## Council Report Back
### 2020 Budget Questions
#### Part 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Council Member</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>Tobacco background check explanation</td>
<td>Kelly/Jensen</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>Options for Fire Station 19</td>
<td>Montelongo</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-3</td>
<td>Monthly versus bi-weekly recycling</td>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The current procedure to obtain a tobacco license is as follows:

The applicant comes to Accounts Receivable (A/R) and completes a general license application with business name, mailing address, owner(s) name and corporation name listed on the application. The application then goes to Zoning to verify that the selling of tobacco is a permissible use of the building at this location. Once Zoning has confirmed that the sale of tobacco is allowed at this property / location, the application is approved by A/R, the applicant pays the $60 licensing fee, and a tobacco license is issued to the business.

Under this process, the Police Department is not involved in the application / licensing protocol and usually finds out a new “convenient store” has opened in the city after the fact. Since State law requires individuals to be at least 21 years of age to purchase both liquor and tobacco, I feel we should have the same licensing requirements for the sale of tobacco as we do for the sale of liquor.

The recommendation from the Police Department is that once the application comes back to A/R from Zoning, the application is then forwarded to the PD and a “background check” is conducted on the applicant. The most efficient and economical way to do that would be to have the applicant(s) fingerprinted to check any previous criminal history with law enforcement. The same standards that apply for a state cigarette sale license could be used to approve or deny a tobacco license applicant.

Currently the State will not issue a cigarette retailer’s license to the following:

1. A person who has been convicted of a felony related to the illegal transportation, sale or distribution of cigarettes, or a tobacco-related felony, after investigation and a hearing if requested by the applicant, determining that the person has not been sufficiently rehabilitated tow arrant the public trust;
2. A corporation, if any officers, manager or director thereof or any stockholder or stockholders owning in the aggregate more than 5% of the stock of such corporation, would not be eligible for a license for any reason. (35 ILCS 130/4g)

The reasons for these new proposed changes, specifically the background check, would prevent an applicant who has been involved in cigarette and tobacco-related felony offenses and any fraud related offenses from receiving a tobacco license without first being vetted by the PD.

Currently, if an applicant had ever been arrested / convicted for any type of criminal offenses, the City nor the PD would not have any prior knowledge of the applicant’s criminal history and the applicant would be able to obtain a tobacco license, open a store and sell tobacco products.

We have had cases in the past of individuals selling K2/ Spice from a store that was selling tobacco products. The step of conducting a background check on tobacco licensees would alleviate these individuals from being able to obtain a tobacco license in the future.

If this new process is adopted, the Police Department believes it could make the retail sale of tobacco somewhat safer by having the prior knowledge as to who is operating tobacco licensed stores throughout the city.
The Police Department also gets a yearly grant from the State of Illinois that allows us to conduct compliance checks. From November of 2016 to June of 2019 we have conducted 764 compliance checks and have had 57 violations.

The new process would also allow us to better track new stores that open and determine if the applicant has previously operated stores and received violations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 5-2</th>
<th>Question From</th>
<th>Answer From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Options for Fire Station 19</td>
<td>Monte'ongo</td>
<td>Fire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposal for Fire Station 19 is a 2021 capital project. Staff are prepared to devote time in early 2020 to fully discuss the operational and financial implications of a move of Fire Station 19. Fitch and Associates is planning on presenting their findings in January 2020. Beginning this discussion early in 2020 would provide ample time for the City Council to finalize a decision.
Table 5-3
Monthly versus bi-weekly recycling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question From</th>
<th>Answer From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>PDC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the attached memo from PDC concerning contractual changes required to move to monthly recycling.
RE: 1x Mo Recycling Pickup

Dear Patrick,

This letter is in response to our recent telephone conversations regarding your request for information regarding the financial impact of reducing residential recycling pickup to once per month. Under our current contract, residential recycling is collected by PDC every other week.

Any savings realized by reducing service frequency would be offset by other factors.

The current contract provides up to two (2) 95-gallon recycling carts at no charge to households enrolled in the program. As we expected, a relatively small percentage of households in Peoria currently have a second recycling cart because of the robust every-other-week service.

PDC would anticipate a large influx of second cart requests if the City returns to once a month recycling pickup. This would be a major change in our contract. PDC would need to purchase more recycling carts and engage in another round of cart deliveries throughout the City. If the contract were to be revised, PDC would need to charge monthly rent and a delivery fee for a second recycling cart. Recycling volume would continue to be limited to what fits a 95-gallon cart.

In 2018, PDC purchased new equipment and trucks to provide same day pickup for trash, yard waste and recycling services. We made a substantial capital investment based on the new contract requirements. Returning to once per month recycling pickup diminishes the value of the investment. PDC would work to recoup the lost value of that expenditure when renegotiating an amended solid waste contract with the City of Peoria.

Best Regards,

Matt Coulter
Vice President
PDC Services, Inc.

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