



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: March 6, 2023

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

Executive Summary

After receiving Council input at the February 28 work session, staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the City Code. The amendments proposed would allow current curbside collection operations to be converted to an automated collection system.

Discussion

Staff is proposing modifications to Chapter 22 of the City Code to allow the current residential curbside collection operation to be converted to an automated collection system. These proposed changes were developed following two customer input meeting held in January 2023 and then further refined following the Council work session on February 28, 2023. A summary of the customer input received is attached in a report prepared by Smiley Communications.

The major changes to the Code are summarized below:

1. Section 22-158 (b)(4): This section was changed to make it unlawful to place ashes, coals, bulky items, rocks, dirt or construction debris inside a refuse roll cart. This change will help protect the refuse roll cart from damage and from having items becoming lodged inside the cart.
2. Section 22-159: This section was changed to specify that all residential curbside customers would receive a refuse roll cart and that each customer can choose between a 35 - gallon, 65 - gallon or a 95 - gallon cart.
3. Section 22-159 (a)(1) Rates for curbside pickup: This section establishes the monthly rate for each size of refuse roll cart as follows:
 - 35 - gallon: \$12.87 per month
 - 65 - gallon: \$17.37 per month
 - 95 - gallon: \$22.50 per month
4. Section 22-159 (a) (2) Rates for additional refuse carts: Curbside customers with a 95 - gallon refuse cart may request additional 95 - gallon refuse cart(s) if additional capacity is required. The fee for each additional 95 - gallon refuse cart is \$13.50 per month.
5. Section 22-159 (c) Customer responsibility: This section was changed by adding requirements pertaining to the placement, retrieval and maintenance of the refuse roll cart as follows:



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- Carts shall be placed at the public curb or alley no earlier than 4:00 pm of the day preceding collection and no later than 6:30 am on the collection day.
 - Carts shall be removed from the curb or alley no later than 10:00 pm on the collection day.
 - Customers shall leave at least 3 feet between each cart and at least 8 feet from any other object, such as mail boxes and vehicles.
 - Carts are to be placed in locations with a minimum 15 feet of vertical clearance.
 - Only City-issued carts are to be set at the curb for service.
 - Cart lids must be completely closed for service.
 - Customers shall notify the City if carts are missing, stolen or damaged.
 - Damaged refuse carts will be replaced by City, but may charge customers for damages beyond "normal wear and tear".
 - Carts must be stored on private property on non-collection days.
 - Carts are the property of the City and must remain at the address assigned. City may remove carts from the property when the utilities are disconnected.
 - Customers shall keep carts reasonably clean so they do not attract flies, rodents, pest or cause a health concern.
6. Section 22-129 (f) Refuse cart exchanges: This section was added to provide a method for customers to request a smaller or larger size refuse roll cart. Customers may request to exchange their refuse cart for a smaller or larger size cart one time within the first 120 days of initially receiving the refuse cart at no charge. A \$25.00 exchange fee per cart will be charged for cart exchanges after the initial 120 day period.
7. Section 22-159 (m) House collection for physically disabled or handicapped: This section was changed to clarify that customers who are physically unable to transport their refuse cart to the curb may receive "house collection." The "house collection" service is currently offered for curbside customers with physical limitations and will continue to be provided in the automated operation framework.
8. Section 22-159 (o) Extra refuse cart collection: This section was added to provide a method for customers to request additional refuse cart collection service. Customers who would like to have their refuse roll cart emptied and are unable to wait until their next scheduled collection day may schedule an additional collection. The fee for this service is based upon the refuse roll cart size as follows:
- 35 – gallon: \$7.70 per collection
 - 65 – gallon: \$12.20 per collection
 - 95 – gallon: \$16.70 per collection

It is proposed that the revisions to all sections become effective March 4, 2024. The reason for the long time before the effective date is to allow for the delivery of collection vehicles. During this time, carts would be procured and modification to the route management contract would be processed. This will also allow time for staff to obtain the services of an education and communications consultant to develop and implement an educational program to inform and educate customers on changes to the program prior to modifying the operations.



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Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: It is estimated the purchase of roll carts and lease of vehicles will be approximately \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023. The funds are currently available in the fiscal year 2023 operating budget.

Long-Term Impact: Annual lease fees for vehicles is approximately \$900,000 per year. This will be included in the operating budget in future years. This increase is offset by reduction in other portions of the operating budget and no significant changes to the operations budget is anticipated due to the conversion to automated collections.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
05/16/2022	B130-22 Repealing Ordinance No. 024978 calling a special election to consider an initiative ordinance; repealing Sections 22-159(f), 22-159(g), 22-159.1(d) and 22-159.1(e) of the City Code prohibiting the use of residential roll carts and automated refuse collection vehicles for roll carts.
04/04/2016	B76-16 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to commercial and multi-family housing refuse and recycling services and fees; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the ordinance.