

Opposition to Curbside Trash Pick Up Dominates Assembly Meeting

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Diana Gish/KMXT

An assembly chamber-full of Kodiak residents used their first amendment right of free speech to make themselves heard by the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly last (Thursday) night. The topic of such great interest to the community was the proposed curbside trash pick up contract with Alaska Waste.

The public hearing started with over 40 comments made by members of the public and ended with the assembly members voting 6-1 to postpone a vote on the contract until the next regular meeting. In the meantime, discussion about the contract will continue as the assembly and the borough staff work to hammer out adjustments to it.

The following is just a small sample of some of the public comments and assembly discussion heard at last night's three-and-a-half-hour long meeting:

One of the comments that seemed to resonate with many people at the meeting was made by the first speaker, Rob Baer.

Of the 42 people who testified, Assemblywoman Louise Stutes calculated that three were not advocating either for or against curbside pick up, 38 were against it, and only one person was in favor of it.

The solid waste collection contract will come up for a vote again at the next regular assembly meeting on March 4th.