



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

AM No. 64-2020

Meeting Date: January 28, 2020

1 **From: MAYOR**

2
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING**
4 **MODIFICATIONS MADE TO SOLID WASTE SERVICES**
5 **INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN.**
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8 **Background**

9 Solid Waste Services (“SWS”) has modified the Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan
10 (“ISWMP”) to include key infrastructure improvements and further development of
11 alternative technologies that would benefit the SWS and the Municipality of
12 Anchorage (the “Municipality”). The ISWMP includes many waste diversion options
13 necessary to extend the life of the landfill for as long in to the future as possible. The
14 ISWMP will guide future development and operation of the solid waste management
15 system within the Municipality for several decades to come.
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17 Modifications to the ISWMP are summarized as follows:
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19 **Anchorage Regional Landfill (“ARL”) Entrance Facility**

20 In November 2018, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake occurred in Southcentral Alaska. As
21 a result of this earthquake, the landfill entrance facility building was severely
22 damaged at the ARL. An assessment of the building determined that the building
23 sustained damage during the earthquake that rendered the building largely unusable.
24 Evaluation of the options to restore the building to pre-earthquake functionality have
25 been performed and FEMA is in the process of determining whether the building will
26 be eligible for repair or replacement based on construction cost estimates in
27 accordance with 44 CFR § 206.226(f), commonly referred to as “the 50 percent rule”.
28 SWS has applied for FEMA funding for the demolition and replacement of the Landfill
29 Entrance Facility. To restore the function of the Landfill Entrance Building to the ARL,
30 the recommended option is to demolish and replace the existing heavily damaged
31 building in its entirety, replacing with a building of at least equivalent functionality and
32 in compliance with current codes.
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34 **Waste to Energy**

35 A White Paper Report on the Development of a Waste-to-Energy Project for the
36 Municipality was prepared in September 2019 which included a pro forma model,
37 prefeasibility study review and findings that a WTE facility in the MOA should be
38 considered further. A more detailed Feasibility Study was proposed that evaluates
39 regulatory, environmental and social impact studies; engineering and geotechnical
40 review of potential sites; waste collection and transportation studies, detailing
41 implementation time line including procurement, financing and permitting discussions
42 and further refining of the pro-forma model. Recommended next steps for future
43 planning include: Detailed discussion of the pro-forma and next steps for evaluating
44 the development of a WTE project. The ISWMP includes the steps as well as
45 projected construction costs in the short- and medium-term.

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2 Recommendation tables are included in Section 5.0 of the ISWMP and Exhibit A of
3 this Memorandum.

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5 **Material Recovery Facility**

6 The Municipality issued a study to assess the feasibility of establishing a material
7 recovery facility (“MRF”) at the existing transfer station site to manage current and
8 future diversion of recyclable materials. The primary function of a MRF is to extract or
9 separate out recyclable commodities in order to obtain the highest quality of
10 recovered materials to be sold into markets for the highest financial value. The study
11 also discusses different recycling capture scenarios, corresponding to required
12 infrastructure, capital and operating costs, and the benefits of developing a proposed
13 MRF facility.

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15 **The ISWMP Recommendations Updated Summary**

16 The ISWMP prepared for the SWS provides a roadmap to optimize SWS’s solid
17 waste management system and assets through improved operational efficiencies,
18 capital improvements and new practices/programs that increase landfill life, improve
19 safety and customer service, protect the environment and increase waste reduction,
20 reuse and recycling of materials that are currently disposed of as waste.

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22 Recommended strategies for short, medium and long-term system planning periods
23 were developed. The recommendations have been modified to include the major
24 infrastructure items described in this memo as well as updates to other items of
25 relevance that have been revised based on up-to-date information, including a
26 revised estimate of costs for a leachate evaporator system at ARL.

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28 Attached to the Memorandum is Exhibit A which represents an Executive Summary
29 of the ISWMP as well as a Recommendations Summary. There is no immediate
30 economic impact; therefore no Summary of Economic Effects is attached to this
31 ordinance.

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33 The Administration recommends scheduling a Public Hearing on February 11, 2020.

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35 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE.**

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37 Prepared by: Mark Spafford, SWS General Manager and
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39 Approved by: Mark Spafford, SWS General Manager
40 Concur: Lance Wilber, Office of Management & Budget Director
41 Concur: Alexander Slivka, CFO
42 Concur: Rebecca A. Windt Pearson
43 Concur: William D. Falsey, Municipal Manager
44 Respectfully submitted: Ethan A. Berkowitz, Mayor