



Department Source: City Utilities - Solid Waste

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Re: Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to residential curbside refuse and recycling collection.

## Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to modify residential curbside collection. The modifications proposed are intended to improve working conditions for the collections staff by reducing the potential for large volumes of refuse and large bulky items being placed at the curb for collection.

## Discussion

Solid Waste staff provided a presentation to the City Council on February 17, 2020 regarding the continual vacancies in the Solid Waste Division and concerns with the placement of large amounts of refuse at the curb in a manner that did not seem to comply with current ordinances. This issue with the disposal of large quantities of materials and not properly bagging or bundling the materials was brought to our attention by collections staff. At that time, the following items were being investigated:

- Enforcement of current ordinances.
- Limiting the number of bags or bundles that can be placed at the curb.
- Eliminating special pickup and requiring the use of containers for excessive amounts of refuse.
- Retaining special pickup and adjusting requirements for collection of bulky items.

Since February, additional modifications have been proposed including the possibility to only collect items in City issued refuse bags.

Staff is proposing these modifications to Chapter 22 to address these issues. The major changes to the Code are summarized below:

1. Section 22-159 (a): An add pay of \$5.00 per hour for city staff performing the manual collection of residential curbside collection is proposed. This would be an additional expense of approximately \$354,224 for the 28 positions in curbside collections. The revisions include a rate increase of \$0.85 per month for residences receiving curbside collections to cover this additional proposed expense. This results in the rate going from \$16.52 to \$17.37 per month.
2. Section 22-159 (b): Currently the City provides 50 refuse bags per year to residences receiving curbside collection. Changes to this section will increase the number of bags provided to 104 per year (2 bags per week.) The wording was also changed to include the reference to vouchers being provided similar to Section 22-159.1 (c) for blue recycling bags. This number of refuse bags will allow the average residence to dispose of all refuse in a calendar year. Additional bags will be available in rolls containing 5 bags for \$2.00 per bag.



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

3. Section 22-159 (i): This section was changed to require all material to be placed in a City provided refuse bag which bears the City logo. Bundles and loose material would no longer be collected.
4. Section 22-159 (k): This section was changed regarding bulky item collection. It requires the collection to be scheduled and establishes a charge of \$21.50 for collection of a single item and \$5.00 for each additional item. It also allows for each residence receiving curbside collection to dispose of one bulky item annually at no additional cost.
5. Section 22-159(n): This changes the charge for collection of major appliance to be \$21.50 for appliances without refrigerant and \$29.00 for items with refrigerant. This makes the collection charge for appliances the same as that proposed for bulky items.
6. Section 22-159 (o): This section was changed to reference the potential to refer violations to the City Prosecutor. In addition, the charges for the City to collect unlawfully placed items was increased to reflect the use of a roll off container, the landfill tip fees and time charges for staff required to load the material into the container, as follows: \$72.15 plus \$55 per ton plus \$1.15 per collection minute with a five minute minimum. In addition, the Solid Waste Division proposes to fund and additional Code Enforcement Specialist in the Community Development Department to address unlawfully placed material and illegal dumping at a cost of approximately \$66,699 annually.

The changes proposed are believed to help in recruiting and retaining collection personnel due to the increase in pay and the improved working conditions with the limitations of material disposal at the curb. Additional anticipated benefits of these changes are:

- An estimated reduction in curbside refuse of approximately 6000 tons annually.
- An increase in recycling participation resulting in an increase of approximately 2000 ton of recyclable material annually.

It is proposed that the revisions to all sections except 22-159 (b) and (i) become effective November 1, 2020. This will allow time to make customers aware of the changes approved by Council prior to modifying collections. The changes to 22-159 (b) and (i) are proposed to be effective February 1, 2011. This will allow time to make customers aware of the changes and time to advertise and award a bid for refuse bags with the City emblem, manufacture the bags, distribute the bags to local stores and provide new vouchers for the bags.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: An increase in the Solid Waste Budget of approximately \$354,224 for the additional pay for refuse collectors. This is offset by a proposed rate increase equivalent to \$0.85 per month for residences receiving curbside collections. An increase of approximately \$586,000 annually for additional refuse bags and an increase of approximately \$66,699 for the Solid Waste Division to fund a Code Enforcement Specialist to enforce unlawful placement of material and illegal dumping. The additional costs are anticipated to be



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

offset by charges for additional refuse bags, bulky items collections and collection of unlawfully placed materials.

Long-Term Impact: Same as short term impact.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

## Suggested Council Action

Approval of the ordinance.