

City, county may work together on trash system

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things we had not thought of, and made us look at the issues from a different perspective."

The major option would transfer the city trash collection system to the county along with the three city trash trucks and about 1,000 dumpsters.

The county would hire the three city trash truck drivers, and provide the weekly collection. The city would continue to bill for the trash service each month, and pay the county the money. The county would pay the city \$3,000 per month for billing and collection.

"I don't want to see it go out of town," said Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld, "but I am not ready to make a decision today. We need to do some more homework."

"This is a first step," Rasure said. "We would need to have a work session on this to see if we can reach a consensus."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked about one of the issues which said the city would include a construction and demolition disposal fee as part of the city's building permit process.

"Does this mean they will get a separate dumpster," Tiede asked, "and how is the cost going to be determined? Can the person with the permit haul to the landfill themselves?"

"It would be part of the city permit process," Rasure said. "The person can get a rebate with proof they did not use the special dumpster, but handled it themselves."

"We would need a truck to handle this," Tiede said.

Looking at the list, Frankenfeld said he did not see how a decision could be reached before the beginning of the new year, and wasn't sure how it could be handled under the budget.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said they would have to amend the budget. "I really don't want anything to do

with it," Tiede said. "It is a large undertaking, to do it right. Somebody needs to look at the whole thing. It seems to be working better today, but as far as us taking control of it, I don't think we should."

"We got into this because of the city looking at going out of the county," said Garcia. "The taxpayer is our main concern. We wanted to get the issue out there to benefit the citizens and start both sides talking to move in a positive manner."

Citizens in the audience were asked for their opinion and Ed Carleton, 315 1/2 N. Main, said he felt having one entity handle the trash would be good and should save the taxpayers money.

"I think the county ought to step in and take over the trash," he said. "I have been thinking we probably need to consider consolidating the city and county, too."

Tiede said he was not sure the county could handle the trash collection at the

same rate as it is being done. "The prices may have to go up," he said.

"The rules won't change, and that is good," Carleton said. "Going out of the county won't solve anything. Mitch, I hope you do a lot of investigating and change your mind."

Rasure asked if the other commissioners were willing to hold a work session on the matter, and Tiede said he was willing to do that.

Tiede asked about putting the issue on the ballot in April, but Rumpel said there was no law allowing such a vote. She said they could have a non-binding "straw poll," but that was it.

Lois Cossman, who lives north of Ruleton, was asked for her opinion. "I was told not to say anything," she said, "but I don't like it and don't think the county should take it on."

She said her thoughts were that it would be too expensive and cost the county taxpayers.

Rasure said the idea is to make the system pay for itself, but agreed it would not make it any cheaper.

Bob Cossman said he felt the current system was working fine. "We have no problems," he said.

Rasure said the idea was not to make the system any more expensive, and there should be no more burden on the citizens.

Pickman said a number of the issues will need to be worked out, but felt it was a step forward.

"We want a clean city," he said. "It will encourage economic development. The intent of the development council is to have the city and county work together to do the best we can to get the trash taken care of."

Pickman said the 17 items were discussion points developed during the previous meetings.

"If we can't do this, we are back to square one," he said.

He said the company the city is ne-

gotiating with has been told of the possible development, and wants to know the direction the city is going in before the end of the year. He said the discussion was a positive movement, and that while an agreement might not be done by the first of the year, he hoped it could be done by the first quarter.

"I don't think we have any choice," Frankenfeld said. "We are painted into a corner. I certainly don't want this to go out of the county."

"We can put a pencil to the items and see what can be done," Rasure said.

He said a work session would probably be part of the next commission meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

The commissioners thanked the development council members for their work.

"You gave us ideas to look at," he said.

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State faces another deficit as income estimate drops

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have to trim spending to avoid a deficit on June 30.

It may also have to reduce spending again in fiscal 2004, even as federal and Kansas laws require increases for social services, highway projects, higher education and employee pensions.

The state finished its 2002 fiscal year with about \$4.1 billion, or \$212 million less than expected.

The Legislative Research Department has previously suggested that fiscal 2003 revenues actually will be

about \$4.3 billion — or about \$200 million less than the March estimate.

With \$4.3 billion in revenues, the state would face a deficit of \$103 million on June 30.

"I'd like to see positive news, but I don't see that happening," said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kenny Wilk said the research department's prediction is "kind of a benchmark."

"I don't think we'll see it go down a lot from there," said Wilk, R-Lansing.

"There are some early indications that we're seeing the bottom and we're going to start bounce back a little bit."

But Rep. Rocky Nichols, D-Topeka, an Appropriations Committee member, said he isn't as optimistic.

"I don't expect good news," he said. "I don't know if we've hit the bottom yet."

From July 1 through Oct. 31, individual income tax collections fell short of expectations by \$32 million, or about 5 percent, according to the Department of Revenue. The agency has attributed a slump in those collections

largely to the disappearance of investment gains in a volatile stock market.

"One of the things that happened last year was that capital gains income went away," Goossen said. "A lot of people claimed losses."

In addition, sales tax receipts, another indicator of economic health, have fallen about \$15 million short. However, they've still grown compared to the same period last year.

"We're working with the concept Kansas is on a recovery path and recovering slowly," Goossen said. "The recovery is slower than we'd thought."

Jury finds Wichita brothers guilty of five murders

WICHITA (AP) — Jurors found brothers Reginald and Jonathan Carr guilty Monday of four counts of capital murder for the execution-style killing of four people two years ago in a soccer field.

The Carrs were convicted for the Dec. 15, 2000 deaths of: Aaron Sander, 29; Brad Heyka, 27; Jason Befort, 26; and Heather Muller, 25. Befort's girlfriend, then a 25-year-old teacher, survived being shot in the head.

The Carrs also were convicted of first-degree murder for the Dec. 11, 2000 shooting of Wichita symphony cellist Ann Walenta.

"Justice has been served — and it is

long awaited," Assistant District Attorney Kim Parker said.

Reginald Carr, 24, and Jonathan Carr, 22, were with their attorneys as the verdicts were read. Reginald Carr was in shackles, as he has been throughout much of the trial after reportedly threatening deputies.

Defense attorneys declined comment, saying trial was not over.

The same jury will now be asked if the brothers should be sentenced to death or life in prison. The penalty phase begins Tuesday morning.

Outside the courtroom, family members hugged each other as well as prosecutors and a crime scene investigator

who worked the case. Parker was crying as she hugged the tearful survivor of the quadruple killings and other family members of the victims. Family members declined to comment.

Reginald Carr also was convicted in the Dec. 7, 2000 robbery in which Andrew Schreiber was abducted and forced to withdraw cash from ATMs before his abductors left him unharmed. Jonathan Carr was found innocent in the crimes against Schreiber.

While ballistics showed the same gun was used in the three crimes, investigators found Schreiber's stolen watch in the apartment where Reginald Carr was arrested and had difficulty con-

necting Jonathan to that crime.

The brothers did not show any emotion when the verdicts were read, although Reginald Carr shook his head as he was convicted of criminal sodomy. As they were led away from the courtroom, Reginald Carr stared at family members of the victims while Jonathan Carr avoided making eye contact with them.



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