



## CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Government Center  
4800 W. Copans Road  
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: April 23, 2026  
Time: 6:00p.m.  
Meeting No. 2026-0423WS

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeffrey R. Wasserman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Jeffrey R. Wasserman  
Vice Mayor John A. Brodie  
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch  
Commissioner Joshua Rydell  
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey  
City Manager Sheila N. Rose  
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn  
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Mayor Wasserman asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present.

### DISCUSSION – SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

City Manager Rose provided a brief introduction, explaining staff was seeking direction on how to handle solid waste and recycling collection options going forward under the contract with Republic Services. She highlighted specific questions to be considered and the need for a consensus from the Commission for inclusion in the contract extension with Republic Services for consideration at a future meeting.

Public Works Director Harry Mautte and Solid Waste Project Manager Michael Heimbach began the presentation, providing an overview of solid waste collection, responsibilities of the City and other agencies in relation to solid waste, current service levels, proposed changes and service options for the contract, technology enhancements with electric vehicles and artificial intelligence (AI), and the return of curbside recycling. Mr. Heimbach sought a consensus regarding frequency of curbside recycling collection.

Commissioner Welch commented that the difference in cost between weekly and every other week collection was significant and noted the projected reduction in contamination with collection every other week. She pointed out that if they were going to return to curbside recycling, there should be the best set of circumstances for a successful result. She stated she was in favor of every other week collection.

Commissioner Rydell stated he appreciated the financials, but at the end of the day, this was going to be an issue of re-education. He advised that he thought collection needed to be weekly, with the option to scale back in the future. Commissioner Railey agreed, noting people were creatures of habit and would be more aware on a weekly basis.

Mayor Wasserman asked for clarification on the projection that there would be less contamination if recycling was collected every other week. Mr. Heimbach explained that Republic Services had found that having recycling on a separate day led to less contamination. He noted this also avoided overflow trash being included in the recycling bin and clarified that weekly pickup would take place on garbage day, with a separate truck picking up recycling. Republic Services General Manager Austin Metcalf added that there was evidence of intentionality when garbage and trash days were separated. He noted every other week service would include a larger container.

Commissioner Rydell noted there was still contamination in the drop-off recycling service where bins were separate. He stated he was curious about the data. Mr. Metcalf agreed to provide data from cities that had implemented this program. Discussion continued regarding contamination and frequency of collection, as well as education being a significant component for the success of the recycling program.

Mayor Wasserman noted the increases projected for curbside recycling and asked whether there was a proposed increase under the current solid waste contract. City Manager Rose explained an increase was anticipated. Discussion continued regarding estimated Solid Waste fees.

Mayor Wasserman sought to hold the consensus for the six (6) items until end of the presentation.

Mr. Heimbach continued the presentation, discussing recycling processing options. He noted a consensus was needed as to whether the Commission wanted to start curbside recycling right away or wait for the agreement from the Solid Waste Authority. City Manager Rose clarified this would mean waiting another year. Commissioner Welch spoke in support of starting the program in October 2026 with Hollywood. Commissioner Railey agreed.

Mr. Heimbach reviewed options for distribution of carts and recycling program promotional material options. Commissioner Rydell asked for staff's recommendation regarding promotional materials. City Manager Rose advised the staff recommendation was promoting valuable commodities only, with the continuation of glass drop-off recycling.

Mr. Heimbach reviewed two (2) proposed policy options regarding how to address contamination either by vendor enforcement or City Code Enforcement. Mayor Wasserman noted the second option would put more pressure on City Code Enforcement staff. Commissioner Rydell stated either policy would be inappropriate when starting a recycling program. Commissioner Welch stated she was not in favor of additional burden on Code Enforcement and commented that, with the AI technology that Republic would be implementing to screen for contamination, those who were consistently contaminating should lose their ability to utilize the recycling carts or be re-educated. Vice Mayor Brodie commented that he did not like the option that included Republic addressing issues with City residents rather than City staff. He stated the second policy option for Code Enforcement needed to be tweaked. Commissioner Railey stated that enforcement of an optional recycling program almost went against its purpose. She noted she had questions regarding identifying contamination. Mr. Metcalf clarified that AI would take video when identifying contamination and would match it with a photo of the resident's house. He explained that following the electronic pass, there would be two (2) rounds of human review to ensure false action was not being taken. Mayor Wasserman asked how often residents had to fight against wrong infractions where the AI was implemented. Mr. Metcalf explained there was a customer portal and a City portal to review the media. Mike Montgomery, a member of the Republic Services technology team, clarified the AI review process and stated the current complaint rate was at two percent (2%), with most of those resulting in video evidence of the contaminated material and re-education being provided. Commissioner Rydell reiterated that any fine-based system was counterintuitive to creating a new program that would change behavior. He suggested that the issue of contamination be reviewed after six (6) months of data was gathered. Commissioner Brodie agreed, noting there could be a clause in the contract to review this policy a year later. He stated the proposed policies would send the wrong message. Discussion continued.

Mr. Heimbach stated one (1) of the goals of the Solid Waste Authority was source-separated yard waste collection. He advised that the Solid Waste Authority was scheduling this for Fiscal Year 2029 and sought consensus as to whether the desire of the Commission was to utilize available piggyback contracts to start earlier. Commissioner Welch stated she believed the addition of source-separated yard waste collection would be too much with the return to curbside recycling. She suggested this be revisited along with the contamination policy in the future. Commissioner Rydell agreed.

Mayor Wasserman reviewed the consensus items before the Commission, as follows:

- Curbside Recycling Frequency – consensus was to revisit frequency of curbside collection at the May 28 Commission meeting to allow for a review of data from Republic Services and a staff recommendation.
- Recycling Processing Options – consensus was to piggyback off the Hollywood contract for a sooner start to the program.
- Recycling Cart Distribution Options – consensus was full distribution of carts to every home.
- Recyclable Material Promotion Options – consensus was valuable commodities only, including plastic bottles, aluminum cans and bottles, steel cans, and cardboard, while the City maintains glass drop-off.
- Recycling Contamination Policy – consensus was to revisit discussion of this item in six (6) months.
- Yard Waste Separation Start Options – consensus was to revisit discussion of this item in six (6) months.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC  
City Clerk

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Date