



## Republic Services gets 10-year contract from City Council

By Monique Ching

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

After lengthy and emphatic discussion, the San Angelo City Council narrowly voted to authorize execution of an at least 10-year trash services contract with Republic Services.

"I've never seen so many constituents get so involved emotionally in a trash contract," said Councilwoman Elizabeth Grindstaff, who was opposed to the decision.

Tuesday's council determination is the culmination of months of discussion, allegations of unauthorized overcharges, concerns of transparency and a lawsuit.

"Both companies were given equal footing," said Mayor Dwain Morrison, who was in favor of moving forward with the contract.

Grindstaff, council members Don Vardeman and Rodney Fleming asked at Tuesday's meeting that the existing contract with Republic be extended for six months while the issue of alleged overcharges, initially raised by competitor Texas Disposal Systems, is resolved.

"I'm going to vote against this, because I want to wait a six-month period," Fleming said. Although he was in favor of the Republic contract, Fleming said there were too many questions that remain unresolved for him to approve the measure.

Under the new contract, San Angelo residents will receive once a week solid waste collection and once a week collection of recyclable materials as well as quarterly curb-side bulk waste collection.

Just about every seat in the council chambers was filled, and many San Angelo residents came forward to speak to the issue.

"Without the time to look through this ... you're doing a disservice to everybody in San Angelo," said resident Charles Young.

Tony Villarreal, a local insurance salesman, praised the council and city staff for work on the proposals so far and said he was confident they'd hold Republic accountable.

"Through this whole process, I've admired the way you've handled public perception," Villarreal said. "Y'all have the interest of San Angelo at heart."

The council narrowly authorized execution of the Republic contract, which will begin Aug. 1, through a 4-3 vote. Council members Charlotte Farmer, Johnny Silvas, Marty Self and Mayor Morrison voted in favor of the motion to authorize the contract and rectify some typographical errors in the drafted contract.



© 2014 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online