

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-255-5137

**Special Committee on Solid Waste**

**April 21, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Convened: 10:00 am Meeting Adjourned: 11:12 am

Attendance: Chair Salem; CMs Carlucci and White

Also: Kim Taylor, Phillip Peterson and Brian Parks, Auditor’s Office; Trisha Bowles, Office of General Counsel; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Chair Salem called the meeting to order and recognized the Mayors of Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach, Ellen Glasser and Elaine Brown. Mayor Glasser spoke about the possibility of eliminating the solid waste fee and rolling the expense into the General Fund, as discussed in previous meetings. Both Beaches Mayors expressed their opposition to the fee elimination plan, noting that it would effectively be double taxation for beaches residents. They also shared that the Jacksonville Beach Mayor, Christine Hoffman, agrees but could not be present at the meeting.

John Pappas, Public Works, gave a presentation on the status of the three solid waste hauler contracts, with Meridian Waste, Waste Management and Waste Pro USA. Mr. Pappas explained the terms associated with each entity. Meridian Waste terms: Automated Collections for Recycling only; Garbage/Bulk Collections together; Separate Yard Waste Collections; Compliance Requirements/Performance Penalties Missed Collection…collect by next day or $100 each…no maximum. WastePro of Florida terms: Automated Collections for Garbage/Recycling; Separate Bulk Collections; Separate Yard Waste Collections; Compliance Requirements/Performance Penalties Missed Collection…collect by next day or $25 each Missed Route…collect by next day or $150 each. Waste Management of Florida terms: Automated Collections for Recycling only; Garbage/Bulk Collections together; Separate Yard Waste Collections; Compliance Requirements/Performance Penalties Missed Collection…collect by next day or $25 each Missed Route…collect by next day or $150 each.

John Pappas discussed dwelling costs for contract haulers. Meridian Waste: 78.7K Premises; $22.44 per Premise (1st 6 months – Oct ‘21 through Mar ‘22) \*; $16.42 per Premise (Apr ‘22 through Sep ‘22) \* Annual CPI Increase & Rate Review every 3 Years (Next Rate Review ’23/’24). WastePro of Florida: 78.7K Premises; $14.66 per Premise ($14.33 with Temp Yard Waste Disposal Site); \*Annual CPI Increase & Rate Review every 3 Years (Next Rate Review ’21/’22 – Currently Underway). Waste Management of Florida 75.8K Premises $10.65 per Premise \* Annual CPI Increase & Rate Review every 3 Years (Next Rate Review ’21/’22 – Currently Underway). Mr. Pappas noted that fuel is compensated by separately from Contractor Premise Charge using prepaid fuel cards.

Mr. Pappas talked about the Rate Review Provided for in Section 382.309, *Ordinance Code.* The reviews are conducted every three years of a contract and consider the numbers of residences in the service area, operating expenses, projected expenses, rate of return, contractor reserves and Auditor/Mayor recommendations. Mr. Pappas said that the review is quite thorough and includes site visits for verification. Kim Taylor, Council Auditor, said that her office works within the review process to examine past and projected expenses, as well as capital expenses and maintenance. She also said that such reviews are time intensive (several months long) and that they have saved the City money.

There was a discussion regarding service area size and how that impacts performance. The city currently has four separate areas for waste collection: Central Historic City Core Area, Serviced by the City of Jacksonville Solid Waste Division 51,442 Premises; Service Area I – West and Southwestern Areas, Serviced by Waste Management of Florida, 75,810 Premises; Service Area II – Northwest and Northeast Areas, Serviced by Meridian Waste 78,219 Premises; Service Area III – East-Southeast Areas Serviced By WastePro of Florida 78,673 Premises. Mr. Pappas said that since Jacksonville is a growing city, the service areas could expand to 80,000 plus dwellings, which could impact service. He indicated that some research shows that 55-60,000 dwellings might be ideal for efficient service, and that smaller areas could increase competitive bids by smaller haulers. CM Salem asked for input from the haulers in attendance on this issue. Mr. Shepler, Meridian Waste, said that his company prefers larger areas, and that they could take on two areas if accepted to do so. He also mentioned that they are now fully staffed, that yard waste is at its peak at this time of year, and that the recently restarted recycling collection is going well after a few hiccups regarding confusion about pickup dates. The representatives from Waste Pro concurred that they prefer large service areas, and said they are fully staffed due in part to a 30 percent wage increase. The Waste Management representative indicated that they are comfortable with the service area size and he also mentioned the heavy volume of yard waste in spring.

Bill Brinkley, Republic Services, spoke about recycling at the processing center. He said that the volume is almost back to normal after the pause in collections, and he emphasized not using plastic bags to collect/dispose of recyclables as it is problematic for the processing. The Materials Recycling Facility Processed Material at MRF From COJ Temporary Recycling Sites (10/4/21 – 4/1/22) 15 Tons per Day (Monday through Friday); From Residential Curbside Recycling Collections (4/4/22 – 4/16/22…2 weeks) 124 Tons per Day (Monday through Friday).

Chair Salem said that the next meeting will be in two weeks and will cover new technologies in the industry.

Public Comment

Norman Brewers spoke in opposition to a proposed waste transfer station on Greenland Road in Mandarin.

Lawrence Locklin spoke in opposition to a proposed waste transfer station on Greenland Road in Mandarin, and raised concerns about public health, EPA guidelines, traffic, noise and litter. He also mentioned that he would like to see more public outreach from Waste Pro regarding the site.

Ashley Reed spoke in opposition to a proposed waste transfer station on Greenland Road in Mandarin, and she raised concerns about the proximity to residences and risks to public health, EPA guidelines, traffic, noise and litter.

Kuldeep Naik spoke in opposition to a proposed waste transfer station on Greenland Road in Mandarin, and he questioned the appropriateness of the proposed location.

Steve Diebenow, Waste Pro, talked about how the proposed transfer station location is already zoned for heavy industrial, and he said that there will be public participation in the process.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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