

# | Agenda Item | cover sheet

for consideration by the Apex Town Council

Item Type: PRESENTATION

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

## Item Details

Presenter(s): John Mullis, Director

Department(s): Public Works

### Requested Motion

Receive and discuss the proposed Yard Waste Program Updates and communications strategy and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

### Approval Recommended?

Yes

### Item Details

This item provides the Town Council with a conceptual overview of proposed updates to the Town's Yard Waste Program, including anticipated service adjustments, implementation timing, ordinance amendments, and a coordinated public communications strategy. The discussion is intended as a preliminary step to receive Council feedback prior to the preparation and formal consideration of ordinance changes, and it reflects prior policy direction established during the February 13, 2026 Council Retreat.

At the retreat, Council deliberated several related motions concerning the future structure of yard waste services, including the phased elimination of grass-only collection beginning July 1, 2026, exploration of a transition to containerized yard waste collection by July 1, 2028, and movement toward a biweekly yard waste collection schedule. Council ultimately provided direction supporting a transition toward biweekly service and further evaluation of long-term system changes, including containerization and modified service models.

Below are the motions as provided by the Town Clerk -

A **motion** was made by **Councilmember Zegerman** to direct staff to initiate the phased elimination of grass-only collection, effective July 1, 2026, and to implement containerization beginning July 1, 2028. During the transition period, Town staff will continue to collect grass on an as-needed basis as a courtesy prior to full discontinuation.

**VOTE: Motion died, failing to receive a second.**

A **motion** was made by **Councilmember Zegerman**, seconded by **Councilmember Gray**, to direct staff to begin immediate communication with the public regarding the Town Council's intent to eliminate grass collection effective July 1, 2026, with enforcement to be carried out at the discretion of the Town Manager or their designee.

**VOTE: 3-2, with Mayor Pro-Tempore Mahaffey and Councilmember Reese dissenting.**

A **motion** was made by **Councilmember Zegerman**, seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tempore Mahaffey**, to direct staff to evaluate the feasibility of transitioning all other yard waste to a containerized collection system, with an effective date of July 1, 2028.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS (5-0)**

A **motion** was made by **Mayor Pro-Tempore Mahaffey**, seconded by **Councilmember Reese**, to transition to biweekly yard-waste collection and to direct staff to begin immediate public communication of this change. The proposed effective date is July 1, 2026, with the Town Manager authorized to adjust the start date as necessary to accommodate operational feasibility and ensure appropriate communication to residents.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS (5-0)**

Based on this direction, staff has developed a phased implementation framework that seeks to balance operational feasibility, customer communication, and service continuity. This phased structure is intended to allow for gradual operational adjustments while supporting clarity and predictability for residents.

In addition to service changes, staff is proposing corresponding ordinance updates to reflect Council direction and establish the regulatory framework necessary to support implementation. These revisions are expected to be brought forward for Council consideration at the May 12, 2026 Regular Town Council meeting.

Finally, the item includes a comprehensive communications strategy designed to ensure residents are informed and prepared for upcoming changes. Outreach efforts will begin in advance of implementation and will include a combination of in-person engagement, print and digital messaging, and coordination with community partners to maximize awareness and understanding of the evolving yard waste program.

#### Attachments

- PR6-1: PowerPoint Presentation - Yard Waste Program Update - **to be provided under a separate cover**

