



CITY of SIMONTON

November 20, 2014

Dear Neighbors,

Re: Update on the current status of Solid Waste Collection in Simonton.

As you may know by now, through the course of many months, the City of Simonton has decided to provide solid waste collection (garbage collection) as a municipal service within Simonton City Limits through a single contractor. The current status of this is that the City Council has selected Texas Pride Disposal as the Solid Waste Collection vendor. Their contract will become effective as of April 1, 2015.

The proposed Residential pricing breaks down for Residential service:

\$18.50 - Garbage Service

\$1.90 - Recycle Service

\$1.02 - 5% City Franchise Fee

\$1.77 - 8.25% Sales Tax (State and Local)

\$23.19 - Total Monthly Rate to Residents to be billed quarterly

What follows is a more detailed update on where we are in the process. Frequently Asked Questions are at the end of this letter.

Here is the timeline for more recent actions that have been taken.

- In September, the Simonton City Council received proposals from four Solid Waste contractors.
- In October, the City Council selected Texas Pride Disposal as our sole solid waste collection service provider for all residences and businesses within the City Limits.
- At the November 18, 2014 City Council meeting, the Council adopted a few minor changes to the approved vendor's proposed contract in order to lower cost to residents and to improve the service overall.
- At the upcoming City Council Meeting that will be held on December 16th, 2015, I expect that the final contract will be complete for presentation to the Council for their review and approval.

Service will begin April 1, 2015.

As stated previously, Municipal solid waste collection is currently slated to begin on a mandatory basis on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. This date is the first day of the second quarter of the year. Since many customers currently contract for garbage collection on a quarterly basis, this should allow ample time for existing contracts to expire so that residents are able to take full advantage of any pre-payments they may have made.

You can get started January 1, 2015 if you prefer.

In order to take advantage of the lower pricing and improved features provided by Texas Pride, some of our residents might like to begin service prior to April 1, 2015. In order to accommodate these residents,

Texas Pride is currently offering to pick up garbage beginning January 1, 2015 with all of the benefits and pricing of their new contract. So, if you'd like to get started, simply contact their office.

Texas Pride Disposal
Kevin Atkinson – Owner
PO Box 1186
Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-342-8178
<http://www.texaspridedisposal.com/>

As mentioned above, the City Council approved a few changes to the previously considered proposal that will be included in the contract. These changes were approved in order to lower cost and improve service for our residents.

What were the changes?

Instead of providing a 96 gallon tote for recycling that is picked up twice per month the company has agreed to provide each resident with an 18 gallon tote and collect recycling every week. By making this change, the contractor's price for this service will lower cost by \$1.10 per month from the originally proposed price.

Here is a more complete list of what will be included in the service.

- Garbage Collection will be every Wednesday, which avoids most holidays
 - Will collect reasonable amounts of excess garbage at no additional charge
 - Resident may purchase additional totes or use their own containers for additional garbage.
- Collect recycling one day per week.
 - An 18 gallon recycling container will be provided at no extra cost for each residence.
 - Will collect excessive recycling at no additional charge
 - Resident may purchase additional totes or use their own containers.
 - Texas Pride will provide stickers for residents to indicate additional recycling containers
- Collect small amounts of "Green Waste", (organic debris) on each visit.
- Collect small amounts of bundled trash at no extra charge.
- Collect up to two items of "heavy" trash items, such as appliances, each week at no extra charge.
- 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.
- Texas Pride Disposal will do all billing and pay a 5% franchise fee to the City.

To recap, here are some of the anticipated benefits.

- Cost Savings of almost 15 percent for many residents.
- Recycling program with weekly collection for all residents included in contract
- Improvement in the dependability of service
- Single, mid-week collection avoids most holiday collection conflicts
- Improvement in the consistency of which items are collected (heavy trash, green waste, etc)
- Less traffic and associated noise
- Fewer heavy vehicles causing wear-and-tear
- Increased safety on our roads with fewer garbage trucks in the community

- Monitoring and Oversight by the City to ensure effective service

Will this be mandatory?

Yes. As of April 1, 2015, the only company that may legally collect garbage in the City of Simonton will be Texas Pride Disposal.

Will Garbage collection be mandatory for everyone?

Yes. Since garbage collection relates to the "health, safety, and welfare" of a community and the State of Texas allows for a municipality to take on this service.

Can I opt out?

No. To ensure that garbage is collected weekly, throughout the City, each resident and each business will be required to participate.

What if I don't pay?

The Municipal Solid Waste Ordinance adopted October 15, 2013 allows for a fine not to exceed \$2000.00 for violating the ordinance.

Do I have to recycle?

No. Recycling is simply a valuable benefit that is included in the cost of service. If you choose not to recycle, the price will be the same.

What if I don't like the Garbage Collection Contractor?

The City will be monitoring the implementation of this new service closely. We will work with the contractor to resolve any issues that may arise throughout the term of their contract with the City.

Should I cancel my current garbage collection contract?

As of April 1, 2015, the answer will be Yes. Prior to that date, the service will be available but not mandatory. So, until then, it's up to you.

Has the City of Simonton contacted the Garbage Collection Vendors in the area about the change?

Yes, but only to those companies that the City is aware of currently providing services to our area. We have notified the following companies in writing, to advise them of the change:

- Country Waste
- Nexus Disposal
- Randle's Pickup Service
- Royal Disposal
- Texas Disposal Systems

How long is the City's contract with Texas Pride for?

The contract with Texas Pride carries an initial term of two years, with an option to extend for another two years, with pricing adjusted for inflation.

Simonton is on the right track.

This change will have varying degrees of impact within the community. Your City Council is assured that for most residents, having a single heavy waste collection vendor will be seen as a good thing and that the overall benefits will far outweigh the issues that may arise during the transition.

In order to keep you informed, we will continue to post updates on the City website as the need arises.

Thank you for your understanding and your support regarding this important city service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel McJunkin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'M'.

Daniel McJunkin
Mayor, City of Simonton