

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: 03/20/2020

TO: **Mayor and City Councilmembers**

FROM: Peter Gardner, City Planner

CC: Jerene Watson, City Manager; Dawn Prince, Deputy City Manager; Leadership Team

SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY OF ALLEY CLEAN UP PROGRAM

The report is in response to a request from Councilmember Huish to explore a plan to clean up all of the alleys in the city with neighborhood involvement.

DISCUSSION:

Staff evaluated several options to try and establish a program for alley cleanups by residents that cover every neighborhood in the City. Development Services staff based analysis in part on previous experience with limited clean ups of alleys and of the Sunspots area. Looking at the options and estimated costs, staff developed the following options using current City Code specification and offering other options which would require a MC amendment but are lower cost:

OPTION 1: Secure roll offs for resident dumping. Based on experience with Sunspots this is likely to be expensive and impractical. People will dump items in the containers if they are available. Each container costs \$600, with a \$300 fee every time they are switched out. There is a \$64.00 per ton tipping fee. During the Sunspots project the amount per container varied from 2-4 tons, for a total of \$128-\$256 per dump. The total cost was approximately \$7,500 for twelve dumps based on rental fee, swap fee, and tipping fees. Based on the use in Sunspots several years ago, staff estimates a need for approximately 200 roll offs to cover the approximately 400 blocks of alleys. **Extrapolating the costs from 12 dumps to 200 gives a cost of \$125,000.**

OPTION 2: Contract for additional dedicated Dept. of Corrections (DOC) crews to clear the alleys twice per year. This option, if other crews are available, would cost approximately \$10,000. One crew of five inmates, six hours per day, four days per week, 50 weeks per year at \$0.50 per inmate per hour totals \$3,000 in labor. Staff estimates this level of labor **could clean each alley twice per year.** Outfitting a crew with weed eaters, saws, hand tools, and personal protective gear will cost

approximately \$3,000, with future years being lower. Consumables such as spools, oil, and fuel will cost \$1,500 per year. As our ordinance is currently written, citizens are responsible for alley clean-ups so we would need to amend the ordinance to reflect this option. **Budgeting for 40 tons of waste to be disposed of brings the total cost to \$10,000.**

OPTION 3: An additional crew doing one clean up per year would save \$1,500 in labor, \$750 in consumables, and \$1,250 in tipping fees, **for a total cost of \$6,500.** As our ordinance is currently written, citizens are responsible for alley clean-ups so we would need to amend the ordinance to reflect this option.

OPTION 4: Adding a riding mower tractor to the existing staff would speed up current work, permitting **one clean up per year with existing staff levels.** This would require a one-time outlay of the mower, \$3,500 to \$5,500 depending on model, plus recurring costs of approximately \$1,250 per year. We would budget for 20 tons of waste for \$1,250 for **\$6,000 to \$8,000 the first year and \$2,500 per year after that.**

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION

This report is for Council background and consideration ahead of the new budget and whether there is interest to put any option forward in the budget.

