

Atchison Citizens May See More Recycling Chances

Citizens in Atchison may see a new trash and recycling system in the future.

It was one of the topics in a two hour joint city-county meeting for long term planning in improving solid waste countywide.

City and County Commissioners heard a presentation from Heinicke LLC, which has been studying solid waste principles when it comes to trash disposal and recycling currently in the city and county.

Consultant Jim Heinicke says one of which is to establish a solid waste fee on the county side instead of relying on a sales tax.

(Play Audio) RT: :28

Heinicke also said the city needs to implement a fully automated trash pick-up system, modernizing the current trash pick-up methods.

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He also recommended there be a council of government formed on this matter, composed of not only leaders from the city of Atchison and the County, but other towns within the county, as well as school systems.

Heinicke says the county will see a more stable form of revenue in a solid waste fee instead of sales tax and says the city of Atchison would be able to implement weekly trash and recycling pick-up for the same amount as in the solid waste ordinance.

County Commissioner Jeff Schuele explains the solid waste fee idea, which would need to be implemented by summer if used.

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Current recycling in Atchison County is three point three percent, which is around 20 percent below the state average and 33 percent below the national average.

Schuele says they want to find a way as a county to cut back a million dollar bill for solid waste disposal yearly, and to do so, requires collaboration with city governments.

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No action has been taken on any of these matters, but Monday night's joint session was a work session to take steps toward this goal.