

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

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**Special Committee on Solid Waste**

**April 7, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Convened: 10:00 am Meeting Adjourned: 11:32 am

Attendance: CM Salem (Chair), CM Morgan (Vice Chair), CM Carlucci, CM Boylan (visiting), and CM Freeman (visiting)

Also: Kim Taylor, Phillip Peterson and Brian Parks, 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.

John Pappas went over the history of the solid waste fee with a handout that detailed the ordinances that have set up this structure.

Trisha Bowles explained what legislation would be required to alter the fee. Ms. Bowles explained the process required under the municipal code to raise the fee up to $18 and what it would take to raise the fee above $18.

Kim Taylor, Auditor’s Office, went over the options that the Auditor’s Office had created for raising the solid waste fee. Ms. Taylor said the projections can vary based on the costs, but these options give an overall picture on how the loan could be paid. CM Gaffney asked if an option of $18 fee be projected. Ms. Taylor said they could run that, but an $18 fee would not pay off the loan.

Joey Greive, Chief Financial Officer, went over the accumulation of the loan and went over the revenue relative to the expenses of solid waste. CM Morgan asked about the option of paying off the loan through the general fund. Mr. Greive said that the interlocal agreement does not allow for a straight transfer of funds to be done to pay off the loan. Mr. Greive talked about those complications in paying off the loan. Brian Hughes, Chief Administrative Officer, talked about the interlocal agreement and if changes were made to this aspect, it would open a can of worms. CM Boylan asked if the loan could be forgiven. Ms. Bowles said that the loan could not be forgiven, because it would impact thee interlocal agreement. CM Boylan said the best path forward is to look at the inequity in the fee process. Mr. Hughes clarified that outside of downtown one unit gets the same fee. CM Gaffney asked if you could change the fees to reflect the size of the unit. Ms. Bowles said that can be done based on the number of cans or the size of the unit.

Mr. Hughes gave an update on the return of curbside recycling. Mr. Hughes talked about the need for more education around recycling and they are working with the haulers to communicate the schedule to the public. Chair Salem emphasized the importance of education in terms of curbside recycling.

Public Comment

Ayesha Covington talked about small homes and large homes paying the same amount for the solid waste fee. Lawrence Locklin talked about the impact a transfer station can have on the surrounding community. Steve Diebenow talked about how the proposed transfer station location is already zoned for heavy industrial and fits the criteria in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Carnell Oliver talked about the tipping fee.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research

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