

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Jacob Meshke, Assistant City Manager

Council Meeting: March 17, 2020

Subject: Single Use Plastics Research and Strategic Plan

Person(s) Responsible: Sustainability Council

Summary:

The Brookings Sustainability Council is providing a presentation to City Council on follow-up single use plastics research and Strategic Plan. The research includes an expansion in scope to include all single use plastics, incentives to reduce plastic bag usage, and plastic bag recycling options.

Background:

The City Council tasked the Sustainability Council with researching plastics bags and ways to limit their use. The Sustainability Council provided a presentation to City Council at the November 12, 2019 City Council meeting and was requested to expand the research to include all single use plastics, incentives to reduce plastic bag usage, plastic bag recycling options, and opportunities to take a data-driven approach to single use plastic reduction.

Item Details:

The Brookings Sustainability Council's presentation will include discussion on the expanded single use plastics research, business survey, and Strategic Plan.

The research was expanded to take a more holistic view of all single use plastics, opportunities for stores and the City to incentivize reusable bags, single use plastics reduction strategies, and additional plastic bag recycling. The Sustainability Council has taken the first step toward data collection by distributing a business survey to downtown businesses in partnership with the Downtown Brookings Director.

The Strategic Plan outlines the goals, initiatives, and priorities of the Sustainability Council. The Strategic Plan is a living document that will be updated as goals are accomplished and/or as priorities and needs change.

Legal Consideration:

Senate Bill 54 was signed into law by Governor Noem on March 2, 2020. Senate Bill 54 prohibits municipalities from regulating plastic bags, straws, beverage containers, and packaging.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

The expanded single use plastics research and business survey follows up on the City Council's request from their November 12, 2019 meeting. Presenting a Strategic Plan furthers accomplishing City Council Goal C-3-1: Adopt a Sustainability Plan. The Strategic Plan also prioritizes City Council Goal C-3-4: Department Heads and BMU attend sustainability training as the Sustainability Council will be researching conferences, seminars, and other opportunities for City staff to attend such training.

Financial Consideration:

The single use plastics research provides cost estimates for various initiatives. The Sustainability Council has a \$5,000 budget to assist in achieving initiatives as desired. Additional funds would have to be identified or accounted for in a future budget.

Supporting Documentation:

1. Single Use Plastics Research
2. Business Survey
3. Strategic Plan