

MINUTES

GARDEN GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT

An Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Sanitary District Board of Directors is called to order in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: (5) PRESIDENT DALTON, MEMBERS KREBS, LEYES, NGUYEN, ROSEN

ABSENT: (0) NONE

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC

Jim Shriver commented that he is not in favor of putting the trash bill on the property taxes. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Bob Owens commented that he did not understand the letter that is sent regarding the sewer fees. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Dawn Nielsen commented that the city has a very large number of senior citizens. It is very difficult for them to come up with that much money at Christmas time. She noted that although the letter stated there would be no fee increase, the trash bill went up this month. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Nancy O'Shaughnessy commented that she is not in favor of the trash bill on the property tax bill. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Sam Henson commented that he is against adding the trash bill to the property tax bill, noting that at Christmas it is very hard to come up with money to pay property taxes. It is easier to pay monthly. He noted that other cities include trash, water, and electricity on one bill. It is not logical to give the money to the County and then the City has to wait to get reimbursed. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Peter Vuong commented that he is not in favor of adding the trash bill to the property tax because his tenant pays the trash bill. Combining the bills would create more paperwork for him. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Judith Swenson commented that she lives in the unincorporated area in Anaheim and pays her trash bill to Garden Grove. She is not in favor of adding the fees to the property taxes. She urged the City Council to consider the senior citizens on low incomes. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

David Ramsey commented that he does not want any more fees on his property tax bill. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Barton Harlan commented that even though the trash bill is not a large amount of money, it is when added to the property taxes and collected in one payment. He questioned whether the trash bill would go down with the \$70,000 savings. If the savings reduces the trash bill, people would be more in favor of placing it on the property tax bill. He also commented that they were told that recycling would keep costs down. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

Charles Mitchell commented that no one likes to have taxes raised. The State will fine the District if a certain percentage of recycling is not met. He toured the recycling center and is amazed at how much is sorted out. He is not in favor of adding the trash bill to the tax bill. (F: S-53.3) (XR: S-60.1)

RECESS

At 9:03 p.m., the President declared a recess.

RECONVENE

At 9:04 p.m., the meeting is reconvened with President Dalton and all Board members in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RESIDENTIAL REFUSE CHARGES FOR ALL AREAS OUTSIDE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 TO BE COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL (F: S-60.1)

Staff report dated July 12, 2005, is introduced.

President Dalton declared the public hearing opened and asked if anyone wished to address the Board on this matter.

Donald Clark inquired whether services would be paid for in advance of receiving them if placed on the tax roll. The Finance Director advised that the billing is currently that way.

Darlene Hoadley commented that she is against increasing taxes on her home, noting that taxes are going up like the cost of living. It is hard for someone on a fixed income to budget. She questioned whether the trash bill could be combined with the water bill.

Joyce Metcalfe commented that residents should have an option on whether to have the trash bill on the property tax.

David Twiss commented that he wants to keep his bill separate, noting that the State has enough control over residents as it is. He recommended the trash be picked up only two times a month to reduce the cost of operating the trucks. He also recommended that street sweeping be done only once a month.

Michael Mark commented that he lives on a fixed income and lives in the incorporated area. He noted that since the recycling program began, rates have been increasing. He is in favor of recycling because it has helped the landfill.

John Bixler commented that he heard the presentation on the budget indicating that the City will run out of money. He is on a fixed income and only has two barrels. He does not want the trash bill on his property tax. He does not want to lose his house.

Lana Roberts commented that the trash bins are big but they are easy to put on the curb. She noted that although she has her property taxes impounded, and having the trash bill added will not affect her that much, she is not in favor of adding it to the property tax bill. She is in favor of having it combined with the water bill, which would not require any more employees.

Peter Meyer commented that he is against the trash bill on the property tax. He has 17 rental houses, and his tenants are like children, noting that he has difficulty making them pay the trash bill. He noted that his rental agreements state that the tenants will pay the trash bill; and it would not be fair to him if it is added to his property tax.

Bob Owens commented that he is not in favor of adding the trash bill to the property tax.

Peter Vuong commented that even if the responsibility of the trash bill goes to the County, the City will still have to pay them to do the work. There will not be any savings. He noted that if the trash bill currently is not paid, it is sent to collection. However, if the property tax bill is not paid, the County will lien your home.

Dawn Nielsen inquired what the City does with the money from recycling. The Public Works Director commented that Garden Grove Disposal receives the money from recycling as part of the agreement.

There being no further comments from the audience, the public hearing is declared closed.

Member Nguyen commented that she is not in favor of placing the trash bill on the property tax. She requested that staff explore the possibility of including it with the water bill, which would save on postage.

Member Leyes commented that if placing the trash bills on the property tax rolls would save us some money those savings should be reflected in the rate. If we could save \$70,000 and see the rate go down, it might be an easier decision. People are worried that it will be easier to raise rates if it is on the tax bill. He noted that he would not vote for the change.

President Dalton commented that if people do not pay the trash bill, it would go as a lien against the property. When this issue came up in 2001, he voted no on the change. Senior citizens say they have difficulty budgeting for one large bill yearly and that it is easier to pay it quarterly. He noted that the District is looking at ways to save money, and \$70,000 is a lot of money. He indicated that as much as he wants to save money for the City, he does not think it is worth the security of the senior citizens.

Member Rosen commented that he is concerned about the people on fixed incomes. He noted that it is easier to save money for a short time rather than to store it up for one year. He is interested in the idea of combining the trash and the water bills.

It is moved by Member Nguyen, seconded by Member Krebs, and carried by unanimous vote, to continue with the present trash bill process.

MATTERS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Nguyen requested that staff pursue the possibility of including the trash bill with the water bill and advise what the financial impact would be. (F: S-53.1)

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:51 p.m., the meeting is declared adjourned.

PRISCILLA STIERSTORFER
DEPUTY SECRETARY