



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Mindi Hurley, Director of Community Development
Luay Rahil, Assistant Director of Community Development

Date: March 10, 2026

Reference: Update and discussion regarding solid waste service enhancements effective October 1, 2026.

2040: Sustainable Government

Introduction:

The purpose of this work session item is to provide an overview of the City's implementation plan to transition from bag-based solid waste collection to a cart-based system effective October 1, 2026. This transition, approved as part of the Restated Agreement with Republic Services, represents a significant operational modernization while maintaining the strong service levels our residents expect. Staff has developed a structured rollout plan to ensure the transition is smooth, well-communicated, and operationally ready on launch day.

Background:

The City of Coppel has provided solid waste hauling services through an exclusive franchise agreement with Republic Services for the past 11 years. In March 2024, Republic Services notified the City that renewal of the agreement would require operational modifications, including transitioning from trash bags to standardized wheeled carts and adjusting the bulk collection schedule.

In response, the City conducted a comprehensive review of regional service models, pricing structures, and operational standards, while also considering resident feedback collected over several years. Based on this analysis, staff determined that transitioning to an automated cart-based system would improve service efficiency, reduce litter, and align Coppel with regional best practices.

On July 8, 2025, Council approved a Restated Agreement with Republic Services that modernizes the City's solid waste operations. Under the Restated Agreement:

- Residential trash collection will transition from loose bags to City-issued carts.
- Bulk collection frequency will adjust while increasing allowable volume per pickup.
- Recycling and green waste services will continue as currently provided.
- Commercial service levels remain unchanged.
- The contract extends through September 30, 2031, with strengthened accountability and reporting requirements.

The Restated Agreement will take effect on October 1, 2026. Beginning on that date, trash will continue to be collected twice per week, and recycling and green waste schedules will remain unchanged. The

primary difference residents will notice is the transition to standardized City-issued carts in place of loose trash bags. In addition, bulk collection will provide increased capacity per pickup. This change is operational in nature and is designed to enhance neighborhood cleanliness, improve service efficiency, and increase safety across the community while maintaining existing service levels.

Implementation Timeline

Staff has prepared a structured implementation plan to ensure a smooth and well-communicated transition to cart-based service effective October 1, 2026.

Early 2026

- Coordinate operational planning with Republic Services
- Finalize procurement and cart production scheduling
- Develop a comprehensive communication and outreach strategy
- Begin HOA engagement and conduct internal staff training

Spring 2026

- Launch public education campaign
- Conduct community outreach at City events
- Publish website updates, FAQs, and instructional materials
- Open resident choice program for cart size selection

Summer 2026

- Finalize cart manufacturing and delivery logistics
- Continue outreach and environmental messaging
- “Carts Coming Soon” campaign

September 2026

- Begin weekly public reminders and countdown messaging
- Conduct mass cart delivery
- Prepare staff and customer service teams for launch
- Emphasize education-over-enforcement approach

October 1, 2026 – Official Launch

- Transition from bag-based collection to cart-based collection
- Manual bag trash collection ceases
- Updated contract terms take effect
- Ongoing monitoring, and resident support

Staff will continue providing periodic updates to Council as key milestones are reached to ensure transparency and successful implementation.