



Letter from the Mayor Concerning Municipal Solid Waste

September 19, 2014

Dear Neighbors,

For some time now, the Simonton City Council has been working to resolve an issue of concern for many of our residents. That issue relates to how we might minimize the premature deterioration of our roads that may be caused by multiple heavy vehicles traveling indiscriminately within our community.

In an effort to find a workable remedy and hopefully slow the deterioration of our roads, the City has adopted a weight limit ordinance, posted weight limit signs, and monitored construction vehicles. We have established a basic permitting process for haulers in cases where they may need to exceed our weight limits and ensure their responsibility for any road damage that they may cause.

Another way that the City can work to reduce local road damage is to recognize that we have no less than five solid waste haulers traveling our streets and that their schedules have them driving our roads every day of the week. Garbage trucks can be extremely heavy. Minimizing their numbers could mean less damage to our roads.

The City is considering selecting a single solid waste collection contractor.

Most cities and virtually all subdivision "Municipal Utility Districts" provide solid waste hauling as a municipal service. If we were to unify garbage collection by selecting a single solid waste pickup provider, we might see a number of benefits.

What might the benefits of selecting a single solid waste hauler be?

- There would be less traffic and noise because only a single company's garbage trucks would be driving in the community and would occur just one day per week.
- Our roads might last longer with fewer heavy vehicles causing wear-and-tear.
- Prices could come down, saving each resident an appreciable amount of money while improving service by selecting a single trash hauler.
- We could finally get a workable bi-weekly recycling program by making it a component of garbage collection.

When did we begin considering this option?

The City Council began discussing the road damage issue and seeking workable solutions well over a year ago. Consequently, on October 15, 2013 the City Council passed ordinance #2013-05 as the City's first step toward resolving the issue. This ordinance allows the City Council to offer a franchise to a single trash hauler. Doing so would mean that the City would take on the responsibility of providing solid waste collection services by selecting a single trash hauler. Furthermore, it means that no additional garbage collection service providers would be allowed to legally provide solid waste collection services within the City.

In July of this year, after spending months considering which options would be most important to the community, the City Council decided to move forward in seeking proposals for garbage collection. Consequently, a "Request for Proposals" for solid waste collection service was placed in local papers, online, and sent to six garbage collection vendors that are known to regularly service our area.

Where are we in the process?

On Tuesday, September 16th, 2014, the City received written proposals from four waste haulers to provide residential and commercial solid waste collection service to the city. Although there was a fair degree of variation in the prices, services offered, and various other differentiations, the City Council recognized that the price ranges indicated would represent a savings in cost for most people and that the overall range of benefits to issuing the franchise will be significant enough to continue in the process.

At this time, no decision has been made as to the selection of a specific garbage collection contractor. The City Council will consider the next step in the process at our next regular City Council meeting scheduled for October 21, 2014. At this meeting the City Council will discuss the specific differences between the proposals and may select a single contractor or continue deliberating on the matter.

What has the city asked solid waste haulers to include in their proposals?

- Include 96 gallon totes for both Garbage and for Recycling.
- Collect garbage one day per week.
- Collect recycling twice per month.
- Collect small bundled trash at no extra charge.
- Include "heavy" item pickup as an option.
- Provide waste collection for major civic events, such as Fourth of July, no extra charge.
- Provide waste collection for City Hall, no extra charge.
- Provide waste collection for City Dumpster, no extra charge.
- Do all billing, pay franchise or other fees to the City.
- Franchise to include residential, commercial, and "Roll-Off" garbage collection.

How might this affect your garbage collection choices?

The City Council recognizes that this will be a significant change to the entire community. If the City Council moves forward with this decision, your current garbage collection contractor will likely have to change. The selected company will replace your current provider and the selected company will bill you.

When might the City actually select a solid waste collection vendor?

That depends. There are a few steps that we have to take first. However, we anticipate that we may select a garbage collection vendor no later than December 2014. If that were to occur, service could begin as early as January 2015, although it is simply too early to indicate a specific start date.

We want this to work for you.

In recognizing the impact to you and to your family and finances, it is certainly the City Council's hope that by pursuing this course, we are answering a true need in the community to extend the lifespan of our roads and at the same time provide better garbage collection service at a lower cost.

In order to keep you informed, we will post updates on the City website as we continue our progress on selecting a Garbage Collection vendor.

Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding this important city deliberation.

Respectfully,

Daniel McJunkin
Mayor, City of Simonton