



Jonesboro Recycling

Cost to Recycle

- February 2015 – Bids were sent out for the collection and processing of blue bag recycling in the residential areas of the City of Jonesboro.
 - April 2015 – Abilities Unlimited won the bid and a contract was entered into with Abilities Unlimited for \$58,800 per year.
 - March 2016 – Abilities Unlimited announced the downturn in commodities made it impossible to survive and negotiations began among the stakeholders.



Summary of Decisions/Changes

- The current grant given to the SolidWaste District will forward to the cities. Jonesboro will receive \$4,088/month for a total of \$49,056.
- Craighead County Regional Solid Waste Management Board voted to assess a 50 cent per ton fee on solid waste disposed in Craighead County effective May 1, 2016.
 - 34 Cents will be given back to the city to use for recycling. The estimated revenue from that fee is \$31,941.
 - In summary, new money coming to Jonesboro for recycling is $\$49,056 + 31,941 = \$80,997$



Summary continues.....

- The new money will pass to Abilities Unlimited, making our new contract with them \$58,800 (original amount) + \$81,000 (new money) for a total of \$139,800
- Some of the new money is costing the city because we are paying the fee like everyone else. Our 2015 tonnage was 28,927.02. New assessment of 50 cents X 28,927.02/tons = \$14,463.51.
- There is a possibility that we will recoup some of the \$14,463.51 if the tonnage collected across the county is more than estimated.



Future Costs/Decisions

- The recycling “Blue Bags” currently being used have been purchased by the Solid Waste District. They will no longer be buying those for the City of Jonesboro. We have enough to last until June 2016.
- If we continue purchasing the bags, an additional cost of approximately \$45,000/year could be incurred.
 - We are hoping to defer that cost through grant opportunities and are currently working with the Grant department to find revenue.
 - We are also looking at potential alternatives for cost savings such as rolling blue carts.



Changes to Citizens

- Abilities Unlimited had to cut cost in addition to raising their revenue. It is necessary to pick up recycling every other week or pay an additional \$4,000/month.
- Disabled citizens or those that cannot take their recycling to the curb will get their blue bags picked up at their back door.



The City of Jonesboro supports recycling and will continue to encourage the citizens to help reduce the waste going into our landfill to preserve our natural resources.