RESOLUTION 2 - 19

By: Troy Markham

A resolution supporting the City of Bexley in applying for a proposed grant through the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio in order to incentivize the use of re-usable bags in Bexley.

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown the negative environmental and health effects of plastics and the chemicals used to produce them; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented the prevalence of plastic carry-out bags littering the environment, blocking storm drains, becoming entangled in tree tops, and fouling beaches; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags and other plastic products are a substantial source of marine debris, responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of marine animals due to ingestion or entanglement each year; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown the presence of micro plastics in terrestrial and marine life systems throughout the entire planet, resulting in a wholesale contamination of the food supply due to the proliferation of plastic litter and plastic breakdown products; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags cause operational problems at recycling processing facilities, landfills, and transfer stations, and contribute to litter throughout the Columbus region; and

WHEREAS, numerous states and cities throughout the United States have enacted single-use plastic bag and single use plastic bans, resulting in dramatic decreases in plastics waste; and

WHEREAS, major countries throughout the world have banned plastic bags and/or single use plastics, or announced a ban of all single-use plastics by 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bexley, Ohio has the duty to protect the natural environment, the economy and the health of its residents, wildlife and visitors of the city; and

WHEREAS, a core component of the adopted Mission of the City of Bexley is to "Protect, preserve, and enhance Bexley's natural and developed environment"; and

WHEREAS, via proposed Ordinance 14-19, the City hopes to encourage the use of reusable bags as a solution to help curb the negative environmental impact of single use plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, numerous Bexley businesses have shown their support for the proposed ordinance, and have suggested an innovative program to provide a positive incentive to Bexley consumers to reuse bags; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bexley administration is proposing a grant program to assist Bexley businesses in incentivizing consumers to bring their own re-usable bags while shopping, even prior to any proposed mandatory charge for single-use bags; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) has been identified as a potential partner in creating such a grant program, with the City of Bexley Refuse Fund also providing support; and

WHEREAS, the next SWACO grant cycle closes in June of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the grant

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY:

Section 1.

That this Council hereby supports the concept of a grant application to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, with the following general concept:

1. The City will apply for a grant from SWACO for up to $10,000, and provisionally pledge, subject to City Council approval, up to $10,000 of matching funds from the Refuse Fund.
2. The grant will be used to subsidize a discount/incentive program for customers who bring their own reusable bags to shop at Bexley businesses.
3. The grant-funded incentive shall not exceed the lesser of: 50% of the value of the incentive, or $0.05 per transaction.
4. The grant-funded incentive program will expire on June 1, 2020.
5. This program, based on this specification, will have the capacity to assist with the incentivization of 400,000 transactions in Bexley in which re-usable bags would be used in lieu of single-use plastic bags.

Section 2.

That this Resolution shall go into effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: _5-28_, 2019

Lori Ann Feibel, President of Council

Attest: _____

Clerk of Council

Approved: _May_, 2019

Ben Kessler, Mayor

First Reading: 4-23-19
Second Reading: 5-14-19
Third Reading: 5-28-19