




**Public Works Department
Office of the Director**

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners

From: Tom Funcheon, Public Works Director 

Date: September 5, 2023

Subject: Amend Section § 8-17. – Collection Practices of the City of Tarpon Springs Code of Ordinances

Recommendation:

That the Mayor and Board of Commissioner approve amended Ordinance § 8 -17. *Collection Practices*, as outlined in the attached Ordinance No. 2023-20.

Background:

The Public Works Department is implementing an environmentally sustainable initiative to reduce waste, save money, and provide educational outreach to residents on proper yard waste disposal procedures. The City's Yardwaste Facility receives approximately 208 tons of yard waste monthly, much of which is bagged in plastic, non-compostable garbage bags. As a result, this yard waste cannot be processed as regular yard waste. Approval of this amendment will reduce waste by eliminating the use of plastic bags for yard waste, save the City money, and provide an environmentally sustainable solution for collecting and processing yard waste material.

The proposed changes: Accepted yard waste, including yard clippings, grass cuttings, leaves, shrubs, palm fronds, small tree limbs not exceeding four inches in diameter nor over four feet in length, shall be collected in 30-gallon paper yard waste bags or placed loosely in a 30-gallon reusable tote. Plastic bags will **not** be collected for yard waste disposal nor accepted at the City of Tarpon Springs Yardwaste Facility, located at 101 E. Meres Blvd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.

You will also see changes to fees reflected in Ordinance No. 2023-20, which have not been increased since 2007.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS; ELIMINATING PLASTIC BAGS AS ALLOWABLE CONTAINERS FOR COLLECTION OF YARD WASTE; INCREASING THE FEES FOR YARD WASTE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the collection and recycling of yard waste is an important service for solid waste customers of the City; and

WHEREAS, such yard waste collection and recycling service is beneficial to the community and the environment through reducing individual trips to the landfill, removing yard debris that would otherwise create a fire risk or attract rodents, and the reusing organic waste that would otherwise represent millions of pounds placed in a landfill; and

WHEREAS, Section 403.706 of the State Statutes encourages local governments to separate all plastics, metal, and all grades of paper for recycling prior to final disposal and are further encouraged to recycle yard trash and other mechanically treated solid waste into compost available for agricultural and other acceptable uses; and

WHEREAS, the use of plastic bags for yard waste poses many issues for City collection and disposal and affects the long-term viability of the program; and

WHEREAS, other neighboring communities have eliminated plastic bags from their yard waste collection processes and require residents to use reusable containers for curbside disposal; and

WHEREAS, eliminating plastic bags from the yard waste stream of the City is recommended for similar reasons for increased sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City requires an increase in rates to meet costs of services

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. That subparagraph (b)(2) b. of Section 8-16 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tarpon Springs be amended in its entirety as follows:

“b. *Yard waste.* Tree trimmings, hedge clippings and similar material shall be cut to length not to exceed four feet, tied in bundles not to exceed 75 pounds. Grass, pine needles, and smaller clippings shall be placed in garbage ~~bags or~~ cans or compostable paper bags not to weigh more than 75 pounds. “

Section 2. That subparagraph (c)(2) a. of Section 8-16 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tarpon Springs be amended in its entirety as follows:

“ a. *Capacity, size.* Each garbage container shall have a capacity of not more than 32 gallons, and will not exceed 30 inches in height and 24 inches in diameter. Garbage bags will have a capacity of not more than 32 gallons, ~~and~~ shall be tightly bound, and shall not be utilized for yard waste.”

Section 3. The fees for collection and disposal of yard waste and/or household items shall be the sum of the administrative fee plus costs encountered for final disposal. Such fees may be increased as of March 31 of each year based upon the cost components of "other than fuel and oil" and "fuel and oil."

Other than fuel and oil: The change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) not seasonally adjusted, U.S. city average, all urban consumers, all items less food and energy, 1982-84 (as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) shall be calculated as the percentage change from December of the preceding year to December of the current year.

Fuel and oil: The change in the average price of diesel fuel for the Lower Atlantic No. 2 Diesel Retail Sales by all sellers (reported by the Energy Information Association as series DDR01Z) will be used to adjust the fuel and oil cost component. The fuel and oil cost component shall be calculated based on the average of each monthly percentage change in series DDR01Z from December of the preceding year to December of the current year.

Notwithstanding anything else contained herein, a single CPI adjustment to the Rates shall not exceed five percent (5%) and there shall be no "catch up" adjustment to the Rates in future years (i.e., there will not be an adjustment to the Rates in the future to offset or mitigate the effect of the five percent (5%) "cap" in a year when the CPI adjustment would exceed five percent (5%), but for the five percent (5%) limitation contained herein).

Fees

<i>Yard Waste</i>	<i>\$90 per ton</i>
<i>Less than 769 lbs.</i>	<i>\$ 50 minimum</i>
<i>Household Items</i>	<i>\$80 per ton</i>
<i>Less than 320lbs</i>	<i>\$30</i>
<i>City residents yard waste in vehicle or trailer carrying 1 yard or less</i>	<i>\$20 per trip</i> <i>* must produce water bill and Driver license with matching Addresses</i>
<i>Weight certificate</i>	<i>\$25</i>

Section 4. That subparagraph (a) of Section 8-21 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tarpon Springs be amended in its entirety as follows:

“ (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to place or deposit or cause to be placed or deposited upon any of the streets, sidewalks, parkways, thoroughfares, public parks or other public places of the City any sweepings, leaves, debris and trash resulting from ordinary trimming, care and upkeep of yards, shrubs, trees and hedges, unless small limbs are tied and bundled, and leaves and cuttings shall be placed in ~~bags or~~ **compostable paper bags or** lightweight containers with secure tops and not to exceed 75 pounds loaded. Tree trunks and limbs resulting from ordinary trimming, care and upkeep may be deposited for collection and shall not exceed four inches in diameter and four feet in length. Papers, rags, magazines and the like may be deposited for collection in the places provided in this section provided that they are securely tied in bundles not exceeding 50 pounds in weight, or provided such matter is stored in sturdy containers which will, in all ordinary weather conditions, prevent said matter from being scattered about by the elements or animals.”

Section 5. That subparagraph (a) of Section 8-28 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tarpon Springs be amended in its entirety as follows:

“ (a) The City of Tarpon Springs Yardwaste Facility shall remain open at such hours as are designated by the City Manager from time to time for the disposal of yard waste and unpainted or untreated wood waste by city residents transporting such yard waste in cars, one axle utility trailers or one-half ton pickup trucks. Plastic bags will not be collected for yard waste nor accepted at the City of Tarpon Springs Yardwaste Facility. The use of compostable paper bags are acceptable. Any resident desiring to dispose of such yard waste shall display a driver's license and/or a recent receipt of payment for garbage service from the City of Tarpon Springs. Such resident may dispose of yard waste and wood waste for a charge as established from time to time by resolution of the City Commission. No commercial establishment, business establishment or person not paying for City sanitation services may dispose of yard waste and wood waste for such fee, said facility being available only to persons owning residential property within the City on which premises the said yard waste or untreated waste has been generated. Lawn services and similar commercial enterprises may not use the said Yardwaste Facility pursuant to this subparagraph.”

Section 6. That this Ordinance shall become effective October 1, 2023 and Section 5 will become effective on December 1, 2023.