

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF AN WORK SESSION ON SOLID WASTE
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OPTIONS
OF THE CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2012, AT 6:00 PM**

Council Members Present: Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Mayor pro tem Ed Harrison, Council Member Matt Czajkowski, Council Member Laurin Easthom, Council Member Gene Pease, Council Member Penny Rich, Council Member Lee Storrow, and Council Member Jim Ward.

Council Member(s) Absent: Council Member Donna Bell.

Staff members present: Town Manager Roger Stancil, Deputy Town Manager Florentine Miller, Town Attorney Ralph Karpinos, Public Information Officer Catherine Lazorko, Public Works Director Lance Norris, Solid Waste Services Superintendent Wendy Simmons, Public Works Administrative Analyst Sarah Vinas, Public Works Operations Manager Richard Terrell, Police Officer Rick Fahrer, SCS Engineers Project Director Bob Dick, SCS Engineers Solid Waste Division Senior Vice President Bob Gardner, and Acting Town Clerk Amy Harvey.

1.Comprehensive Review of Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Options

Town Manager Roger Stancil introduced the session, noting that the purpose was to receive SCS Engineers' final recommendations on the Town's short and long term solid waste management strategy.

SCS consultant Bob Dick opened the presentation, summarizing the background of the Town's March 2012 contract with SCS Engineers to evaluate the Town's collection systems, disposal options, and operational efficiencies. He reviewed completed work since prior updates, including disposal cost proposals from the City of Durham and Waste Industries, field visits to the Asheboro transfer station, and ongoing routing and technology evaluations aimed at improving efficiency.

Mr. Dick highlighted several immediate needs, including funding to replace aging single axle rear loading compactor trucks; maintaining current municipal solid waste (MSW) and yard waste operations during the transition to out of county disposal; initiating a new interlocal recycling agreement with Orange County; auditing more than 900 existing collection exemptions; and maintaining in house residential and commercial collections, noting outsourcing would likely reduce service quality. Council members commented on the high number of exemptions, the community's past use of backyard service, and the need for careful auditing with clear communication to the public.

SCS Engineers advised the Town to begin hauling all MSW to a transfer station in Durham no later than July 1, 2013 as a short term recommendation. The consultants recommended the Town begin citing efforts for a future local transfer station, noting potential Town owned property between Transit and Public Works. They emphasized the importance of public outreach and coordination with neighboring jurisdictions, particularly Carrboro, regarding future regional opportunities. Council members discussed cost comparisons, the flexibility benefits of a Town

operated transfer station, and potential traffic impacts of various locations.

SCS recommended requiring standardized Town issued carts for MSW and yard waste, emphasizing that uniform containers would support future automated collection and improve route efficiency. They also proposed developing a hybrid Pay As You Throw system with stickers or bags for excess waste. Council members discussed cart size, ordinance constraints, and implications for neighborhoods such as Southern Village. The consultants also reviewed yard waste practices, including the frequency of collection and the need for a comprehensive routing study to determine optimal schedules.

SCS noted that constructing a standalone materials recovery facility or new landfill was not advisable due to scale and cost. They recommended continuing to explore organics diversion and potential future waste to energy options, though current technologies were not economical for the Town's waste volume. Council members discussed regional trends, potential partnerships with Orange County and UNC, and opportunities to integrate food waste diversion with existing recycling and composting operations.

For commercial services, SCS recommended continuing bulk waste collection in house, evaluating earlier start times such as 4:30 a.m., consolidating pickup days where feasible, and modernizing compactor access through digital key systems. Council members considered impacts on businesses, eligibility of roll cart service, and the need for annual reviews of commercial rates.

Council members raised questions about future partnerships with Carrboro and Orange County, truck procurement and timing relative to the Durham transition, and impacts on staff positions as automated collection expands. Staff noted ongoing communication with neighboring jurisdictions and the need for updated interlocal agreements, including yard waste and white goods. Town Manager Stancil stated that staff would return at a business meeting with a resolution consistent with the recommendations presented. The meeting concluded with agreement that the Town should move forward on immediate actions while continuing long-term evaluations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.