

WORK SESSION AGENDA

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY
JANUARY 13, 2015**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE
6:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**

NOTE: One or more Councilmembers may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.

MAYOR NABOURS
VICE MAYOR BAROTZ
COUNCILMEMBER BREWSTER
COUNCILMEMBER EVANS

COUNCILMEMBER ORAVITS
COUNCILMEMBER OVERTON
COUNCILMEMBER PUTZOVA

4. Preliminary Review of Draft Agenda for the January 20, 2015, City Council Meeting. *

** Public comment on draft agenda items may be taken under "Review of Draft Agenda Items" later in the meeting, at the discretion of the Mayor. Citizens wishing to speak on agenda items not specifically called out by the City Council for discussion under the second Review section may submit a speaker card for their items of interest to the recording clerk.*

5. Public Participation

Public Participation enables the public to address the council about items that are not on the prepared agenda. Public Participation appears on the agenda twice, at the beginning and at the end of the work session. You may speak at one or the other, but not both. Anyone wishing to comment at the meeting is asked to fill out a speaker card and submit it to the recording clerk. When the item comes up on the agenda, your name will be called. You may address the Council up to three times throughout the meeting, including comments made during Public Participation. Please limit your remarks to three minutes per item to allow everyone to have an opportunity to speak. At the discretion of the Chair, ten or more persons present at the meeting and wishing to speak may appoint a representative who may have no more than fifteen minutes to speak.

6. Plastic Bags in Flagstaff - A Community Conversation

7. Review of Draft Agenda Items for the January 20, 2015, City Council Meeting.*

** Public comment on draft agenda items will be taken at this time, at the discretion of the Mayor.*

8. Public Participation

9. Informational Items To/From Mayor, Council, and City Manager.

10. Adjournment

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the City Council with the City Clerk.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Elizabeth A. Burke, MMC, City Clerk

Memorandum

6.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF



To: The Honorable Mayor and Council
From: Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager
Date: 01/06/2015
Meeting Date: 01/13/2015

TITLE:

Plastic Bags in Flagstaff - A Community Conversation

DESIRED OUTCOME:

On May 29, 2012 the Flagstaff City Council requested an official recommendation from the Sustainability Commission to make a recommendation relating to the impacts of plastic bag usage across the City for consideration by the Council. Challenges associated with plastic bags include litter in the community, operational and fiscal impacts to the landfill as well as operational issues at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Following the results of the 2013 Citizen Survey the Sustainability Commission researched best practices for addressing plastic bags and developed their recommendation. Attached is the Sustainability Commission's recommendation in form of a draft ordinance which has not been approved by the City Attorney's Office. The Attorney's Office will review the ordinance once direction is received from Council.

The Work Session tonight is designed to provide the Council with background information through a short staff presentation and a forum for interested residents, businesses, and stakeholders who hold opinions to share them during this agenda item. Additionally, staff will be seeking Council preference and guidance through your conversation at this Work Session as a basis for any future action item that is desired.

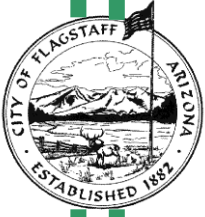
INFORMATION:

This issue is not directly represented by a current Council goal; however, it does support the following Regional Plan Goals:

- E&C.2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- WR.6. Protect, preserve, and improve the quality of surface water, groundwater, and reclaimed water in the region
- CC.1. Reflect and respect the region's natural setting and dramatic views in the built environment
- ED.7. Continue to promote and enhance Flagstaff's unique sense of place as an economic development driver

Attachments:

November 2012 Sustainability Commission Letter to City Council Regarding Plastic Bags
Sustainability Commission's Official Recommendation on Plastic Bags



City of Flagstaff

Sustainability Commission

November 7, 2012

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

Last June, the City Council requested an official recommendation from the Sustainability Commission regarding strategies for addressing single use plastic bag problems currently facing the Flagstaff community and municipal organization. Of specific concern are community litter issues and negative impacts to Cinder Lake Landfill operations. Plastic bag debris directly costs the City of Flagstaff approximately \$150,000 annually while the indirect costs are unknown. Some progress was made to remedy this problem in 2007 after the Sustainability Commission helped establish Bag Central Station - Where Plastic Bags Belong recycling program in Flagstaff. However, this recycling campaign only addressed about 1% of the plastic bag use within the community. The impact of plastic bags is far from solved.

Cities across the nation have successfully established plastic bag bans or bag fees as a means of addressing unwanted plastic litter and processing; the Sustainability Commission believes a ban or fee on plastic bag use in Flagstaff could resolve this problem. However, the Commission also believes that further research needs to be conducted in order to provide the Mayor and City Council with a policy decision and reasons for action to complement an official recommendation. Therefore, in response to Council's request, we recommend additional research and community conversation to ensure the best solution for the Flagstaff community.

The commission's recommendation is based on:

Economic impact – A reduction in plastic bags would reduce expenses for landfill operations and cleanup of the surrounding forest, and the Materials Recovery Facility operations.

Environmental impact – Eliminating plastic bags would significantly improve community litter problems by eradicating unsightly debris. Plastic bags litter our landscape by getting caught in trees, storm drains, and waterways. They negatively impact wildlife who mistake plastic bag litter as food. Single use plastic bags are derived mainly from diminishing non-renewable resources.

promoting sustainable practices in all spheres of life and educating the public

Research needed – There are many questions that need to be answered to objectively move forward:

- What is the best and most cost effective solution for the City of Flagstaff to consider?
- How do community members feel about single use plastic bags?
- How do business members feel about single use plastic bags?
- Would a single use plastic bag ban or fee benefit the City of Flagstaff and the business community?
- Who would be impacted and how?
- Who supports this type of measure and who opposes it?
- What are other alternatives that may solve the problems?

In closing, the Sustainability Commission will analyze a variety of solutions that may address single use plastic bag problems in Flagstaff. We look forward to presenting the City Council with a more formal recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kim Lucy, Chair
Kathy Farretta, Vice Chair
Carlton Johnson
Bryan McLaren
Jamie Quisenberry
Aregai Tecle
Jack Welch

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-XX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, AMENDING TITLE 7, HEALTH AND SANITATION, OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, BY THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 7-06 TO BAN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AT RETAIL SALES ESTABLISHMENTS.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to the health, safety, welfare and cleanliness of Flagstaff; and

WHEREAS, the problems resulting from single-use plastic carryout bag use is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and has costly negative implications on community aesthetics, and solid waste and stormwater management; and

WHEREAS, the use of single-use plastic carryout bags negatively impact the city of Flagstaff, by contributing to unsightly litter on streets, sidewalks and waterways; and

WHEREAS, despite recycling programs and voluntary solutions to lessen the impacts of single-use plastic carryout bags, very few are effectively reused, recycled or properly disposed of,

ENACTMENTS:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF AS FOLLOWS:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect, conserve and enhance the City's unique natural beauty and reduce the costly negative impacts of single-use plastic carryout bags by banning them and encouraging the use of reusable bags.

DEFINITIONS:

Exempt single-use bags:

- A. Laundry dry cleaning bags, door-hanger bags, newspaper bags, or packages of multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste or yard waste;
- B. Bags provided by pharmacists or veterinarians to contain prescription drugs or other medical necessities;
- C. Bags used by a consumer inside a retail establishment to:
 - a. Contain bulk items, such as produce, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items;
 - b. Contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish, whether or not prepackaged;
 - c. Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants or items to prevent moisture damage to other purchases; and
 - d. Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods.

Retail sales establishment: any licensed business within the City of Flagstaff whereby the sale or transfer to a customer of goods in exchange for payment occurring in retail stores, farmers' markets, flea markets, and restaurants.

Single-use plastic carry-out bag: any carry-out bag made from plastic or bioplastic, including materials marketed or labeled as “biodegradable” or “compostable” that is provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Recyclable paper bag: a paper bag that is fully recyclable and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content and contains no old growth fiber.

Reusable carry-out bag: a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is either made of cloth or other fabric or is made of durable plastic that is at least 4 mils thick or other durable material suitable for reuse and does not contain heavy metals in toxic amounts.

APPLICABILITY

A retail establishment shall not provide a single-use plastic carry-out bag to any customer.

To further promote the use of reusable shopping bags and reduce the quantity of single-use plastic carry-out bags entering the city’s waste stream, retail establishments are encouraged to make reusable carryout bags free or for sale at the checkout and/or provide boxes for use at the checkout free of charge. The Sustainability Program is authorized to provide reusable carryout bags for the public at low cost or free of charge, targeting such programs to reach low income households to the greatest degree possible.

The Sustainability Program shall conduct educational campaigns to retail establishments and consumers on this ordinance.

The Sustainability Program shall conduct a sample survey of retail establishments impacted by this ordinance to provide feedback about the financial impact to each establishment.

The Sustainability Commission shall review the survey and submit a report to the City Council with recommendations for any changes in the ban, pass through charges on paper bags, or other provisions that are needed to improve effectiveness. The report to City Council shall be submitted no later than one year after the ban takes effect.

EFFECTIVE DATES

The Single-use Plastic Bag Ordinance shall become effective six (6) months after the City Council approves the ordinance for all retail establishments.

ENFORCEMENT:

XXXX

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Flagstaff this _____ day of _____, 2014.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

DRAFT