
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

COUNCIL MEETING: JULY 11, 2022

DATE: 7.06.2022

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF ORDER FOR PURCHASE OF AIR BURNER

As you know we have been working toward a long-range alternative to storing and chipping brush at the Harbor of Refuge for some time. As we reported in March, we have been working with the County on plans to develop a “one-stop-shop” at the County’s Precinct 2 recycle center for citizens of the City and County to bring their solid waste, including brush for disposal and recycling. Understanding that there was over a 6 month lead time, Council in March authorized to place an order for an air burner at a cost of \$160,600 that we would locate at the County’s recycle center for burning brush. We were told that we could cancel the order within 4 weeks of it’s scheduled delivery without any cost or penalty to the City.

Recently a new opportunity has presented itself that would negate the need for an air burner for at least 5 years. Kevin Riggs and Ben Boone with Alcoa approached us with interest in hauling the chips and using them on their bauxite piles for dust control etc. To verify that these chips will serve the purpose they have in mind, Alcoa has recently hauled away all of the chips that we have been storing at the Harbor of Refuge – over 7,000 cubic yards. Alcoa was satisfied with the chips and is offering the following agreement for consideration:

For the following time period of June 2022 to June 2027 (5 yr window and then review if activities will be continued)

- Alcoa would like to work with the City of Port Lavaca and provide a mechanism for wood mulch removal.
- Alcoa will haul chipped wood mulch from the City of Port Lavaca (two locations: Harbor of Refuge Site and future County recycle center off of Hwy 87) at Alcoa’s expense and at no charge to the City of Port Lavaca
- The mulch removal can be performed on an as needed basis with the expectation that the frequency will likely be on an annual basis.
- Alcoa will coordinate with the City of Port Lavaca prior to annual chipping to arrange transport of the mulch; Alcoa agrees to haul the mulch within 3 months of the annual chipping operation
- Alcoa can only accept the material if it is free of plastics and trash

Alcoa is sourcing mulch from surrounding cities for the same beneficial reuse application and same operational expectation.

Let me know if you want to discuss further.

Ben Boone, Alcoa

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

In light of this beneficial reuse opportunity, staff is recommending cancelling the order for the air burner at this time. I have confirmed with Air Burners, Inc. that there will be no cost to the City if the order is cancelled at this time. They have many customers in line for this type of burner. By working with Alcoa on the beneficial reuse of these chips, we will no longer need to bring 3-phase power to the Hwy 87 site at a cost of \$100,000.

The County is still interested in working with us on the “one-stop-shop” bulk/brush/recycling. We are recommending that following the annual chipping in a couple months, that Republic does as part of their contract (that Alcoa will haul off within 3 months after that), that we continue to utilize the Harbor of Refuge site to collect brush for at least one more year. During this time we will work with the County to fine tune details of an agreement and make necessary site improvements to utilize their land to store and chip brush.

If at anytime in the future this arrangement with Alcoa is no longer mutually beneficial, we can reconsider the option to purchase an Air burner to burn the brush.