

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Present were Mayor Venis (arrived at 6:56 p.m.), Vice-Mayor Weiner and Councilmembers Clark, Cox and Paul. Also present were Interim Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Acting Town Clerk McDaniel recording the meeting.

1. Waste Management

Vice-Mayor Weiner stated that this workshop was a continuation of a discussion which began at a prior Council meeting to discuss various proposed franchise agreement revisions with Waste Management .

Public Relations Coordinator Susan Dean pointed out that there were certain issues that had been on the table for two years, which need to be resolved: the vacation policy, the cart program change for commercial accounts, and the pilot program.

Councilmember Paul had a question regarding surveying the residents in the western area as to whether or not they would be interested in the cart program. She expressed reluctance in committing to the cart program without first determining what the residents would like to do.

Tony Spaddacia, Government Affairs Manager - Waste Management, indicated that they had come prepared to discuss cart collection programs, costs, and options.

Councilmember Paul confirmed that cart service would be included in any option presented. She asked that a survey be conducted, to which Mr. Spaddacia agreed. Councilmember Paul also mentioned better service and hydraulic oil spillage.

Vice-Mayor Weiner questioned the cost of the items in terms of dollars or other funding mechanisms proposed. Mr. Spaddacia replied that he had that information and provided copies to Council.

Mr. Spaddacia discussed each proposal in the franchise agreement. Carts would be 96 gallons which was able to hold a lot of refuse and discourage vermin. He agreed that the prime concern was the cost of acquiring and purchasing the carts, as well as specialized equipment and trucks. There were currently 17,500 residential billings, each of which would receive a 96-gallon cart, with approximately 20% needing an additional cart incurring a capital cost of \$145,000. Mr. Spaddacia advised that \$1,575,000 would be incurred for each residential dwelling to have an additional cart.

With regard to the commercial amendment, Waste Management proposed reduced levels of service for some commercial businesses to once-a-week collection and reducing two yard containers to 96-gallon commercial carts for non-restaurant and non-food service type businesses. There would be an adjustment of \$2 to \$5 per month depending on the level of service with the total cost of two times per week being \$196.65 and one time per week being \$110.52. The contract was designed to accommodate the needs of each individual business with no residential impact.

Ms. Dean indicated that the service level provided to a business would have to be approved by the Town and tracked for a period of time.

Councilmember Clark addressed the issue of dumpsters versus containers for multi-residential use. Councilmember Cox pointed out that dumpsters made it easier for landlords to control waste disposal at multi-unit residential dwellings. Bill Laystrom, representing Waste Management, stated that an arbitrary dividing line was set at three units to determine a residential customer or more of a commercial or rental facility.

Vice-Mayor Weiner opened the meeting for public comment.

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Neal Kalis reported that he owned a small business in Davie and previously had every-other-week pick up, but was recently informed that he had to use twice a week pick up per the franchise agreement. He was in favor of the proposal with the following concerns he asked to be addressed: that the service would include roll-in and roll-out, some way to lock the carts to prevent use by others, and that Waste Management be responsible for cart theft.

Mr. Spaddacia stated that the "snowbird" policy was in essentially the same form. A 90-day vacancy would allow for suspension of service, with adequate documentation, which was a form filled out by the resident with departure and return dates, etc. The resident was then credited on their account when they reinstated service.

In response to Vice-Mayor Weiner's question, Mr. Spaddacia stated that there was no vacation policy in the agreement and that the \$15 fee was for doing the paperwork to give the service credit. Vice-Mayor Weiner suggested that the Town do the paperwork to provide Waste Management with a list of residents not requiring service, which would then eliminate the \$15 fee.

Ms. Dean voiced concern regarding property caretakers and verifying that a residence was truly not occupied, in addition to the problems with back credits and residents receiving billing notices for service while they were away. She requested that Waste Management also discontinue billing when service was stopped or put a letter in with the bill advising of the credit procedure.

Mr. Laystrom asked Vice-Mayor Weiner if the Town would cover Waste Management from the day the residents return to the time they called to reinstate service.

Discussion continued regarding vacation billing and notification for reinstatement of service.

Vice-Mayor Weiner asked Council if they were interested in taking up the billing services for Waste Management, whereupon discussion took place regarding benefits and disadvantages of taking over the billing. Ms. Dean commented that if the Town took over the billing, residents would get a once a week bulk pick up, including yard waste.

Uncollectible billing procedures and past collection history were discussed.

John Casacredi, Vice President-Waste Management, asserted that they had put on a strong collection process, working together with staff and sending out letters. Approximately 10% of the residents had had service discontinued due to non-payment and he urged the Town to get involved through Code Compliance.

Ms. Dean stated that another option would be to put residential waste fees on the Broward County tax bill as a separate cost. General discussion continued regarding that suggestion. Councilmember Cox thought a survey through the Davie Update or public hearing would be warranted. Ms. Dean replied that surveys in the Davie Update did not traditionally generate much of a response, whereupon a suggestion was made to include the survey with mailed invoices, with supplemental information in the Davie Update.

Mr. Spaddacia advised that Waste Management would be willing to institute the pilot cart program prior to finalizing the agreement. A temporary commercial pilot program was recommended by Vice-Mayor Weiner. Ms. Dean suggested an amendment to the agreement be placed on the next Council agenda, as well as a Code amendment.

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Mr. Kalis pointed out that all property taxes were paid in arrears creating the problem that there would be no bill to the homeowner for ten months, possibly causing potential budgetary constraints.

Vice-Mayor Weiner recapped directions for staff to publicly advertise a public hearing on the commercial program and instituting a mail survey to the residents regarding billing options.

Mr. Kiar mentioned a commercial customer agreement that Waste Management was asking its commercial accounts to sign. He indicated that he had serious concerns regarding substantive terms of the agreement and asked Mr. Laystrom for a meeting. Mr. Laystrom signified that the terms of the franchise agreement with the Town would prevail over any other service agreements. Mr. Laystrom further acknowledged that no new contracts would be signed until the language dispute was resolved.

There being no objections or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

APPROVED _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk