

Regular Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025

Mayor Primmer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, and Kelso. Councilors Myers, Linton, and Barron were excused. City Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Jason Edmiston, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. Also present was Student Advisor Jacquelyn Quevedo. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Presentation: Faith-Based Advisory Committee- Food Insecurity Information

Faith-Based Advisory Committee (FBAC) Chair Dan Mahon gave information regarding the Food Insecurity Group formed through the FBAC that is made up of many diverse groups of people, community organizations, and churches with the intent of securing food for those in need. Currently free meals are provided three days per week in the community, and this Food Insecurity Group is hoping to help establish free meals for the other two days through community partnerships and volunteers. Through these partnerships, the Hermiston High School FCCLA Club has helped Oasis Vinyard Church pack over seven hundred pounds of beans, rice, and oatmeal for distribution at Agape House and Euvalcree Food Pantry. Mr. Mahon gave an invitation to any person/organization who would like to join the list serve of the Food Insecurities meetings to please reach out to him via email at oasishermiston@gmail.com and stated additional information can also be found at feedhermiston.org.

Agape House Executive Director Mark Gomolski spoke regarding the decrease in food being received at Agape House as food insecurity has increased throughout the country and area driving the Agape House to purchase the additional food they need to feed community members. Currently on a monthly average, the Agape House provides food for over 1,000 families, 250 homeless individuals, and 275 students weekly through the Backpack Program. The need is great, and resources are dwindling. Mr. Gomolski asked that the community consider donating and gave his thanks to businesses who have food drives supporting the Agape House.

Mayor Primmer thanked all those involved in helping to provide food for those in need.

Presentation: My Hermiston App

Pac/West Lobby Group Chief Communications Officer, Daniel Wattenburger, presented (PowerPoint Presentation attached) information on the City's newest public communication system, an App and desktop access called My Hermiston which can be used by the public to connect with city services, report issues, and stay informed about what's happening in the community and showed how the app works.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

Luke Dynes- Stated he has been a community business owner for about 25 years processing recovery for animal feed and is currently working with the County to permit a compost facility between Hermiston and Pendleton off exit 193. This public meeting will be held tomorrow for those who would like to attend. Mr. Dynes stated he had questions regarding the Recycling mandate.

Mayor Primmer stated his comments and questions should be shared during Resolution No. 2397 when this item is being presented and discussed.



Regular Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025

Rose Thomas, 83 W Cherry- Spoke regarding her frustration with the lack of attention the City is giving to her neighbor Chris Cooley's property, stating she has had many meetings with City officials regarding this property as it continues to be a place of violence, homeless encampment, dumping grounds, using the yard as a toilet, parking in her yard, having an abundance of traffic in and out of the house, and sees frequent arrests being made. These issues reach far beyond the scope of being a nuisance and the situation is getting worse by the day and would like the City to do something about it, or she will pursue legal action against the City.

Mayor Primmer stated this issue is being handled by the City Manager's Office and Police Department.

Consent Agenda Items

Councilor McCarthy moved, and Councilor Hayward seconded to approve Consent Agenda items A-K, to include:

- A. Committee Vacancy Announcements
- B. Faith-Based Advisory Committee Reappointment Confirmation to Dan Mahon to Position #5, for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2028 1
- C. Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center Advisory Committee Appointment Confirmation to Cari Shafer to Position #7, At-Large, for a 3-year term expiring 06/30/2028
- D. Airport Advisory Committee Reappointment Confirmation to Jesse McCormmach to Position #5, for a 3-year term expiring 10/31/2028
- E. Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee Reappointment Confirmation to Val Hoxie to Position #2, Representing the Chamber of Commerce for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2028
- F. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Appointment Confirmation to Carlisle Harrison to Position #4 for a 3-year term expiring 10/31/2028
- G. Budget Committee Reappointment Confirmation to Rod Hardin to Position #3 for a 3- year term expiring 12/31/2028
- H. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Appointment Recommendation to Stephanie Hughes to Position #5 for a 3-year term expiring 10/31/2028
- I. Minutes of the November 10th City Council Regular Meeting
- J. Replat- Umatilla County Housing Authority 4N2811CD Tax Lot 100 588 E Newport Ave
- K. Gettman Road OSU Temporary Access License

Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, and Kelso voting in favor.

October 2025 Monthly Financial Report

Councilor Hayward moved and Councilor McCarthy seconded to accept the October Monthly Financial Report as presented (PowerPoint Presentation attached) by City Manager Smith and Assistant City Manager Morgan. Motion carried unanimously with Councilors Hayward, Roberts, McCarthy, Duron, and Kelso voting in favor.

Resolution No. 2397- Master Fee Schedule: Recycling Rate

Assistant City Manager Morgan reviewed information from the agenda packet and gave additional information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding the "Recycling Modernization Act" a 2021 Oregon legislative approved Bill which requires cities with a population of more than 4,000 to offer curbside recycling, as well as addressing questions that arose from this topic at the November 10th City Council meeting, and adding an option for a 15% discount for low-income residents as requested by the Council.



Regular Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025

Councilor Roberts asked if the City could charge the low-income rate of \$6.80 per month across the board to all residents forgoing the City's 15% fee instead of charging \$8.00 per month and asked if additional staff would need to be hired to absorb the additional workload for this program.

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated the Council could adopt the rate of \$6.80 per month for everyone but recommends against it as all surrounding communities will be charging \$8.00 per month; additional staff is not being hired immediately but could be in the future once the workload has been established.

Mayor Primmer asked if all materials are purchased during the recycling process.

Assistant City Manager Morgan stated some recycling items are while others are not.

Public Comment

Luke Dynes- Stated he believes in residential franchises and knows Waste Connections does a good job providing services as he works directly with them, Waste Management, and Republic. However, he is concerned that the largely low-income community will be struggling to pay the new \$8.00 recycling fee on top of the 37% increase they've seen in garbage service during the last two years. His business makes a profit selling recycled cardboard so he knows Waste Connections will also be making a profit doing this on top of the profit they'll receive from providing this service to the community and asked that the City and constituents have access to see the rebate Waste Connections will be receiving and have it applied as a discount to the \$8.00 per month fee or just negotiate this rate down. Asked that the City look further into other options as Waste Connections website states they focus on rural communities because they are profitable, with billions in revenues, and are easy to control.

Krista Van Veen, 764 W Alder Ave- Thanked Assistant City Manager Morgan for all the information stating her family moved to Hermiston from Portland five years ago and was surprised that the City did not offer curbside recycling. Recycling is good for everyone, it helps all of us pay attention to what is being thrown away, what can be recycled, and encourages all of us to have less overall waste. Mrs. Van Veen stated she is supportive of the passage of this resolution.

The Council thanked Assistant City Manager Morgan for the detailed information and spoke regarding their discontent with yet another unfunded state mandate regardless if it's for a good cause, stating they are not against recycling or Waste Connections making a profit, their frustration is with the west-side of the state being out of touch with this region and forcing communities to comply with mandates that require additional fees. Councilor Roberts stated he will be voting against the resolution as a symbolic gesture against unfunded mandates although he understands that DEQ could come down hard on the City. Councilor Kelso agreed stating he will only vote in favor of the resolution because the City and its constituents cannot afford to pay the estimated DEQ fines.

After further discussion, Councilor McCarthy moved and Councilor Duron seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2397 and lay upon the record. Motion carried 4-1, with Councilors Hayward, McCarthy, Duron, and Kelso in favor; and Councilor Roberts against.



Regular Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025

Recess for Executive Session and Reconvene for Resolution No. 2397- Master Fee Schedule: Recycling Rate

Mayor Primmer announced that because Resolution No. 2397 was adopted there was no need to recess or reconvene for Executive Session.

Committee Reports

<u>Solid Waste and Curbside Recycling Advisory Committee-</u> Councilor McCarthy stated this Committee met prior to the City Council meeting and thoroughly reviewed curbside recycling services and rates.

<u>Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee</u>- Councilor Duron stated the Committee finally had a quorum and were able to discuss and hear information regarding: the renaming of the Basketball Courts where the Committee asked Parks and Recreation for additional information prior to making a naming recommendation, budget, Parks and Recreation employee openings, AED's recently installed at popular recreation sites, Welcome sign by the Airport, and the need for volunteers on Festival Street for the Tree Lighting event.

<u>Hispanic Advisory Committee</u>- Councilor Duron and Kelso stated the Committee heard updates from the Department of Human Services regarding SNAP benefits, Euvalcree's Food Pantry, City Manager Smith with community updates, spoke regarding events HAC participated in and organized to include: The Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and Dia de los Muertos. The newest member of the Committee recently resigned, and the committee continues to work on its goal to increase the Latino vote.

<u>Library Board</u>- Councilor Roberts stated the Board heard updates and information regarding building renovations, entry level job opening, and strategic planning for the new building. The meeting had six members of the public in attendance, including middle schoolers, which was great to see.

<u>Charter Review Committee</u>- Mayor Primmer stated the Committee reviewed met and reviewed Chapters 1-3 and will continue with Chapter 4 at their next December meeting.

<u>Public Finance Committee</u>- Mayor Primmer stated the Committee held their first meeting earlier this month and discussed how they want to proceed going forward.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Primmer spoke regarding:

- Several ribbon cutting and open house events
- December 4th Tree Lighting Parade and Event on Festival Street

Council Presidents Report

Councilor McCarthy spoke regarding:

- Holiday Market put on by the Parks and Recreation Department
- Festival of Trees Event

Council Reports

Councilor Hayward spoke regarding his attendance at the Monte Vista Open House and the impressive work the Hermiston High School Woodshop Class did helping build a custom-built playhouse and congratulated Street Superintendent Ron Sivey on retiring and thanked him for his years of service to the City.

Councilor Roberts stated he had the honor of attending a ceremony presenting Retired U.S. Marin Corps Veteran Sergeant Jason Walker with a mortgage-free home in Hermiston from the Tunnel to Towers Foundation in honor of his sacrifice and service.



Regular Meeting Minutes November 24, 2025

Councilor Kelso stated tickets for the Festival of Trees Event are sold out but encouraged the public to attend the free Family Event at the Community Center on December 7th from 11am to 3pm which will include family friendly games, cookies, and other activities.

Councilor Duron and Mayor Primmer thanked Street Superintendent Ron Sivey on his dedicated service to the community and the Hermiston Police Department, community organizations, and volunteers who help make the Christmas Express Annual Event a success for those in need.

Mayor Primmer stated he recently attended the City of Echo City Council meeting.

Youth Advisory Report

Jacquelyn Quevedo gave information regarding the School District's canned food drive, National Honor Society toy run where the public is encouraged to donate toys for kids at Hermiston High School, Performing Arts musical Grease starting in January, as well as basketball and wrestling information.

Manager's Report

City Manager Smith thanked the Hermiston School District for allowing him the opportunity to teach two full days of civic classes to all seniors, stating he has a new profound respect for teachers.

Adjourn

There was no other business and Mayor Primmer adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 9:10pm.

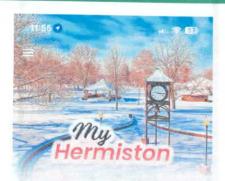
ATTEST:

illy Alarcon-Suong, CMC, City Recorder

Introducing My Hermiston App



How to Submit a Request



START REQUEST

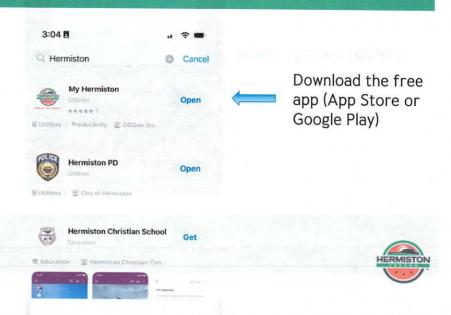
Pay My Bill

Ask a Question

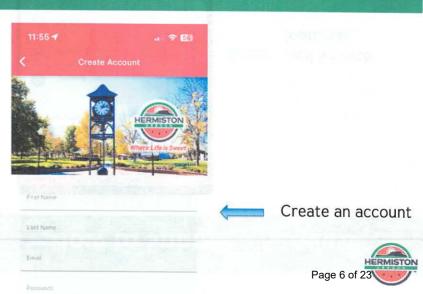
Open app and click "Start Request"



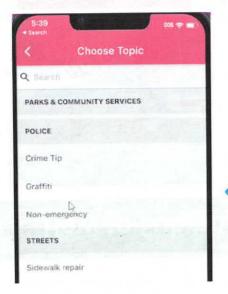
How to Use My Hermiston App



How to Submit a Request



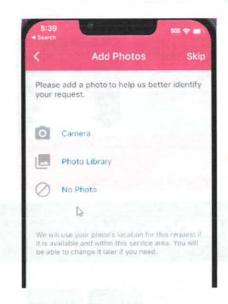
How to Submit a Request

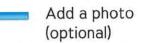






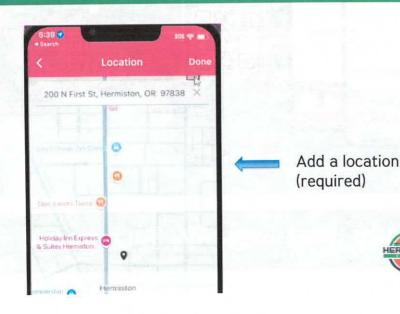
How to Submit a Request



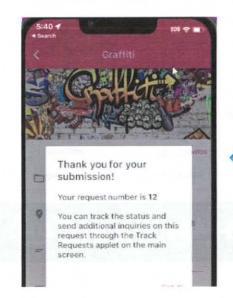




How to Submit a Request



How to Submit a Request



Submit request



Page 7 of 23

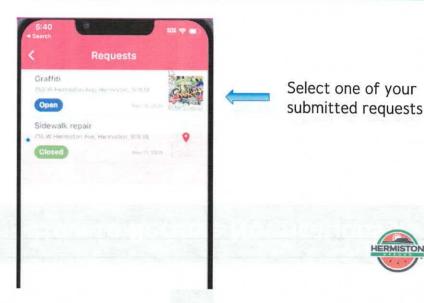
How to Follow a Request







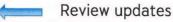
How to Follow a Request





How to Follow a Request







Desktop Portal



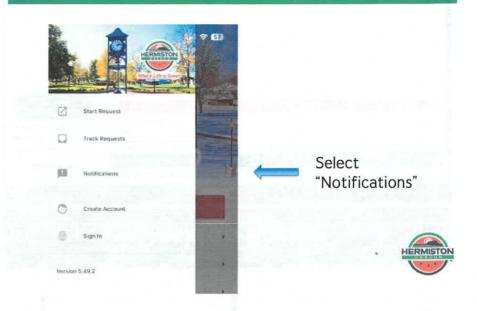
Hermiston.gov/MyHermiston



Questions on Requests?

Download My Hermiston Access Information Report Issues Receive Notifications And more... SCAN ME SCAN ME SCAN ME Powered by GOGOV Powered by GOGOV

How to Receive Notifications



How to Receive Notifications



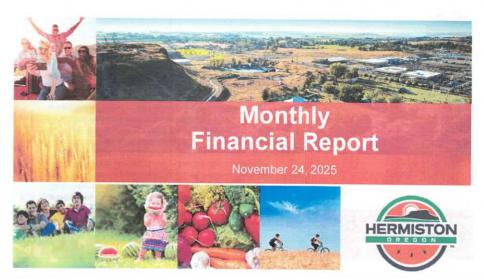
How to Receive Notifications





Questions on Notifications?





Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency (HURA)

- Hermiston URA split in four funds for fiscal year General, Downtown, North and South.
- North Hermiston Urban Renewal Area ROW appraisals complete with anticipated bidding this winter.

General Fund

- Third month (or 33.0%) of 2025-26 fiscal year
- Monthly Revenues ended over projection by ~\$188k
 - · Primarily due to franchise revenues





General Fund

- Monthly Expenses were over projection by ~\$1.55 million
 - Primarily due transfer of building funds to newly created building inspection fund (~\$2.7 million)
 - City Council, Airport and Non-Departmental are over budget due to annual LOC membership, capital outlay, and transfer to building inspection fund, respectively.
 - Parks, Parks Utility, Pool and Recreation are over budget due to seasonal activities.



Special Revenue Funds

- Observations:
 - New Building Inspection fund activity included in special revenue summary
 - EOTEC revenues do not reflect reimbursement from campground project



Utility and Street Funds

- Observations
 - Street Fund is ~\$36k below projected revenues due to timing of federal gas tax turnovers

Capital Projects

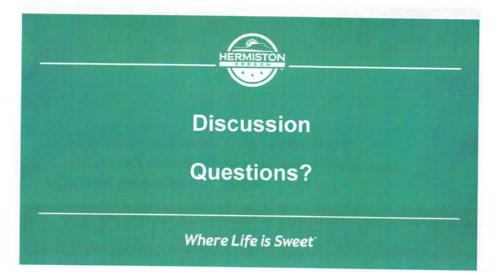
- A number of projects in design:
 - · Geer/Harper Realignment- in full design
- N. 1st Sidewalk (additional ROW with UPRR has begun)
- · RWS Backup Generators currently in design
- · Well #6 Chlorination Structure currently in design
- · Lift Station #5 wet well upgrades design to begin
- · E. Evelyn Avenue gravity sewer line design to begin
- Orchard Water Line replacement preliminary design underway
- · Dogwood Street design to begin soon
- Aguifer Storage/Recovery shifting to construction of well, pump and structures
- · Well #4 Controls -project to 'commence' after peak season
- TBD (budgeted and part of CIP):
 - · SE 10th Street Bridge and Lift Station #7

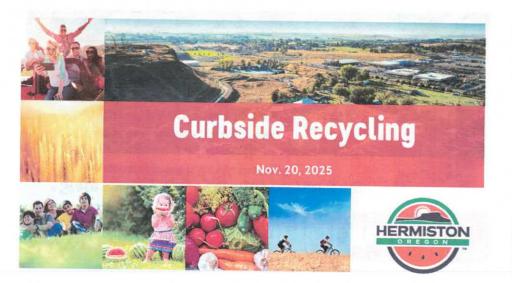


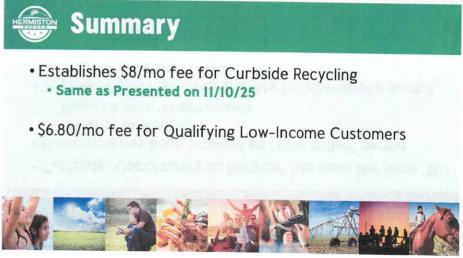


Capital Projects

- Hangar Replacement Building substantially complete. Punchlist items.
- Library Building is open, working through punch list
- Sherman Park design complete; ready to bid
- Public Safety Center Interior work continues, parking lot paving complete









Main Topics from Last Meeting

- · State law mandates curbside recycling now
 - · Can we just ignore it (break the law)?
- · Sanitary Disposal is a for-profit private company
 - · What does this mean for our rates?
- Alternative Rate for Lower Income Customers
 - · Can it be done?





Curbside Mandate: Semantics

- Curbside "Opportunity to Recycle" has been law since '80s
- · Hermiston has been granted an "alternative" permit
 - · Distance to markets
 - · Depots & other requirements
- 2021 RMA eliminated need/ability for alternative permit
 - · Effectively mandated curbside





Curbside Mandate: Semantics

- · "Shared Responsibility" Model
 - · Producers must share cost of recycling materials
- · Covering cost of "actual" recycling
 - Hauling to End-Markets
 - · Cost of Trucks/Carts/etc.
 - · Hermiston earmarked for: \$1.35M





Curbside Mandate: Semantics

- "Shared Responsibility" Model
 - · Producers must share cost of recycling materials
- · Local customers cover local choice costs
 - · Labor to collect





Curbside Mandate: Semantics

- "Funded Mandate"
- Although it Increases cost on City...
- ...Producers contributing \$1.35M to Hermiston
 - · Trucks, Carts, Etc.





What if we just break the law?

- · Good Game-Theory
- Fines likely to cost customers extra \$126/Month (\$1,512/yr)
- Possible Civil Suit from residents who are denied recycling







Break the Law: Fines

- Requirement of City (not Sanitary Disposal)
- · Fines will be on City of Hermiston
 - \$500/day = \$183,000/yr (Optimistic Scenario)
 - \$25,000/day = \$9,125,000/yr (Realistic Scenario)





Break the Law: Staff Costs

- Staff Time (City Manager, Asst. City Manager, City Attorney)
 - Responding to DEQ
 - · \$30,000+
 - Opportunity Cost (Diverted from Other Council Priorities)





Break the Law: Other Costs

- · \$70,000+
- Outside Legal Counsel
- · Lobbyists to Monitor Legislature
 - · 2027 Legislature likely to close any "loophole"
 - 80 of 87 impacted cities already have curbside (92%)
 - Those without: Almost all located in 3 out of 90 Legislative Districts



Apples to Apples Cost

· Fines (minimum): \$183,000 \$100.000+ · Other Costs:

• Total Annual Cost: \$283,000+





· Fines (minimum): \$183,000

 Other Costs: \$100,000+

\$47.17 \$283,000 / 6,000 Customers = • Total Annual Cost:

\$3.93/mo





· Fines (minimum): \$183,000

· Other Costs: \$100,000+

\$283,000 / 6,000 Customers = Total Annual Cost:

\$47.17

\$3.93/mo

No Extra Service





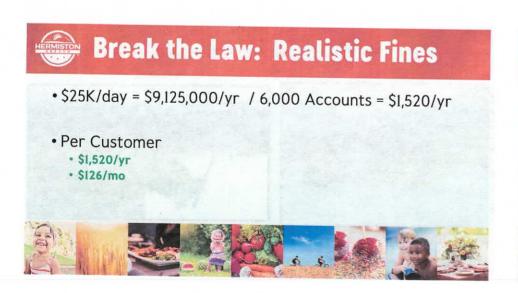
\$8/mo Recycling Service		\$3.93/Mo Fines
\$29.05	Monthly Garbage (390 gallons)	\$29.05
\$8.00	Monthly Recycle Service (205.8 gallons)	\$0.00
\$0.00	Fines & Legal Expenses	\$3.93
\$37.05/mo	Total Cost	\$32.98
\$0.06/mo	Cost Per Gal. Solid Waste Removed	\$0.09/mo





• \$25K/day = \$9,125,000/yr







- Fun to Daydream
- Harsh Reality
- Agitate Large Amount of Constituents who want Curbside







Solid Waste Collection Options







HERMISTON

Private vs Public Models

- Solid Waste is a Fundamental public health service
- Even minor disruptions create major problems







Private vs Public Models

- Local Governments can provide service themselves (public)
- Challenges
 - Scale/cooperation
 - Public Sector
 Pay/Benefits
 - Public Sector Unions







Private vs Public Models

- · Private Sector can do
- Challenges
 - · Capital (risk)
 - Competition (risk)







Prevailing Model: Private

- · Governments mitigate risk with "Exclusive Franchise"
- Protects Private Vendor from competition
 - · Ensures efficient service
 - · Guarantees revenue to cover capital costs
 - · Allows efficient business to make a profit
 - Solvent provider prevents service disruption (piles of trash)





Sanitary Disposal/Waste Connections

- Purchased local Sanitary Disposal ~2022
- Local owners cashed-out due to escalating cost of regulatory compliance
- Very few "mom & pop" collectors remain











Sanitary Disposal/Waste Connections

- · Critical Infrastructure
 - · Transfer Station (6 min.)
 - Finley Butte Landfill (36 min.)
 - 60 miles round-trip
 - 1.5 hr+
 - 20 gal. Diesel





• Cheney, WA (2011)

- Pop. 13,000 (60% "congregate housing")
 - More Dumpsters, fewer individual carts
- 26 Mile Round-Trip to Ultimate Disposal
- No Transfer Station Operations or Debt
- Isolation = less profit for private operator & little pressure on City







Complexity of Decoupling Recycling

- Existing Franchise is Rolling 5-Year Term
- · Buy-Out Waste Connections?
- · Competitive Bidders List:
 - Waste Management
 - Republic Services
 - · Pendleton Sanitary





HERMISTON

Complexity of Decoupling Recycling

- Existing Franchise is Rolling 5-Year Term
- Buy-Out Waste Connections?
- · Competitive Bidders List:
 - Waste Management
 - Republic Services
 - Pendleton Sanitary







City Service in Hermiston?

- · Admin. Overhead
- Public Employees
- · Only own Collections, not disposal
- · Lack of Scale (only 6,000 accounts to cover)
 - · Admin
 - Maintenance
 - · Etc.







Regional Impacts Hermiston "poaches" highest value accounts (density) Low Density surrounding communities would see cost increases Fewer accounts served per hour



- · Hermiston, Umatilla, Um. Co., Stanfield, Echo
 - · 33 Separately-elected officials
 - · Expectation of co-equal role in rate-setting
- 5-Years in an inflationary rate-adjustment will be required
- · Classic infighting will ensue
 - · "Hermiston's profiting off of us."
- "What if we contract with the private sector?"



Summary

- · For-Profit Vendors fill a critical role
- Public Options carry risk/cost
- · For-Profit vendor may be lowest cost
- · Recommendation: Not worth testing







Low-Income Rate Assistance

- \$8/mo regular service
- \$6.80/mo: Low-Income Rate Assistance
 - 15% Discount
 - General Fund Subsidy







- · Sanitary Disposal Revenue: City Keeps 15%
 - · 11% Front Desk/Billing Staff, billing costs
- 3.5% Franchise Fee- Un-Restricted General Fund Revenue
 - · 0.5% "Spring Cleaning" Event
- · Waive City's 15% Markup Allows for Service at-cost





15% Overhead Revenue?

- Price Elasticity: Some Customers will downsize garbage
- Extra costs
 - · Calls/walk-in questions at front counter, missed pickups, etc.
 - DEQ Compliance is more complicated = staff time
 - · Extra service to explain during rate requests
 - This 2nd Staff Report/Presentation cost -\$2,000 in staff time





City-Paid Low-Income Assistance

- 2019 City Council Policy
- Challenging to deploy across 6,000 accounts
- · Balancing Act
 - · Prevent Fraud or Abuse
 - · Serve those who it's intended





City-Paid Low-Income Assistance

2019 City Council Policy	Family Size	Income
Limited to 50 Accounts Per Year	1	\$27,388
• 100% of Federal Poverty Level	2	\$37,013
• 5-10 users per year	3	\$46,638
	4	\$56,263
2024 Finance Staff Expanded	5	\$65,888
175% Federal Poverty Level	6	\$75,513
• 20 users	7	\$85,138
	8	\$94,763
A N WAR		



Service	Other Rate-Payer Subsidy	
	Monthly	Annual
Recycling Service (I5% Discount)	\$1.20	\$14.40





Service	Other Rate-Payer Subsidy	
	Monthly	Annual
Recycling Service (15% Discount)	\$1.20	\$14.40
Garbage Service (17% Discount)	\$3.08	\$36.96





Service	Other Rate-Payer Subsidy	
	Monthly	Annual
Recycling Service (15% Discount)	\$1.20	\$14.40
Garbage Service (17% Discount)	\$3.08	\$36.96
Sewer Service (50% Base)	\$20.95	\$251.40





City-Paid Low-Income Assistance

Service	Other Rate-F	ayer Subsidy
	Monthly	Annual
Recycling Service (15% Discount)	\$1.20	\$14.40
Garbage Service (17% Discount)	\$3.08	\$36.96
Sewer Service (50% Base)	\$20.95	\$251.40
Water Service (50% Base)	\$17.96	\$215.52
Total per Beneficiary	\$43.19	\$518.28





City-Paid Low-Income Assistance

Service	Other Rate-Payer Subsidy		
	Monthly	Annual	
Recycling Service (15% Discount)	\$1.20	\$14.40	
Garbage Service (17% Discount)	\$3.08	\$36.96	
Sewer Service (50% Base)	\$20.95	\$251.40	
Water Service (50% Base)	\$17.96	\$215.52	
Total per Beneficiary	\$43.19	\$518.28	
Total for 50 Beneficiaries	\$2,159.50	\$25,914.00	
Avg. Cost to all Other Rate Payers	\$0.36	\$4.37	





- · Can we just break the law?
 - Sure. Likely cost each household/rate payer ~\$1,500/yr
- Cost of Service Through For-Profit Vendor?
 - · Best Option we Have.
- Alternative Rate for Lower Income Customers
 - 15% discount covered by other rate-payers

