

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**Special Committee on Solid Waste**

 **March 3, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Convened: 10:00 am Meeting Adjourned: 11:25 am

Attendance: CM Salem (Chair), CM Morgan (Vice Chair), CM Carlucci, CM White,

Also: Kim Taylor and Phillip Peterson, Auditor’s Office; Trisha Bowles, Office of General Counsel; Richard Distel, Council Research

Chair Salem called the meeting to order and went over the agenda.

Bill Brinkley, Republic Services, went over a PowerPoint that gave an overview of the biggest challenges they face in recycling. Mr. Brinkley stressed education as a key factor in making sure the public is aware what is recyclable. Mr. Brinkley said that issues regarding quality and containment are important to make sure the items can be recycled and stressed that no plastic bags should be used when recycling. Mr. Brinkley also talked about the issues with glass and the need for simplicity in recycling.

Brian Hughes, Mayor’s Office, talked about the city’s ability to not include glass in recycling. Mr. Hughes said that they are prepared to remove glass and readying the mov back to curbside in four weeks. Mr. Hughes talked about the economic considerations for removing glass.

CM Salem said he is an advocate for a dynamic process and said that glass has been a proven loss for the city for many years. Mr. Hughes emphasized the importance of education in terms of removing glass and general recycling. CM Salem said that the goal should be to remove glass, focus on a clear and simplified education for the public, and to work to lower the contamination levels. CM Morgan asked about the new glass sorting system that Republic just purchased. Mr. Brinkley said the new system cost $490,000. CM Morgan asked if other municipalities are getting rid of glass. Mr. Brinkley said no, but they are all losing money on glass. CM Carlucci said he is not sold on removing glass and said the focus should be on making sure recycling isn’t left in plastic bags. CM White said he is for removing glass.

Mr. Hughes showed an education video with the mayor which discusses recycling. Mr. Hughes talked about the educational effort from the city and how covid-19 impacted that effort. Mr. Hughes talked about the Waste Wizard app which helps to educate the public on what items are recyclable. Mr. Hughes emphasized the administration’s support and effort to make recycling work and whatever is needed they are focused on creating a clear message.

John Pappas, Public Works, gave a presentation which defined the Unified Systems and went over considerations for other options to have impacts on recycling. A Unified System contemplates having recycling service for all commercial, business, and multi-family properties in the City of Jacksonville. Chair Salem asked if any municipalities are using this system. Mr. Pappas said that a couple of counties have mandated it within multi-family facilities, and that his team is doing more research on what other municipalities are doing.

Chair Salem discussed what goals and ideas he would like to outline after this meeting. Chair Salem said that there must be a decision on glass, to use a yearly review from Mr. Pappas to decide what items to recycle, significant education from now until April 4th when curbside recycling services return, significant education with the yearly budget explore a process to encourage apartments, condos, and businesses to recycle, implementation of App for recycling (Waste Wizard), and the encourage the use of the city website for curbside recycling information.

CM Morgan talked about the need for buy in from local partners. Chair Salam said that the next meeting will focus on the transfer stations.

Public Comment

Carnell Oliver talked about incentives being used to bring companies to Jacksonville.

John Nooney talked about the educational component of recycling.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research

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