

Orlando City Council Workshop  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
400 South Orange Avenue  
April 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer  
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1  
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2 (arrived at 10:07 A.M.)  
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4  
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5  
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6  
Chief Assistant City Attorney Kyle Shephard  
City Clerk Denise Aldridge  
Sr. Assistant City Clerk Elizabeth Davidson  
Police Officers James West and Chris Realin, 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 Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling proposal. Mayor Dyer began by noting that two weeks ago Solid Waste Division Manager Mike Carroll presented an update on a pilot program of weekly recycling and garbage collection for residential properties. Mayor Dyer noted that the current City Code does not require multi-family and commercial properties to recycle and asked Mr. Carroll to present a commercial and multi-family recycling proposal. Mr. Carroll provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed as supplemental papers to the meeting.

### **Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling Proposal**

Mr. Carroll opened the workshop by stating the City's commitment to sustainable practices and protection of the environment and the importance of recycling in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and the amount of energy and raw materials necessary to create products. He stated that most residents who live in multi-family housing or work in office buildings want the opportunity to recycle. A commercial and multi-family recycling program will help the City reach one of its waste diversion goals of zero-waste landfill by 2040. Since many people have expressed the desire to recycle where they live and work, the City's main goal in this effort is to create the opportunity for recycling.

Mr. Carroll stated that recycling costs about 50% less than garbage to collect because there is little to no disposal costs for recycled materials, compared to garbage disposal costs of approximately \$33.60 per ton, which can result in a 10% to 30% savings to most business and multi-family residences on their monthly waste bill. Since the City Code does not require recycling service for multifamily homes and commercial properties, most of those properties have been built with only the required garbage dumpster location. The concept of the multi-family and commercial recycling plan is based on best practices in several cities and counties in Florida, with Orlando's model being based on the city of San Diego, California. City staff is proposing code amendments to implement a multifamily and commercial property recycling program. One of the proposed amendments is to Chapter 58 of the Land Development Code to require recycling and garbage container sites be built on new properties or require substantial enlargement and substantial deviation from existing practices, such as five dumpsters being converted to three for garbage and two for recycling. An amendment to Chapter 28 of the City's Solid Waste Code would require people to submit and implement a one page recycling plan.

The proposal includes a phased approach for existing properties to implement a recycling program, including the ability for the properties to contract with any of the twenty nine registered recycling firms in Orange County or contract with the City for recycling services.

Commissioner Tony Ortiz arrived at the workshop.

The concept for creating a multifamily and commercial property recycling program has three components: six months of stakeholder outreach with developers, planners, architects, real estate groups and property management groups to present the concept and gather input, followed by analysis of the input received, and the subsequent development of details of the recycling program based on stakeholder input. To implement the program, the City will provide training and a Sustainability Project Manager to assist customers and review plans. Each property will be required to submit a recycling service plan for approval by the City and, once the approved plan is implanted, the property can choose the City's recycling service or a private one. A list of the 2016 Orange County Registered Recyclers was included in the PowerPoint presentation.

The proposal includes creating an ordinance with four phases for implementing a multifamily and commercial property recycling plan. Phase 1 will require new construction projects and developments to include both garbage and recycling facilities in order to receive a certificate of occupancy and would apply to permits pulled six months after the effective date of the ordinance being enacted. Phase 2 will require multifamily developments of more than 250 units (approximately 80 developments in Orlando) and commercial buildings over 200,000 square feet (approximately 100 properties in Orlando) to submit and implement a recycling plan within twelve months of the ordinance effective date. Phase 3 will require medium-sized multifamily properties with 75-249 units (approximately 100 in Orlando) and commercial buildings between 100,000-199,000 square feet (approximately 200 properties) to submit and implement a recycling plan within twenty four months of the ordinance effective date. Phase 4 will require all other properties outside of these categories to submit and implement a recycling plan within forty eight months of the ordinance effective date.

Mr. Carroll listed the benefits of a multifamily and commercial property recycling plan. The first benefit is the large impact on the total diversion of waste from the landfill as well as recovering a greater percentage of raw materials for reuse. The second benefit is the costs savings for businesses and property owners since recycling costs are significantly less than garbage fees. Increased recycling will also decrease garbage collection resulting in a reduction of the total waste bill between 10% and 30%, as well as reducing up to 50% of what would have been thrown away. The third benefit of the recycling concept is the drive of economy and growth, since strong waste reduction programs, such as commercial and multifamily recycling programs, can create new businesses and jobs, which strengthens the local economy.

Commissioner Hill called on Sustainability Director Chris Castro for information about the environmental impact of a recycling ordinance. Mr. Castro reiterated the City's goal for a zero landfill diversion rate by 2040 and mandatory recycling in commercial and multi-family properties will provide substantial help in reaching that goal and noted that the City's commercial food waste program and residential composting are already reducing the amount of waste added to the landfill.

Mr. Carroll concluded by announcing the next steps in the proposed recycling plan. The first step is for businesses and multifamily properties to invite City staff to their property to discuss a recycling plan and share suggestions. The second step is to create an ordinance under Chapter 58 Land Development Code with staff review, Municipal Planning Board review and City Council approval. The third step is to create an ordinance under Chapter 28 Solid Waste after input from stakeholders and City Council approval. The final step is to start the recycling program.

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At 10:26 a.m. Mr. Carroll concluded the presentation and the workshop opened for comments and questions. Mayor Dyer suggested a Main Street challenge. Commissioner Sheehan spoke about the growing pains experienced by the Waverly on Lake Eola in its early recycling days. Commissioner Stuart asked for clarification on multi-family and commercial pickup schedules.

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

Denise Aldridge  
City Clerk