

Letters to the Editor

Whenever a city issues a solicitation for bids and only one bid is submitted, serious questions should be raised as to why a lucrative contract didn't illicit more competitive bids. However, this is precisely what has occurred with Manitou Springs' bid proposal for waste and recycling services.

So significant were the problems with the bid process that the trash service provider with the majority of accounts in Manitou Springs (and, therefore, the most significant financial stake), Springs Waste Systems, declined to submit a bid!

Furthermore, they were so concerned about the problems with the potential contract that they sent a letter to each resident of Manitou Springs to detail their concerns.

Among these problems is an arrangement between the city and the only bid submitter, Bestway. Currently, Manitou Springs contracts with Springs Waste Systems to service the park and city facilities. If the city contracts with Bestway, Manitou Springs will pay almost \$22,000 more for this same service. Given that Bestway will be charged a \$48,000 annual franchise fee to be the sole trash hauler for the city, a skeptical person might interpret this situation as the city giving Bestway (the minority service provider) a \$22,000 discount on their franchise fee by contracting at a 285% higher cost for the same service the city currently receives from Springs Waste at a much lower cost.

This push by the city to mandate a single waste service is plagued with other problems as well, many of which were addressed in a previous editorial.

It is my opinion that we should encourage our council persons to abandon this single waste service program which fails to meet most of its own goals or if city council is insistent on pursuing this course that they fix the problems in the contract and the bid proposal so that it is a competitive process with other bidders and restart the bidding process, thereby removing any appearance of impropriety.

Additionally, they should provide an "opt-out" choice for people who do not want trash service or multi-family units of 4 or more. If you agree with this please call or write your city council or email them at CityCouncil@comsgov.com.

Thank you.

Eric Fredrickson

I was just reading the Pikes Peak Bulletin that I received yesterday, and could not believe what I was reading! I am not sure if I totally understand, but it looks like that unless we have a building six units or over, we are going to have who picks up our garbage forced onto us?

Those residents who have chosen to take their trash to the dump themselves, or maybe they use all recyclable items, and take them to a specific charity that collets them for profit, will also be forced into this program and have to pay, too? Has Manitou become a little Washington, D.C.? Please, please, please tell me that the reason I love, and moved to Manitou Springs, isn't being taken away? Number one, I like my garbage man, and I do not care for Bestway.

For starters, I am 99 percent sure that it was their truck that knocked off my neighbors side view mirror, as when we heard the crash, only one vehicle was driving away when we ran out.

Guess who? A big red truck! The same truck that I have called in to their main office several times for speeding backwards up to the top of Elk and Deer Path, where children play.

This makes me very unhappy to see that the community where I live is going to govern who I have to do business with! It is not only unfair, but sits on the edge of a dictatorship in my eyes, or is there a way that residents can opt out?

Will Bestway also be offering to pick up the trash that our beloved bears drag into the street on a minimum of a biweekly basis? I know me for one will not be going out at 6 a.m. anymore this summer to reload the trash that has been strewn all over from the night before! Would it not be a better idea to impose a regulation on those companies who wish to operate in Manitou, to be forced into using ecology friendly trucks? One must wonder what's next. One restaurant, one gift shop, one gas station? Of course not, they bring revenue into our city! I truly believe that the council has made a big mistake in doing this, and hope that they will reconsider this decision!

I have also always thought it unfair that Manitou forces property owners to pay water bills that tenants have left behind, and now this. If a bill is left behind by a tenant for gas or electric, Springs Utilities goes after the person whose name was on the bill, and who is, and should be legally responsible.

One of my main concerns is that property owners that have two or more properties next to each other, as we do in several places in town, that now use one dumpster for two or three properties should not be forced to have two or three in its place, obviously raising the cost of our operation.

I am very saddened by the choices I have made now on the last election. I feel there are many other ways that the city council could make Manitou Springs more ecology friendly other than this! I love my city and encourage people/tourists to shop here and eat at our restaurants. As you know I am downtown most of the summer days and am constantly offering tourists directions to shops and different springs that we have, as well as suggesting different attractions to them that keep their money here in Manitou.

Should I be sending them to Denver to help keep our air clean so that their cars will not be polluting Manitou's air? Once again I plead with council to reconsider this decision, for the good of our city.

**Sincerely,
Rev. Alan M. Lenich, DD**

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