

City Council Rejects Changes to Trash Service

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SAN ANGELO, TX -- A few months ago, the city of San Angelo conducted an online survey asking citizens if they would want to reduce recycling pickup to every other week, and in exchange receive bulk item collection each month. The majority of responses to the survey were in favor of the change (76%), but the city council voted Tuesday to table the changes for the time being.



Councilwoman Charlotte Farmer--one of the members who voted in favor of tabling the changes--said that while she wants citizens to get bulk pickup, the low response rate of the survey conducted is concerning (roughly 2,600 responses were received).

"I don't think it's thought out well enough yet," Farmer said. "We don't have enough participation from the online surveys. Nine percent of the customers is a very small base."

Farmer says she's received lots of calls from constituents, frustrated by frequent changes in trash collection service. Mayor Dwain Morrison says he's received a lot of calls as well; but he was among the three votes Tuesday wanting to move forward with the changes, saying they were in the city's best interest.

"I think we've done a disservice to our citizens, because we have created a monster," Morrison said. "We had an opportunity to fix this, and we chose not to."

Several citizens came forth with public comment, on both sides. Many voiced frustration about collection in alleys being discontinued for many customers. City council members say this is an issue that they are looking into in the future, but the size of collection trucks makes it difficult to fit down many alleys in town.

Citizen Christy Youker advocated the council take more time to investigate costs associated with the proposed changes, and perhaps negotiate lower costs with Republic (noting the increase in water bills citizens received after failing to meet the 500 tons per month recycling goal).

"We're already paying 50 cents more, and so let's just look at the cost," Youker said. "I think it's a good thing we wait and just look at that before a decision is made."