



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, February 17, 2020
6:00 PM

Pre-Council

Conference Room
1A/1B
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:01 p.m.

Present: 7 - Ruffin, Trapp, Thomas, Peters, Treece, Skala, and Pltzer

Solid Waste Ordinances, Policies and Practices

Attachments: [Solid Waste Presentation](#)

Dave Sorrell, Assistant Director of City Utilities, stated that the presentation tonight will focus on ordinances and operational practices and conflicts, will present changes for consideration, and present staffing issues leading to potential service reductions.

Mr. Sorrell explained that Section 22-159 of the City Code states that all material for collection must be in a bag, disposable containers, or securely bound bundles not greater than four (4) feet in length, two (2) feet in diameter, and shall not exceed fifty (50) pounds total weight each. He added that it is not uncommon to have inappropriate materials placed curbside for collection and he showed photos citing examples. He stated that staff currently does take the extra time to pick these items up even though the items are placed there in violation of the ordinance. Mr. Glascock added that there is some degree of customer service they want to provide, but this is going well above that expectation. Mayor Treece asked if there is a mechanism for collectors to call in these addresses and skip that pick-up in order to address the issue later by contacting the property owner. Mr. Sorrell stated that there is nothing currently in place set up for that.

Mr. Sorrell explained that Section 22-159 also addresses special pickups. A special pickup for residential customers will be provided on a continuous basis at no additional charge. Mr. Sorrell added that this ordinance has some restrictions about what can be placed and where, but nothing specifying when the item can be set out and when it might be picked up.

Mr. Sorrell suggested some changes for Council consideration including the following:

- Current ordinances should be enforced and staff should not pick up items that are not in bags or bundles. Mayor Treece asked how staff will be empowered to enforce these issues. Mr. Sorrell stated that a policy or ordinance would need to be in place and staff training would need to occur so they know how to handle these issues.
- Limit the total number of bags and/or bundles that can be disposed each week. Council seemed supportive of this idea and briefly discussed possible bag limit amounts. Mayor Treece suggested the cap be generous and suggested ten bags per week.
- Eliminate special pickup and require use of containers when excessive amounts of refuse need to be disposed. Mayor Treece felt that at some point an issue of illegal dumping could be triggered by a change in the process. Mr. Glascock suggested making

the drop-off free instead of a \$10 payment to encourage more people to haul their items instead of leaving it curbside.

- Retain special pickup change requirements to include: all items to be placed in bags, disposable containers or bundled, except bulky items, a chair for example. A special pickup must be scheduled and institute a charge similar to commercial hand pickup which is in Section 22-161 as a service charge for hand pickup of businesses or commercial places, boarding and rooming houses, fraternities and sororities. There was general Council agreement for a revision of the special pick up.

Mr. Sorrell explained that there are staffing issues that need to be considered. There are currently 13 vacancies in refuse collector positions and staff injuries further reduce personnel available for duty. He added that there are currently 13 staff available with the required CDL for curbside collection of refuse and recycling. There are 13 drivers are required each day. When there are less than 13 drivers, routes must be split and/or supervisors must driver the routes or we are supplementing with temp help. Ten or fewer drivers results in the need to cancel curbside collection of recyclable materials. He added that these are ongoing issues and it appears cancellation will be necessary more frequently in the future.

Mr. Skala asked if the wage increase helped with recruitment. Mr. Sorrell stated that did not help with recruitment and retention. He feels the issue is not having enough people with the CDL looking for work in the community. We do have a program to train employees to obtain a CDL. Mr. Sorrell reviewed the amounts spent on temp help for solid waste over the past years starting at over \$54,000 in 2016 increasing to \$73,000 (2017), \$188,000 (2018), \$504,000 (2019), and \$205,000 year to date for 2020. The group briefly discussed roll carts. Mr. Sorrell added that even if we switched to a roll cart system, we do not have enough staff to operate the system as CDL's would still be needed. Ms. Peters suggested immediate actions be taken to start on the other items such as bag limits. Mr. Sorrell stated he will bring something forward in the next few months.

II. ALL OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

Mr. Sorrell asked if there is general Council support to name a private drive at the Wastewater Plant after a deceased employee who passed away while he was actively employed at that facility. Council agreed that would be appropriate. Mr. Sorrell will bring forth something for Council approval.

Mr. Glascock added that the audit RFP is out and a few comments have come back on them. The comment period will be open for 30 days.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:47 p.m.