

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

*803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
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Meeting Minutes SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Committee Members

Aldermen: Scott Musillami (Chairman), John Finn, Tom Mikolyzk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Those physically present are as follows:

Present: Chairman Musillami, Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk

Also Present: Mayor McDermott, Alderman Jasinski, City Administrator Paul, Building Commissioner Coleman and Finance Director Schutter (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**IV. DISCUSSION ON THE CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN.**

City Administrator Paul discussed the Sustainable Environmental Plans from four municipalities including Deer Park, Elmhurst, Naperville and Oak Park. Each plan has 4 – 10 categories they focus on. Ms. Paul stated that the common goals among the plans include: Energy, Transportation, Waste Management & Recycling, and Development & Infrastructure. Another possible goal is Leadership and Education. These sample plans were included to give the committee an idea of what other municipalities are doing. Chairman Musillami commented about the number of items in the sample Plans which Countryside has already implemented. He asked Gail to get additional information from the Mayor's Caucus's Greenest Region Compact. Alderman Finn suggested prioritizing restaurant waste due to the large amount generated in town. The Mayor suggested public education by the MWRD regarding rain garden and bio swales and obtaining additional information from the Illinois Sierra Club and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. He also believes Skokie has a good plan we should review.

Staff was directed to obtain additional information and send it to the committee members when received. Staff will assemble potential goals and strategies for achieving each goal for the next meeting. Chairman Musillami wanted us to reach out to the public about attending the Sustainability Committee meetings to get further input. Gail suggested setting future meeting dates and advertising them in the spring newsletter.

V. DISCUSSION ON AN ALTERNATIVE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM.

Finance Director Schutter presented to the Committee that this is 100% renewable energy to our residents. He went on to explain the deregulation history and how municipalities are able to choose an alternate supplier because the pricing got better because of the competition. In the past, the City would run the aggregation program from one to two years, depending on the terms we chose. In October 2019, we suspended the program because it was hard to get a good or better rate for electricity than what ComEd was offering. Dave has been solicited by brokers in the past few months regarding the renewable energy. In addition to that, the renewable energy meets the criteria of some of the programs this Committee was just discussing.

If the City were to run the renewable energy program, we could be an EPA Green Power Community, and that also meets some of the objectives of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2). This is 100% renewable power and the City is guaranteed the ComEd rate. The question was raised if we are locked into this for a period of time. Mr. Schutter said that yes, its 12 months, but we may be able to pick the term, he would need to look into this. Alderman Finn asked if the City would be able to use another electric company at the end of the term if another companies rates are more favorable. Yes we will be able to do that. The aggregation program applies to residential and small commercial only.

There is a civic grant that is available that isn't significant dollars, but we have been told that possibly \$15,000 – \$20,000 would go to the municipality to help spend on energy efficient programs. We choose how to spend it; there isn't a huge level of restrictions on how to spend it. It's money that can go into a program such as education, and grants towards the residents. An example of the grants towards the residents would be if a resident installed an energy efficient furnace in their home we could help offset the cost by the grant. After discussion, staff was directed to bring some recommendations on this back to the Committee.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Mikolyzk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Finn and carried unanimously.

Chairman Musillami declared the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Musillami, Chairman

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