
SANITATION PLAN

2020



FEBRUARY 28

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

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CHANGES IN SANITATION PICK-UP

Move to Mechanical Arm

This proposal that is being presented to the common council will focus on replacing the existing system of picking up municipal solid waste, (MSW) that requires one driver and two back on loaders with a system that requires only one person using the mechanical arm packer trucks. The current system of manual pick up is no longer effective. This type of work during all types of weather conditions and heavy lifting results in high injury rates and staffing shortages. These shortages, historically covered by other DPW agencies and the result in some cases is a backlog of other work.

The city currently picks up MSW on a Ward system, one ward per day (4 Wards) with the fifth day for recycling.

The plan includes the reduction of sanitation staffing through attrition



with result being a net savings to City of Middletown taxpayers.

The city explored two options to improve sanitation pickup. One was privation of the service. Private companies submitted proposals in response to a RFP and the results were very favorable to the taxpayers with an estimated savings over a million dollars per year.

This option required the consent of the local CSEA union. While the city offered to protect employees and share these savings with all city employee in the form of additional pay for remaining employees, the union rejected it.

We moved on to the other option under consideration, the mechanical arm. In September of 2018, I submitted to the common council a draft proposal with options for consideration. The implementation of the mechanical arm system will require significant capital investment and new legislation. I will detail in this report my recommendations for each.

By utilizing the mechanical arm equipped packer system, the city will retain control of a vital city service by continuing the use of city employees and management. At the same time, we can reduce the burden on taxpayers and improve working conditions for the men / women in the Sanitation Department thus further reducing workmen's compensation costs.

As part of the planning, one of the vendors did bring the mechanical arm truck to the garage for demonstration purposes.

This plan will also increase recycling rates, which are abysmal in the city hovering around 6% for many years.

Our projections indicate that when fully implemented, reducing staff through attrition, increased recycling, savings on workmen's compensation costs and other potential savings, the city can expect a savings of up to \$500,000 annually.

Based upon feedback from some council members and recognizing that our current sanitation fleet is old and in need of replacement, I recommend that we no longer consider a phase in period (original proposal was 2018) and go directly to implement this plan citywide in 2020. This will include a trail period of purchasing containers, training staff on operation of trucks, renting one or two trucks, evaluation of routes and

any necessary changes to our current operations that may be required due to the new pick up operation.

This proposal will save taxpayers money, improve work conditions for our employees and help make our city cleaner.

Capital Investment

1. The cost of each truck is approximately \$300,000. The city will need three.
2. Excluding condominium's and apartment complexes, estimated we would need 15,000, 95-gallon bins. We should plan on at least a 200, 65-gallon bins for seniors and those who are unable to handle the larger bin. Sanitation Equipment Corporation of Totowa, NJ estimated the cost of each bin with the quantity we would require to be in the area of \$55 each for the 95-gallon and \$50 each for the 65-gallon.
3. Bins for the DMU and single property apartment complexes estimated to be in the area of 500.
4. Total capital outlay- Bins approximately \$880,000
Trucks approximately \$900,000 (minimum)

Legislation Required

1. Require every housing unit with the exception of apartment complexes and condominiums to have at least one of MSW bins and one Recycle bin.
2. One and Two family homes receive one set of bins at no charge. Three family on up require an additional charge of \$100 for the third set of bins and \$100 annually thereafter for each additional set required. For example, 5 unit building, 5 sets of bins.
3. Standalone apartment buildings that have private pick up are exempt from number 2 above.
4. Apartment complexes and Condominiums picked up by the City will only continue with central garbage depots at each complex. Individual units are not eligible for pick up.
5. Townhouses, where the ownership is fee simple are eligible but properties must have storage abilities for containers, ie garage that does not negatively affect the neighbors.

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6. Bins remain the property of the City of Middletown. Replacement bins are available at cost. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the bins. Defective containers replaced at no cost at the discretion of the Public Works Commissioner. Bins will be coded and make it a violation to use someone else's bin. Will require random scanning to detect.
 7. Property owner will be responsible for placement of the bin adjacent to their driveway, free from any parked vehicles to allow the mechanical arm to pick up container.
 8. Legislation requiring the property owner comply with rules regarding how much MSW can fit in the bins. Filling too much may result in no pick up and frequent abuse may require the property owner to purchase additional bins.
 9. Due to volume of MSW around the holidays, common council must designate certain holidays to allow for curbside use of heavy-duty large garbage bags placed alongside the bins. For example, Christmas through New Year's. We must put an end to the use of small supermarket type bags to help keep our streets clean.

DMU Zone

This zone is unique and special legislation will be required. Many buildings do not have the area for storing cans. For this reason and more, the city currently picks up trash 7 days per week. We also provide designated spots in the downtown area for owners / tenants to bring their trash directly to a trash depot. We will be adding an additional depot on Orchard St. in the new parking area across from the former Thrall Library. These depots are for the exclusive use of DMU tenants / residents. Need legislation to ensure that any dumping by any person not in the DMU is a violation punishable by fine. We would encourage DMU property owners and businesses to use these depots rather than place trash in front of their buildings or placing trash in the litter baskets that are scattered in the downtown area.

OPTION 1.

1. Any business, tenant or resident that places their trash in any place other than the garbage depot or one of the city trash bins will be subject to a fine

determined by the common council. I believe it should be significant enough to deter future violations because tracking down violators is extremely time consuming. Heavy-duty users such as restaurants and bars are encouraged to use the depots.

2. DMU building owner will be eligible for one of each bin per property. Additional bins available with a maximum of three per property at the same cost as listed in for homeowners. The building owner must be able to store the bins on their own property, out of street view.
3. Placement of bins on sidewalks prior to 9pm is a violation and bins and removed from the sidewalk by 10am the following day. This requires new legislation.
4. These bins must be accessible to the mechanical arm of the truck. DMU pick up may require additional person to maneuver bins and place them in reach of the arm.
5. During winter months the property owner must have the snow removed from their sidewalk / curb area in the area they place the bin.

OPTION 2

Allow for the use of heavy duty garbage bags for curbside pickup during certain holidays and in the DMU. All other regulations stay in place. This would reduce the bin purchase amount. Including this option may defeat our objective.

SUMMARY

City Council should hold public hearings and get feedback from our residents. This is a proposal only for consideration by the Board.

TEAM MEMBERS

Joseph M. DeStefano, Mayor

J. Miguel Rodrigues, Common Council President

Joseph G. Masi, Finance Chairman

Jude Jean-Francois, Public Works Chairman

Jacob Tawil, Commissioner of Public Works

Mark Pengel, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works

Donald Paris, City Treasurer



