

---

---

**CITY OF PORT LAVACA**

---

---

**PORT COMMISSION MEETING: JUNE 8, 2021**

**DATE:** 6.03.2021

**TO:** PORT COMMISSION

**CC:** JIM RUDELLAT, HARBOR MASTER

**FROM:** JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AIR BURNER FOR BRUSH OPERATIONS AND CLEANUP AT HOR**

---

Background: For many years the City has staged and annually chipped brush that is collected from the community at a location at the Harbor of Refuge. The City had originally planned to offer the chipped brush to the community for use as mulch in gardens, but the demand has been very low to non-existent. As a result, we have accumulated several large piles of chips at the Harbor of Refuge site. There has also been an uptick in the amount of brush collected to where we struggle with having room to stage the brush and are looking at having to chip more often. Several months back, the City Council considered options to deal with this issue and expressed interest in purchasing an air burner to burn the brush as opposed to chipping. Staff has spent time talking with TCEQ and the manufacturer about obtaining an air quality permit for such an air burner. The requirements include a buffer zone around the burner of at least 300 feet to the nearest property line and it can not be permitted on an existing or closed landfill. The entire 75 acres south of the east -west channel of the Harbor of Refuge is a closed landfill per the closure survey document filed in 1979. In order to permit an air burner on this site, an engineering study would be required to prove that trash cells are not located where the air burner is to be located or within 300 feet of the air burner (again staying 300 ft from any property lie). At this point we do not know whether there are actually trash cells in the location we stage the brush or not. There has also been a desire by the Port Commission to move the brush operation off this Harbor of Refuge Tract so it can potentially be leased.

Update Report: We are actively looking into purchasing some nearby property which would be the site of the air burner, with the required buffer area and land available for staging of the brush. The long-term goal is to relocate our recycling center from George Street to this new location, which would provide better truck access and make it easier for the citizens to practice recycling.

If we find that the property is available, we will review the plans with TCEQ to make sure there are no glitches in getting a permit for the site prior to actually purchasing it and the burner.

If however, we find in the next month or so that we are not able to purchase land as hoped, we will then consider engaging an engineer to begin the study to see whether it's possible to permit the air burner somewhere on the Harbor of Refuge site.