

# Eagle Lake approves TDS garbage contract

**Jacob Truchard | Posted: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 11:58 am**

Eagle Lake City Council took action to approve a Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Contract with Texas Disposal Systems of Austin during their July 9 meeting at the municipal building.

Before taking action on the item, Eagle Lake City Manager Keith Webb pointed out that if Council would choose to not enter an agreement with TDS regarding garbage disposal services and to have the City continue running its garbage service on its own, then purchasing a new garbage truck for the City would be a necessity within the upcoming year.

City Manager Webb added that garbage rates (commercial and residential) would need to be adjusted so that the rates would remain profitable for the City. Also, he pointed out, that the City would most likely have to raise rates higher than what TDS would do regarding operating the municipal solid waste collection and disposal services within the City of Eagle Lake.

City Manager Webb said from his standpoint, the best option would be for the City to get out of the professional garbage business and to enter into a contract with TDS because they professionally know how to run a garbage business.

Eagle Lake City Councilman Benny Landrum voiced his opinion that he was in favor of contracting the City's garbage service out to TDS, and, in the process, there could be the potential for the City to become more involved in recycling down the road.

TDS representatives, who were in attendance at the meeting informed Council and City Management that they offer options pertaining to recycling in their service contract as well.

During discussion of the item, Eagle Lake City Councilman Michael Cooper also said that he was for the idea of the City contracting its garbage services to TDS and that it is the right thing to do.

Eagle Lake City Councilman Chriss Schiurring also pointed out that he was in favor of what was being proposed regarding the item. He added that if it was a bad thing, then surrounding cities such as Columbus, Weimar and Sealy would not already be contracted with TDS regarding garbage services.

Eagle Lake Mayor Mary Parr commented during discussion that she believes entering into a contract with TDS would raise the standard level in regards to garbage services within the City and would be a good move.

“It is good for the City,” Mayor Parr said. “I don't see a downside to it.”

After further discussion, Council approved an amended (with minor changes made by City Secretary Sylvia Rucka) Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services (five-year) Contract with TDS.

The effective date when TDS begins solid waste collection and disposal services within the City is Oct. 1.

Also during the meeting, Eagle Lake Mayor Parr discussed with Council members and City Management ideas regarding the City's 125th Anniversary Celebration set to take Saturday, Sept. 14.

During discussion of the item, Council agreed to have Mayor Parr form a committee to help organize the event. Volunteering to be on the committee during the meeting, along with Mayor Parr, were Councilman Tony Tyler, Councilman Landrum and City Secretary Sylvia Rucka.

Councilman Landrum also suggested if there was a possibility that a parade could be scheduled for the evening of the celebration. Councilman Schiurring brought up the idea of a classic car show being included among the events.

Mayor Parr suggested the possibility of dressing in period attire dating back to when the City was founded. She also requested that Council think about guest speakers for the event, along with historical re-enactors for the event and to request that the local radio station (KULM) be involved as well.

No action was taken on the item and Mayor Parr requested that the item be brought back at the next Council meeting for further discussion.

Other items:

-Approved action to set a date of Tuesday, July 23, for a Fiscal Year 2013-14 City of Eagle Lake budget workshop beginning at 6 p.m. at the municipal building.

The next regular Eagle Lake City Council meeting is scheduled for July 23, beginning at 7 p.m. at the municipal building.