

The City's New Street Sweeper Arrives

Meet the Schwarze A7 Tornado

On November 20th the City's new street sweeper arrived at Public Works. The Stormwater and Street crews were excited to see this much-needed new piece of equipment arrive after it was ordered all the way back in January. Crews were given a quick run through of the new sweepers capabilities as well as ran checks to make sure everything was working correctly. Public Works crews will be given extensive training on the new equipment in December. In the coming months you might be seeing both the old and the new sweepers around town as staff are trained on the new equipment.

The existing Elgin Crosswind sweeper was purchased new in 2007 under a lease to own program. The Stormwater Utility Division was established in 2006. At that time, it was determined that the City could provide street sweeping operations in-house with existing staff at a lower cost than that of the contracted service the City was using before, while providing superior service.

Street sweeping is a recognized Best Management Practice (BMP) to remove harmful metals (from automotive brakes) such as copper and zinc, as well as hydrocarbons, oils, greases, fuels, chemicals, and litter from the roadways before they can get into the stormwater system which ultimately leads to our local waterways and groundwater resources. With sixteen years of service, the City's street sweeper has logged 5,781 hours sweeping Florence streets covering 59,434 miles in the process. While it has provided the City with exceptional service over this time, the last several years we have seen more than \$60,000 in repairs. Typically, street sweepers have a 12-15 year service life. With the existing street sweeper, the repairs and down time cost had become such that the City determined the best use of funds would be to replace the old sweeper.

The new Schwarze A7 Tornado streetsweeper features a twin-engine design that allows for low single engine speeds and low noise during operation. The Peterbilt 220 chassis "cab over" or cab forward design provides the operator better vision of their surroundings since street sweeping is always in very close proximity to obstacles such as mailboxes, trees, parked vehicles, bicycles and even pedestrians. One of the more important safety factors concerning a "cab over" design for a commercial truck chassis is the ability to operate in extremely tight spaces on our local streets and it allows operators to navigate intersections with low impact to surrounding traffic. This configuration will help Public Works staff to provide this critical service and be able to promote a safe environment to motorists.

Some other features of the new Schwarze A7 Tornado streetsweeper include:

- Left- and right-hand steering
- Larger pony engine which equals more suction and less time on the road
- Ability to move the side broom laterally, rather than moving the truck, is a safety feature to keep the operator out of traffic
- Independent and variable speed brooms
- Largest sweeping head to move more volume of material
- Suction and pressure tubes access at ground level in case of blockage
- Sawtooth screens have more surface area and will not clog up as fast due to the design
- 3CR12 stainless steel

- Stainless steel debris box
- Deluge saves time on clean up

If you see our Stormwater Utility Division crews on the streets in the new sweeper, make sure to wave hello as they work to keep the streets free of debris and contaminants.