

## **City of San Marcos City Council Meeting**

September 1, 2020 Resource Recovery Program Presentation

### **Questions from City Council (Beginning at 44:30):**

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- Mayor Hughson:** Thank you very much. That was a great presentation. And thanks for reminding us of ALL those good things that are going on with resource recovery. So, y'all do a great job. Thank you.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Yeah, I just had a couple of questions, but I too wanted to say I'm always so impressed with how much y'all do with trash and recycling and all these programs, and TDS is a better community partner than I thought they were. I didn't know they were even helping us out with those awful donation boxes and everything else they do so kudos to y'all and to them. I did have a question. Why are they waiving the 3% and saving us so much money? How did we get that waiver?
- Ms. Kirwin:** They value our partnership a lot and I'm working really close with them on how we can look to expand the program within the next five years, like with the multi-family pilot program for to-go pizza boxes...
- Councilmember Derrick:** I LOVE that!
- Ms. Kirwin:** ...and then just knowing how the circumstances we have right now with COVID and everything else.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Okay, and then also, Easter Seals, I thought they did seven days a week. They only do four days a week, and one of those days being Saturday?
- Ms. Kirwin:** Yeah, it's Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Okay, and then are they the sole entity for hauling the trash out from the parks in the summer?
- Ms. Kirwin:** No, the parks during the summer is a different thing. That's going to be the parks crew. They work their 7:00 – 4:00 shift. And then the Easter Seals comes in, in two other shifts, to end their last shift ending at 11:00 p.m. when the parks close. So they actually do the river parks, only during the tubing season.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Okay, so it's kind of in tandem over the summer then that they're trying to take care of that.
- Ms. Kirwin:** Yeah, we saw that problem with the buzzards and everything, critters pulling everything out, so that why we realized there was this disconnect with the timing.
- Councilmember Derrick:** Right, right. Well, I'm really glad that we were able to save that money, because the partnership, and it sounds like you guys have really (inaudible) the first city this, the first city that, and you requested this, you know, it sounds like you've got a great partnership, so I'm looking forward to being able to continue that.
- Ms. Kirwin:** Thank you.

**Councilmember Gonzales:** Oh, thank you, Mayor. You mentioned earlier that, or Amy did, that we're pretty competitive with other cities, but I didn't see the number of what they pay versus what we're paying. I know what we're paying, but I don't know what Austin, and Seguin, and New Braunfels. What's the price difference for residents?

**Ms. Kirwin:** There was a spreadsheet that was attached hopefully...

**Mayor Hughson:** It's on Page 40 of the current packet.

**Councilmember Gonzales:** Yeah, well, we're at the high end, or we're pretty much medium? I'm just kind of curious.

**Ms. Kirwin:** We're right there with everybody else. \$26 with what we provide is very much in line. Austin has four different sized carts, and so they have this weird, variable-sized, you'll see their rate, garbage rate, has a wide range. But when it comes to all the other cities, we're really, we're not, if anything, if we're a little bit more, it's only because we offer so much more to our residents.

**Councilmember Gonzales:** I see it. I apologize. I missed it. But yes, I think we're...

**Mayor Hughson:** Yeah, like Ms. Kirwin said, it's not just the monthly rate, it's the four bulky pickups a month, seeing that others get what we're getting. So those extra services that y'all have negotiated in recent years really add way more value to that monthly fee, that still, that monthly fee is not bad.

**Councilmember Gonzales:** I agree. They're doing a great job. Thank you.

**Ms. Kirwin:** And really, kudos should be do Tom Tiger, because he negotiated the first contract.

**Councilmember Gonzales:** Good for him!

**Mayor Hughson:** Okay. I remember when TDS first approached us. That was a LONG time ago, when Dr. Mihalkanin and I were on the council before and I was unsuccessful in getting council to consider going outside, and we missed that year. But, successful the second time around, and so it was good to look at what TDS had at that time. I've had the privilege of touring their facility, oh I don't know, maybe a dozen times over the years, to hear the story about how they got started is always interesting. And the services that they are adding, because that's what customers want are all really, really good. So, thanks to all who have made this happen. And also thanks to Green Guy, who have been providing these recycling services to us for many, many, many, years. Are there any other questions? If not, thank you very much. And we will move on to out Consent Agenda.