

ITEM 10
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 49
COUNCIL MEETING 1979 07 16

RE: ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
CONVERSION OF VEHICLES TO PROPANE

The following report from the Municipal Engineer contains information on an inquiry which was made by Council on 1979 May 28 in connection with a report on Energy Conservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report of the Municipal Engineer be received for information purposes.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 79 06 05
FROM: MUNICIPAL ENGINEER
SUBJECT: ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM - CONVERSION OF VEHICLES
TO PROPANE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At the Council meeting on 79 05 28 a question was asked arising from Item 1, Manager's Report No. 40, with respect to the possibility and feasibility of converting Municipal vehicles in order to use propane fuel.

Approximately 8 years ago we converted a refuse vehicle from gasoline to propane for experimental purposes. We experienced severe problems especially in winter with regulator freezing and it was not unusual to lose half a day before the vehicle would run properly.

More recent research has shown that the regulator problem has been solved but there are many other disadvantages. The cost of converting one vehicle at this time would be approximately \$1,500. There would be an 18% saving in the cost of fuel but a 28% loss in miles per gallon. We would have to install a 1,000 gallon tank for propane in the Works Yard plus all the safety features required by law and the location of large scale storage for all vehicles in the midst of a residential area would create a possible hazard which would be unacceptable.

We have had discussions with the Cigas Company who would seem to have the best conversion record and have concluded that a wholesale conversion at this time would not be in our best interests.

We will continue to observe developments in this field and are looking with considerable interest at trials being conducted using hydrogen fuel which is being hailed as the ultimate fuel of the future.

This is for the information of Council.

Wackwitz-Ross
MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

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