enjoyed significantly reduced disposal costs for all of the trash generated in Chicopee because of a host benefit agreement with Waste Management. Once the landfill closes, our disposal fee will approximately double and the City will no longer receive a host benefit stipend. The result will be a net loss of about 2 million dollars each year. This new trash reduction program will help to reduce the amount of trash and cut disposal costs in order to offset a portion of those cost increases.

## **Q: How does the Trash Reduction Program actually reduce trash?**

**A:** The Chicopee Trash Reduction Program offers each household currently receiving curbside service, one 35-gallon wheeled cart for weekly trash collection at no direct cost to residents. The 95-gallon single-stream recycling cart will remain the same with every other week collection. Residents producing excess weekly trash--or more trash than can fit into the 35-gallon cart--must put that extra trash in special, City of Chicopee yellow overflow trash bags for curbside pickup. By simply reducing, recycling, reusing and rethinking, folks can and will reduce trash, increase recycling and save the City money on disposal. Data from the 140 communities in Massachusetts that have similar programs demonstrate time and time again that towns with trash reduction programs reduce their waste by 15-30 %. This amount of waste reduction is possible in Chicopee.

## **Q: When will the Trash Reduction Program begin?**

**A:** Chicopee's new curbside Trash Reduction Program will begin on May 1, 2017. The overflow bags will be available in local retail stores in early April.

## **Q: What will remain the same for curbside collections?**

**A:** The curbside collection schedule will remain the same. Trash will still be collected weekly. Recycling and yard waste collections will continue to be collected on the same day of the week as trash according to the published bi-weekly schedule.

## **Q: What changes will be made in the curbside program?**

**A:** The only thing that will change is on May 1, 2017 all trash must be placed in the new 35-gallon carts. The lid on the 35-gallon cart must be closed in order to be picked up. Trash cannot be piled up over the top edge of the cart. Excess weekly trash not fitting in the 35-gallon cart must be contained in City of Chicopee yellow overflow trash bags in order to be picked up.

## **Q: What about bulky waste items?**

**A:** For calendar year 2017, there are no changes to Chicopee's bulk waste disposal rules. Chicopee residents will still be allowed to dispose of bulk items at the New Lombard Road landfill drop-off area at no charge with a proper permit. Residents must still pre-register and obtain a permit from the DPW to use the landfill drop-off site. More information about bulk waste disposal options for 2018 will be available in the fall of 2017.

## **Q: Will I still be able to bring household trash to the landfill drop-off?**

**A:** After May 1, 2017, all regular household trash brought to the landfill drop-off site must be in official Chicopee yellow overflow trash bags.

**Q: Who will enforce the Waste Reduction Program rules?**

**A:** Various DPW staff, including collection crews, will be responsible to enforce the program. Trash that is outside of the 35-gallon cart and not properly placed in a City of Chicopee yellow overflow trash bag will be stickered and left behind. A 35-gallon cart with trash piled high so the lid cannot close will also be left behind. DPW enforcement staff will be available to answer questions and help residents adjust to the new program. We expect that residents will understand that this change is the fairest approach to reducing trash and disposal costs for the city.

**Q: Will this new program cost me more money?**

**A:** The Chicopee trash reduction program is funded through property taxes. The new 35-gallon cart will be provided to each household at no direct cost to residents. Excess weekly trash—trash volume above and beyond what fits into the 35-gallon cart—must be contained in Chicopee yellow overflow bags.

**Q: What will the new bag look like? What will it cost?**

**A:** The official City of Chicopee Trash Reduction Program overflow trash bags will be very distinctive, printed with the City's seal on the side. The bags will be bright yellow, available in two sizes (15-gallon or 33-gallon), drawstring, and 1.5-millimeter bags sold in sleeves of five (5). Trash Reduction Program instructions will be included as an insert in each packet of bags. The bags are designed to hold about 15 pounds of waste in the 15-gallon bag and 30 pounds in the larger bag. The bags must be tied securely for disposal. (No materials can be sticking out of the bag). The 15-gallon bags will cost \$1.20 each (\$6.00 for a packet of 5). The 33-gallon bags will cost \$2.00 each (\$10.00 for a packet of 5). There is no store markup or sales tax collected on these bags.

**Q: Where and when can I purchase the official City of Chicopee overflow trash bags?**

**A:** The official City of Chicopee yellow overflow trash bags will be sold at local retail locations and will be available for purchase in early April 2017. The list of specific store locations will be included in the information packet delivered with your new 35-gallon trash cart. The City website will also list the store locations.

**Q: Do other cities and towns in Massachusetts have Trash Reduction programs?**

**A:** Yes! Currently, there are about 140 municipalities in Massachusetts with waste reduction programs similar to ours. In our region, about 48 towns have a trash reduction program including Belchertown, Granby, Hampden, Northampton, Wilbraham, Amherst, Greenfield, South Hadley, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and Shutesbury.

**Q: Will there be an increase in illegal dumping?**

**A:** Statistics from other cities and towns all over the country have not shown an increase in illegal dumping by adopting a trash reduction system.

**Q: What about multi-family residences and condominiums?**

**A:** Multi-family homes currently receiving curbside service will receive one (1), 35-gallon trash cart per residential unit and continue to get weekly trash service. Excess weekly trash (not fitting in the 35-gal cart) must be placed in official Chicopee yellow overflow trash bags for pickup. Multi-family residences **not** currently receiving City curbside service will remain with their private haulers.

Condominiums with dumpster service will continue to be picked up by contract services. Trash dumpsters will be sized to reflect the 35-gallon weekly trash limit for each residential unit. Recycling dumpsters will be sized to reflect expected increases in recycling volumes.

**Q: Where can I get more information on the program?**

**A:** If you have questions about Chicopee's new Trash Reduction Program, call the Chicopee DPW at 413-594-3566 or visit the city's web site at [www.chicopeema.gov](http://www.chicopeema.gov).

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Rethink