

Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for May 12, 2014

as of May 12, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 7H: Text Amendments, Chapter 21. Refuse.

Question/Comment: If Holiday collection is to be delayed, which Holidays are they?

How much money are we projecting will be saved if we delay Holiday collection? What is the rate of pay for Holiday work for our public service workers? (Double time, triple time, or what?)

How will the public be notified other than on the web site?

Which area of the city are exempted from automated pickup?

When a city cart is damaged or missing, how will the City know who is responsible? How can a citizen be held responsible if someone else steals their cart? Who will mediate such disputes?

Staff Response: If Holiday collection is to be delayed, which Holidays are they? The following information was changed on the City's website after the City Council adopted this fiscal year's budget:

Garbage is collected once a week, Monday through Friday beginning at 6:00 a.m. Garbage is NOT collected on Holidays. The Holidays are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day After Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the holiday is observed on the Friday before. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday is observed the Monday after. Please watch for press releases and check back at the city's website for when your holiday garbage will be collected. (See the [Recycle/Garbage Map & Schedule.](#))

The information can be found at <http://www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=204>.

How much money are we projecting will be saved if we delay Holiday collection?

Projection is the correct word at this point. Our staff has a long standing practice of collecting garbage and recycling on every holiday except Christmas day. Staff does anticipate there will be savings because some bulk crew employees will be able to be reassigned to garbage and recycling collection. This will push our bulk collection back but will allow for savings on holiday collection. Staff is having to retrofit a couple of rear loading packers with tippers to be able to be used on garbage and recycling. The additional tippers will help when there are vehicle breakdowns in the short run. The projected savings for not collecting on the above holidays is approximately \$40,000.

What is the rate of pay for Holiday work for our public service workers? (Double time, triple time, or what?)

Employees will be paid for their regular rate of pay on a City holiday. When employees work holidays, they get paid in addition to their regular rate of pay an additional time and a half for the hours works.

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How will the public be notified other than on the website?

Press releases will be utilized for the first holiday after the budget was passed (Memorial Day). Staff is working to use the water bill memo line to also notify residents of the change to holiday collection. The City's web page and Facebook page will also be utilized.

Which area of the city are excepted from automated pickup?

The only areas in Bloomington without automated collection are the Bloomington Housing and the Downtown. A key point to remember is that the City is not a true automated collection City because employees are expected to get out of their vehicle to collect bags. The system is more accurately defined by industry terms as semi-automated.

When a city cart is damaged or missing, how will the City know who is responsible? How can a citizen be held responsible if someone else steals their cart? Who will mediate such disputes?

The City issued carts have RFID tags and serial numbers on them. When a cart comes up missing, staff encourages the resident to look for the cart using the information provided and even looks when possible in the neighborhood. In the end, staff is not charging residents when the carts show up missing. This does have a cost to the City but the City Council has continuously asked for staff to provide a high level of customer service.

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 7E: Intergovernmental Agreement with Illinois Department of Agriculture to Participate as a Pilot Location for the Forever Green Illinois Program.

Comment: When trees are removed, will they always be replaced with another tree?

Would the ginkgo tree in the 2000 block of East Taylor that we have discussed before be a candidate for this program?

I was disappointed that the text did not specifically say that carts may not be stored in front yards. Over the years, there have been too many accommodations for landlords who have increased density in our neighborhoods, the most recent being cart sharing. I hope that now, at last, some effort will be made to see that garbage and recycling carts are not eyesores in our neighborhoods.

Staff Response: When trees are removed, will they always be replaced with another tree?

The general answer is yes. However, if the location of the removed tree proves to be not a good location for a replanted tree, then the replacement tree could be planted in a nearby, more suitable location. Replant, selection shall be determined by site characteristics such as space available, overhead utilities, soil type, micro-climate factors including draining, sun exposure, and radiant heat, as well as optimal diversity complimenting existing trees and greenery and other (future) replantings within the immediate area. Final plantings shall be inspected by the Department, with assistance from municipal staff if determined necessary, for proper site selection, proper spacing, proper genus or species selection, and proper planting practices.

Would the ginkgo tree in the 2000 block of East Taylor that we have discussed before be a candidate for this program? It does not appear that this tree in question meets the criteria of this program, which is as follows as defined in the Illinois Administrative Code, "Problem Trees means trees located on property owned or controlled by the State or a unit of local government in

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a pilot project area that are currently damaging public or private infrastructure; are of ill health and are presently or may soon pose a threat to public safety; or are currently infested with an invasive insect pest or plant disease such as, but not limited to, the Emerald Ash Borer.” 8 Ill. Adm. Code 241.10.

That being said, this tree in question has recently been treated by staff in an effort to solve the concerns of the fruit droppings from this tree. The success of this treatment will be known in the August or September time frame. If the treatment is not successful, then this tree could be considered for other possible solutions that could include removal.

Prepared by: Tracey Covert, City Clerk