

# CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

Meeting Name: City Council Public Services Committee

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 140 Main Street

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
2020 JUN 30 P 2: 21

This meeting will be held virtually with Councilors attending in person and/or remotely. **NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE WILL BE PERMITTED.** This meeting will be televised on WMCT-TV (Comcast Channel 8 or Verizon/Fios Channel 34) or you can view the meeting using the link under the Meeting Videos tab on the city website ([www.marlborough-ma.gov](http://www.marlborough-ma.gov)).

Order No.20-1008042: Communication from Mayor Vigeant re: proposed amendment to the Code of the City of Marlborough, Chapter 540, Solid Waste, making changes to the Transfer Station, Resident Drop off Facility, operations and associated fees.  
-In Public Services

THE LISTING OF TOPICS THAT THE CHAIR REASONABLY ANTICIPATES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING IS NOT INTENDED AS A GUARANTEE OF THE TOPICS THAT WILL HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NOT ALL TOPICS LISTED MAY IN FACT BE DISCUSSED, AND OTHER TOPICS NOT LISTED MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

**The public should take due notice that the Marlborough City Council may have a quorum in attendance due to Standing Committees of the City Council consisting of both voting and non-voting members. However, members attending this duly posted meeting are participating and deliberating only in conjunction with the business of the Standing Committee.**

**Electronic devices, including laptops, cell phones, pagers, and PDAs must be turned off or put in silent mode upon entering the City Council Chamber, and any person violating this rule shall be asked to leave the chamber. Express authorization to utilize such devices may be granted by the President for recordkeeping purposes.**



# IN CITY COUNCIL

Marlborough, Mass., \_\_\_\_\_ JUNE 22, 2020

ORDERED:

PAGE 1

That the Proposed Amendment to the Code of the City of Marlborough, Chapter 540 "Solid Waste", making changes to the Resident Drop-Off Facility operations and associated fees, be and is herewith refer to **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**.

**Yea: 11 – Nay: 0**

**Yea: Wagner, Doucette, Dumais, Tunnera, Irish, Navin, Landers, Oram, Ossing, Perlman, & Robey.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARLBOROUGH THAT THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF MARLBOROUGH, AS AMENDED, BE FURTHER AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

- I. By amending Chapter 540 ("Solid Waste"), Article II ("Transfer Stations") by deleting the words "Transfer Stations" in the title and replacing it with the words: "Resident Drop-Off Facility".
- II. By amending Chapter 540, Section 540-16, entitled "Provision for Station", as follows (new text shown as underlined, deleted text shown as ~~strikethrough~~):

§ 540-16 Provision for station resident drop-off facility.

The City shall provide, either by contract or otherwise, a ~~transfer station~~ resident drop-off facility for the disposal of solid waste drop-off and transfer of residential solid waste and residential recycling, and may include residential compost, generated within the City.

- III. By amending Chapter 540, Section 540-17, entitled "Use of landfill", as follows (new text shown as underlined, deleted text shown as ~~strikethrough~~):

§ 540-17 Use of landfill.

~~Upon establishment of a transfer station,~~ The Hudson Street landfill will be closed to public use. Further use of said landfill facility by the public will only be allowed under emergency conditions by the Department of Public Works or as otherwise approved by the City Council.

- IV. By amending Chapter 540, Section 540-18, entitled "Definitions", by deleting the existing section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

§ 540-18 Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them by this article:

**RESIDENTIAL COMPOST:** Discarded organic material such as yard trimmings, kitchen scraps, wood shavings, cardboard and paper that is converted to compost, which can be used for soil improvement or as a fertilizer.



# IN CITY COUNCIL

Marlborough, Mass., \_\_\_\_\_ JUNE 22, 2020

ORDERED:

PAGE 2

**RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING:** Discarded material that can be converted into reusable material as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

**RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE:** Discarded material that is usual to housekeeping, which is not recycling or hazardous waste as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

- V. By amending Chapter 540, Section 540-19, entitled "Stickers", by deleting the existing section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

§ 540-19 Stickers; Use of Resident-Drop Off Facility

- (A) The resident drop-off facility shall be for the sole use of residents of the City of Marlborough. The department of public works shall issue permits in the form of stickers to be attached to each vehicle window. The department of public works shall adopt regulations for the administration of the resident drop-off facility consistent with this section.
- (B) Entrance for the use of the resident drop-off facility shall only be allowed to vehicles displaying a proper window sticker affixed to the lower, front corner of the driver's side window. Said permit shall allow use of the facility on an annual basis, from July 1 through June 30 of each year, as follows:
- (1) Residential Solid Waste / Residential Recycling Standard Sticker: \$50 annual fee. This sticker permits a maximum of 50 household bags of residential solid waste and 6 pay items.
  - (2) Residential Recycling Only Sticker: No fee.
  - (3) Senior Citizens (Age 65 and older) and Disabled American Veterans Sticker: No fee. This sticker permits a maximum of 50 household bags of residential solid waste and 4 pay items.
  - (4) Sticker Upgrades: Purchasable in \$100 increments for an additional 4 pay items. 12 household bags of residential solid waste are considered 1 pay item.
  - (5) For purposes of this subsection, Pay Items are items such as electronics, appliances and bulk waste.

- VI. By deleting Chapter 540, Sections 540-20, 540-21, and 520-22 in their entirety.

ADOPTED

ORDER NO. 20-1008042



# City of Marlborough Office of the Mayor

140 Main Street  
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752  
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www.marlborough-ma.gov

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RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
Arthur J. Tagliacant  
MAYOR  
2020 JUN 18 A 11:41  
Nathan R. Boudreau  
EXECUTIVE AIDE

Patricia Bernard  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

June 18, 2020

City Council President Michael H. Ossing  
Marlborough City Council  
140 Main Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

## Re: Changes to City of Marlborough Code regarding the Resident Drop-Off Facility

Honorable President Ossing and City Councilors:

As you know, the City's contract with WeCare ended on March 31, 2020, and the DPW has assumed complete control of the Resident Drop of Facility.

Many changes have been made to positively bring the facility into the 21st century and ensure that it is cost-effective, environmentally efficient, and provides the most significant benefit to the residents it serves.

Many issues have come to fruition lately regarding affordability of trash and recycling services locally, statewide, and nationally. These issues have caused the closing of many Massachusetts landfills, which has forced the cost of trash disposal to increase exponentially. Due to these increasing costs, we must reconsider the costs and operations of our services at the residential drop off facility to ensure the best use of this taxpayer run facility.

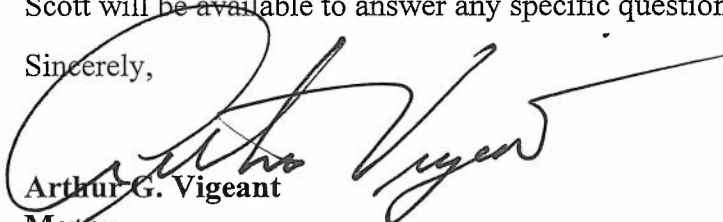
With that being said, on behalf of the Department of Public Works, enclosed please find a proposed order proposing changes to Section 540, Article II, of the City of Marlborough Code regarding the Resident Drop-Off Facility. As overviewed in the attached letter by Assistant Commissioner Ted Scott, the proposed order would make considerable changes to the facility and bring our operation in line with modern Resident Drop Off Facilities and regional facilities, all while remaining cost-effective for our residents.

Raising fees is something I try to avoid; however, the \$50-dollar sticker fee has not changed since 1996 and will not change for over 70% of users. I feel this is a cost-effective strategy to increase the cost for those that use the facility most to leave the majority of citizen use unaffected. Still, our facility is considerably cheaper than that of other municipal operations in our surrounding communities.

Public  
Swes

The Residential Drop Off facility brings tremendous value to Marlborough, and these changes will ensure we can change with the times while not diminishing the value for the consumer. Thank you for your consideration, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni and Assistant Commissioner Ted Scott will be available to answer any specific questions relative to the project.

Sincerely,



Arthur G. Vigeant  
Mayor

Enclosures





*City of Marlborough*  
**Department of Public Works**

135 NEIL STREET  
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752  
TEL. 508-624-6910  
\*TDD 508-460-3610

JOHN L. GHILONI  
COMMISSIONER

June 15, 2020

Mayor Arthur G. Vigeant  
City Hall  
140 Main Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Changes to City of Marlborough Code regarding the Resident Drop-Off Facility

Dear Mayor Vigeant:

With the end of the City's disposal contract with Wecare on March 31, 2020, the DPW has assumed complete control of the Resident Drop-Off facility. We have already made, and will continue to make, many changes to the facility that will positively affect cost, efficiency, customer service, as well as the environment.

As you know, with the closing of Massachusetts landfills, the cost of trash disposal is continuously increasing. In order to get a measure of control of the disposal amount and to apply a fair fee to residents based upon their use, we propose the attached changes to Section 540, Article II, of the City of Marlborough Code regarding the Resident Drop-Off Facility. The changes to the code are as follows: "Transfer Station" is replaced with the facility's official name of "Resident Drop-Off Facility", specific details regarding the use of the Resident Drop-Off Facility are removed from the code and will be issued by the Department of Public Works on an annual basis, and a new fee structure with a controlled tracking of items is proposed.

The current sticker fee of \$50 for the Resident Drop-Off Facility has not been increased since 1996. Although, a larger fee increase is most likely warranted, at this time we are proposing the following:

- Demolition materials will no longer be accepted.
- Senior Citizens are only 65 and older with no \$15 reduced rate for 62-65 years old.
- Recycling at no cost will not change.
- Senior Citizen and Disabled American Veteran permits at no cost will not change, but there will be limits of 50 bags of household trash and 4 pay items per year.
- No increase to the standard \$50 fee, but there will be limits of 50 bags of household trash and 6 pay items per year.
- Sticker upgrades will be in \$100 increments for each additional 4 pay items. Pay items will be electronics, appliances and bulk waste. 12 additional bags of household trash will be considered 1 pay item.

Based upon usage data from FY20, 71% of the FY21 users will see no increase in fee and 26% of the FY21 users will only see a \$100 increase in fee. The remaining 3% of the FY21 users will see an additional increase based upon the amount of pay items they dispose of. This fee structure yields a minimum \$200 per year value to every user. This is in addition to the approximately \$275 per year value achieved for residents using the curbside program.

In comparison with other Massachusetts municipalities, most adopt the MassDEP Pay as You Throw program at the curbside or drop-off center or both. Current fees for the surrounding towns are as follows:

- Southborough – Drop-Off Sticker: \$250
- Sudbury - Drop-Off Sticker: \$170, Bag: \$2.40, Recycle Sticker: \$30
- Westborough – Drop-Off Sticker: \$160, Appliance: \$30
- Hudson – Drop-Off Sticker: \$10, Bag: \$2-\$3, Appliances: \$15-25, TV/CRT: \$35, Bulk: \$25-\$35, Propane: \$8, Tires \$5-\$15
- Shrewsbury: Pay as you throw curbside
- Northborough: Pay as you throw curbside

We feel this approach still provides more value to residents than surrounding towns, has minimal effect on most of the users and allows us to offset the cost associated with users that dispose of more trash than the average user.

Please contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Theodore L. Scott  
Assistant Commissioner Operations

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ADOPTED  
In City Council  
Order No. 20-XXX  
Adopted

Approved by Mayor  
Arthur G. Vigeant  
Date:

A TRUE COPY  
ATTEST: