

**CITY OF BEVERLY
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

BOARD: Public Services/Committee of the Whole
DATE: June 14, 2021
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie R. Flowers (Chair), Stacy Ames, Todd Rotondo
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Christine Dixon (Assistant City Clerk), Michael Collins (Commissioner of Public Services & Engineering), Dominic Copeland (participating remotely/virtually via GoogleMeet)
RECORDER: Sharlyne Woodbury

Flowers chairs and opens the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

This is a hybrid virtual/in person meeting conducted under the ‘Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20’, signed on March 12, 2020.

Order #121 Councilor Copeland – Trash cans and trash collection around the city, primarily in city parks

Councilor Copeland addresses the committee requesting the restoration of public trash receptacles in public parks and open spaces. He understands the receptacles were removed due to Covid restrictions. Collins provides updates on the department of public works. Collins discusses the reasons for not restoring waste receptacles at full capacity. The city resources for labor and time consumed a large portion of the public works personnel to keep open spaces clean. Collins cites Lynch Park as an example. By default, having less trash receptacles keeps the public accountable for removing their own trash and reduces city resources to clean up after the public. Collins cites pilot programs that were wildly successful across state and national parks requiring the public to be responsible for removing their own trash. This idea was incorporated by the city and has been successful at Lynch Park. This also reduces the amount of inappropriate waste items in public trash receptacles, such as household trash. Collins believes the presence of a trash barrel does not correlate with people doing the right thing. Open spaces and parks are cleaner when individuals are responsible for themselves.

Councilor Ames addresses the committee. Appreciates Collins explanation, however; notes that local businesses feel they are taking on additional responsibilities with trash clean up that should fall under city responsibility for public spaces. Ames also notes that residents living near beaches are noticing more trash being left behind in those areas from the public as well as school playgrounds, parks, basketball courts, etc. Ames would like to see more bins restored to those areas. Ames supports a resolution beneficial to all parties concerned. Ames acknowledges the answer may have multiple parts requiring compromise for all interested parties.

Councilor Rotondo addresses the committee. Rotondo discusses the costs involved and the nuances of solving the issue.

Collins feels very strongly that restoring trash bins around the city is not the answer. Increasing trash bins will increase the amount of trash. He believes the problem will still be there since some individuals cannot be bothered to use the receptacles despite their presence. Collins discusses trash on the beaches and seawall using dog owners as an example where their waste was still not in the bins. Collins acknowledges this is a difficult topic with no one solution.

Flowers notes time and suggests this matter warrants further discussion before the full council. The issue will not be resolved during subcommittee.

Rotondo moves to present order 121 to the full council for further discussion. Ames seconds. The motion carries 3-0.

Adjournment

Rotondo moves to adjourn. Ames seconds. The motion carries 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.