

Orlando City Council - Workshop
Council Chambers, City Hall
400 South Orange Avenue
March 20, 2017

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer

Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1

Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2 (arrived at 10:05 A.M.)

Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4

Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5 (arrived at 10:05 A.M.)

Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6 (arrived at 10:07 A.M.)

Chief Assistant City Attorney Kyle Shephard

City Clerk Denise Aldridge

City Clerk Aide Carolyn Skuta

Police Officers Richard Patterson and Raul Zayas, Sergeants-at-Arms

Mayor Buddy Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. and announced the topic for today's workshop as Solid Waste Weekly Collection Pilot. Mayor Dyer began by stating that many of the City's businesses and residents have accepted the challenge to keep Orlando green by making improvements to their operations, homes and neighborhoods. Since 2012, residential recycling participation in the City of Orlando is up 20%, helping to further the goal to have 100% of solid waste diverted from landfills by 2040. Beginning in February 2016, the City launched a pilot program to encourage more resident participation in the City's recycling program, and to meet the demand for increased recycling service by current participants. The program selected seven Orlando neighborhoods where the Solid Waste Division increased recycling collection from once every other week to once per week, and reduced garbage collection from twice per week to once per week. The pilot was ultimately extended to one year.

Mayor Dyer called on Solid Waste Division Manager Mike Carroll to give an update on the pilot and present feedback received from residents to help decide whether to explore a city-wide implementation of the pilot. Mr. Carroll provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed as supplemental papers to the meeting.

Solid Waste Weekly Collection Pilot

Mr. Carroll explained that the Weekly Collection Pilot Program began as a six month pilot program which was extended to one year. Recycling was increased to weekly pick up rather than bi-weekly with regular garbage pickup reduced to once per week. He indicated the main reason the pilot program began was because customers were asking for it. Many customers asked for more recycling collection and noted they did not need twice a week garbage collection. As a result of increased recycling pickup and less regular garbage pickup, there are savings in fuel costs, less pollution and furthering the City's Green Works goal to divert 100% of waste by 2040.

Mr. Carroll listed the neighborhoods where the pilot was tested, which were chosen based on diverse demographics (size of household, race, income) and recycling rates. The main goal was to identify and address customer concerns such as additional pickups for special occasions, determining garbage volume of a large family and issuing a second cart at no extra charge if they recycle, increasing collections to four times per week (garbage, recycling, yard waste, bulky) and addressing ways to eliminate odors and pests from garbage cans. Mr. Carroll explained the pilot results included 4,200 homes. There was recycling growth of 242 new recyclers, with a 20% increase on one route whereas another area had very small recycle growth due to an already high number of recyclers.

Mr. Carroll reviewed the following lessons learned from the pilot program.

- Roll-out containers should be a phased implementation to allow solid waste staff to focus on questions and concerns from constituents, making the process run smoothly.
- Implement extensive educational outreach through meetings, social media, and door to door.
- Employ dedicated supervisor and part-time public outreach specialist.
- Use the same driver for recycling and garbage pickup for fewer errors.
- Rework bulky collection method to help yard waste disposal.
- Include a make-up day for holidays.

He indicated the cost savings in fuel was determined at 10% less when using pilot routes and a small increase in recycle tonnage resulting in \$420 per month saved in disposal. A pie chart was presented reflecting residential collection costs. The chart represented a decrease in fuel expenditures with the highest expenditure in disposal cost. He explained an increase in recycling can decrease cost. A summary was provided of what other nearby jurisdictions are doing regarding garbage pickup and recycling on a weekly basis to include bulky items (furniture, washers, dryers, etc.).

Mr. Carroll outlined the proposed next steps to expand the pilot citywide in three phases with one third of the City starting the pilot every eight weeks for a total of six months. He stated there would be one month of customer outreach before each phase to include meetings, letters, social media and an information locator webpage. He would like to amend the Solid Waste, Chapter 28 Code and offset the 4% annual rate increase in October based on the savings generated through the pilot programs. Phase 1 is due to begin on May 1, 2017 and would include Northwest neighborhoods, Phase 2 will begin on June 26, 2017 and include Southwest neighborhoods and far Southeast neighborhoods, and Phase 3 will begin on August 21, 2017 and include the neighborhoods east of I-4 as well as Rose Isle and Lake Formosa.

Mr. Carroll indicated that the Solid Waste Division expects to learn if recycling will increase during the expanded pilot. He expects the expansion to prove the great potential for large recycling increases in many of the neighborhoods. He hopes to achieve a greater success by providing education about how to recycle in each of these neighborhoods prior to and during the pilot phase.

At 10:26 a.m. Mr. Carroll concluded the presentation. The workshop was opened for comments and questions and discussion ensued.

At 10:55 a.m. the workshop was adjourned.

Denise Aldridge
City Clerk