



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Utilities - Solid Waste

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 5, 2022

Re: Supplemental Information – Customer Input - Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to City provided bags for residential curbside refuse collection.

Executive Summary

An ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the City Code to remove the requirement for the City to provide refuse bags and the requirement to use a City logo bag for residential curbside refuse collections was introduced at the November 21, 2022 Council meeting. To obtain feedback from customers on this proposed change, information was placed on the BeHeard.CoMo site on November 11, 2022, a customer input meeting was held on November 17, 2022 and a second customer input meeting was scheduled for November 30, 2022. The purpose of this memo is to summarize the customer input received to date and clarify some questions received from the input.

Discussion

The proposal to eliminate the requirement to use City logo bags for curbside collections was placed on the BeHeard.CoMo site on November 11, 2022 to receive input from customers. Attached is a report generated on November 18, 2022. During this time period, six questions were received, 112 comments provided and 82 visitors participated in a survey which asked "Do you want the City of Columbia to continue providing and requiring the use of logo trash bags?" 86.6% of respondents are in favor of eliminating the City provided bags.

In addition to feedback received through the BeHeard.CoMo site, staff held a customer input meeting on November 17, 2022. The sign in sheets from the meeting include 17 individuals that signed in. Three written comments were submitted at this meeting. A copy of the written comments is attached. One additional customer input meeting is scheduled on November 30, 2022. An updated report from the BeHeard.CoMo site will be available at the December 5, 2022 Council meeting.

From the feedback received on BeHeard.CoMo and the customer input meeting on November 17, 2022, it appears the majority of participants are in favor of eliminating the current requirement for the City to provide refuse bags and require the use of these bags.

Several questions were received regarding the reduced expenses and if rates would be reduced as a result. At this time, a reduction in current rates is not anticipated. A portion of the reduced expense to purchase bags will be used to offset increases in other operating expenses, wages, fuel, equipment, parts, etc. This will forgo a currently needed rate increase. Additional modifications to curbside collections will be considered in the future and the remainder of the reduced expenses will be utilized to help offset costs to implement changes, if approved by Council.



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Another topic of concern is use of the remaining bags in inventory and how to address bags for those customers not able to afford to purchase bags. The plan is to continue to provide vouchers that can be used until the current supply of bags is depleted.

It is anticipated that the City will partner with The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri to distribute the inventory of five count rolls of bags for those in need until the inventory is depleted.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Anticipated reduction in annual expenses of approximately \$1,154,000.

Long-Term Impact: Anticipated reduction in annual expenses of approximately \$1,154,000.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable 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
07/19/2021	B216-21 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to establish compensation to retailers for redeemed refuse and recycling bag vouchers.
09/21/2020	B211-20 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to residential curbside refuse and recycling collection.
08/17/2020	B212-20 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to eliminate the requirement of the City to provide bags for curbside collection of residential refuse and recycling and to eliminate residential curbside recycling collection. Defeated.

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the ordinance.