

**Agenda Item: Resolution****Title: RESOLUTION 2020-07, ESTABLISHING THE INTENT OF THE GOVERNING BODY TO DIMINISH AND REGULATE RETAIL-USE PLASTIC BAG WASTE****Possible Motions:**

- A) *Abstain from Moving the Resolution (Failure to Introduce)*
- B) *Move to Approve Resolution 2020-07, Establishing the Intent of the Governing Body to Diminish and Regulate Retail-Use Plastic Bag Waste Within the City of Laramie and Authorize, the Mayor and Clerk to sign.*

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**Administrative and/or Policy Goal:**

Strategic, coordinated planning between Elected Officials, Management & Staff to ensure the public policy objectives of the Governing Body are accomplished.

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**Background:****WORK SESSION / HISTORY:**

On December 10, 2019, City Council received requested information concerning plastic bag waste within the municipality which is re-stated below in italics, and within the attachment hereto titled *PlasticBagWasteDec2019*. In addition, two members of the Laramie Youth Council, Owen Reese and Leila Johnson, spoke at the work session to request the Governing Body implement a fee on retail-use plastic bags.

*Retail-use plastic bags are re-useable and recyclable. Currently, Laramie residents who choose to utilize plastic bags for retail transactions handle these items in three primary ways: disposal at the landfill; reuse until the useful life of the bag is exhausted; and/or recycling through local grocery stores.*

*Across the United States, municipalities use a variety of strategies to manage retail-use plastic bag waste. Cities have established strong public education campaigns to inform consumers about ways to reduce use of plastic bags, as well as how to reuse and recycle them responsibly. A wide range of municipal regulatory structures have been implemented across the U.S., depending upon the public policy objective of the community. Communities seeking to attain zero-waste and/or environmental objectives often ban the retail-use of plastic bags. Other cities have implemented regulations that effectively "commoditize" retail-use plastic bags, with consumers choosing whether to purchase plastic bags at the point-of-sale; the fee paid for bags is then used to cover the city's cost of managing plastic bag waste.*

- a. *Impacts of Plastic Bag Waste*

- b. *Pros & Cons of Regulating Plastic Bag Waste*
- c. *General Overview of Waste-Reduction Policies*

*City Council requested this work session on plastic bag waste in September; that same month, Laramie Youth Council (LYC) Member Owen Reese & Councilor Harrington asked the LYC at "Pitch Day" to consider plastic bag waste as part of their issue agenda for the 2019-20 school year (see attachment Reese-Harrington.PlasticBags). LYC determined to take up the issue and has been considering plastic bag waste simultaneous to, but separately from, the work of City Staff. With this in mind, the City Manager has allotted time on the agenda for LYC to update City Council on the progress of their research.*

**RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDER / NEW INFORMATION &/or DISCUSSION:**

The Resolution for consideration allows City Council to formalize its intent, if any, to address retail-use plastic bag waste within the municipality. The prepared Resolution 2020-07 reflects the Staff recommendation presented at the work session as a starting point for discussion. However, it is fully within Council's authority to amend this resolution in part, or wholly by substitution, as the Body may deem appropriate.

If Council adopts the resolution as written City government will attempt first to diminish utilization of plastic bags in the community through a public education program spanning 12-18 months and beginning sometime after July 1, 2020. Thereafter, the resolution would have the City evaluate the efficacy of the public education program and consider the need for adopting municipal code requirements (up to and including an outright ban on retail-use plastic bags) in subsequent years.

**Responsible Staff:**

Janine Jordan, City Manager

**Attachment(s):**

- 1) PlasticBagWasteDec2019 – *from 12-10-19 work session*
- 2) Reese-Harrington.PlasticBags – *from 12-10-19 work session*
- 3) Resolution 2020-07