

Garbage and Refuse Collection and Recycling Fees:

- Current fees are laid out in Sec. 11.07(o):
 - (o) *Service Provided and Fee Charged.*
 - (1) Garbage and refuse collection service shall be provided to City residents, except for users enumerated in sub. (p) below, by a contractor hired by the City and the Public Works Department.
 - (2) Commencing January 16, 2019, the owner or occupant of each residential unit to which garbage and refuse collection services are provided shall pay a monthly collection fee to the City of \$11.00, which fee shall be billed as part of the monthly water and sewer bill to such resident. Garbage and refuse collection fees which are not paid prior to October 1st of each year shall be certified by the Clerk-Treasurer and placed on the tax roll as a special charge against the property served.
 - (3) In the event residential property to which service is provided hereunder is or becomes vacant for a period of 30 or more days, the City will suspend the garbage and refuse collection fee chargeable to such residence during the period of vacancy, provided the City receives written notification of such vacancy at least 14 days before the vacancy commences. The garbage and refuse collection fee shall not be suspended for any period less than 30 days.
- Currently we charge \$11/mo per residential customer, but it has cost the City more than this since 2022.
 - Last time we raised the garbage rate was in 2019 when it was set at \$11.00.
 - As of December 2025, there were 1,854 residential garbage/recycling customers. I used this for the shortfall calculations below.
 - For 2022 and 2023, the City paid \$11.20 per residence, resulting in an approximate shortfall of \$4,449.60 each year (\$8,899.20 for both).
 - For 2024 the City paid \$11.76 per residence, resulting in an approximate shortfall of \$16,908.48.
 - In 2025 the City paid \$11.94 per residence, resulting in an approximate shortfall of \$20,913.12.
 - The total shortfall for 2022 – 2025 was approximately \$46,720.80.
 - The rate for 2026 is \$12.24 per residence, resulting in an anticipated shortfall of \$27,587.52 if the rate charged to City customers remains at \$11.00 per month.

- The City should consider whether it should raise the garbage rate to minimize or eliminate this shortfall. This will require amending Sec. 11.07(o)(2).
- There is no late fee authorized for garbage/recycling, only for water and sewer (3% or \$0.50, whichever is more).
- Ordinance Committee Recommendation:
 - Enact ordinance amending sec. 11.07(o)(2):
 - To increase the garbage and recycling rate to match the 2026 rate charged to the City (\$12.24/mo)
 - To impose a late fee mirroring the late fee for water and sewer: “A late payment charge of 3 percent but not less than 50 cents will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This one-time 3 percent late payment charge will be applied only to any unpaid balance for the current billing period's service.”