

SPRINGDALE
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GARBAGE, RECYCLING PICKUP

Residents To Get Bins, Trash Carts

CITY COUNCIL OKS EXTENSION OF WASTE SERVICE CONTRACT

By Steve Caraway SCARAWAY@NWAONLINE.COM

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SPRINGDALE — City residents will face a revamped trash pickup after the City Council approved a contract extension Tuesday.

The council approved adding trash carts and recycling citywide as part of the revamped contract with Waste Management. The change would raise the rates for most of the city, but lower costs for those who paid extra for recycling.

The extension met opposition from some city residents and Alderman Mike Overton, who asked for a new contract to be put up for bid. Overton was the only vote against the extension. Alderman Jesse Core was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Doug Sprouse defended the contract extension, saying it would give the city its best control of waste disposal.

“It’s not perfect but it’s a step in the right direction,” Sprouse said. “If we wait and go to bid at the end of the year, we may lose our bulky waste program. The yellow bag program may become so expensive that nobody will use it.”

The contract, due to end Dec. 31, would be extended five years. Waste Management would provide 96-gallon wheeled carts for each residence and a bin for recycling.

Resident Melinda Mason opposed the contract, saying it was not based on the amount of trash a residence generated. Mason previously used the yellow bag program but will not be eligible under the new contact.

"I will have to pay the same as a family of four that throws everything in the trash," Mason said. "That's not fair."

The city's yellow bag program would continue but only for those 65 and older, Sprouse said. The yellow bag program allows people to pay for trash disposal per bag rather than with a monthly charge.

The price of yellow bags would double under the contract but those in the program would use less bags if they also recycled, Sprouse said.

The new contract, for the first year, would give Springdale residents paying extra for recycling a \$1.01 price reduction and a \$1.22 increase of for customers who don't recycle now. Each customer would pay 50 cents more for the second and third years of the contract.

The price would still be lower than other cities in Northwest Arkansas, Sprouse said.

Two city residents who work for a competitor of Waste Management, Randy Pounders and Tom Smith, opposed the contract, saying the city would save money with bids.

Overton agreed, noting the city had benefited from bidding other services.

The trash service is not like bidding on a tractor, Sprouse replied, with many more factors.

The new proposal would also include a six-year contract to dispose of Springdale's sludge from its water treatment plant. Springdale Water Utilities trucks its sludge to the landfill in Tontitown and, in return, Waste Management trucks leachate from the landfill to the city sewer plant.

Leachate is a liquid created during the decomposition of the contents of the landfill.

"I think this is the best deal we can get for Springdale," Sprouse said.