



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator
Subject: Garbage Hauler Discussion Take 2
Date: 4/27/2026

Two council members requested that the city council discuss the code that requires garbage haulers to be registered with the city.

Oelwein has the following haulers:

- Black Hawk Waste Disposal
- Kluesner Sanitation
- Waste Management

In 2016 when a new City Administrator was hired, the practice of licensing was no longer being followed. No official vote was taken by the city council to discontinue this practice. Only one year did the city reboot the program due to illegal hauling by a now defunct hauling company. Even in the one year, the city had to use significant staff time in retrieving the needed documents from the haulers. Ultimately several haulers were unable to provide the documents.

If the city council is interested in pursuing this practice, the city council should direct the city attorney to provide an opinion on the ability for the city to stop a company from hauling waste in Oelwein.

Council members have also raised questions about the transfer station raising fees. City staff is working on this and will provide a plan to determine the increased needed on solid waste and recycling. Both charges are on the utility bill.



City staff will work on the following should the city council want to proceed with enforcing this ordinance.

1. City has to create a commercial hauler application
2. City will need to acquire the following documents
 - a. Customer list, route, schedule, quarterly report. Licensed hauler shall quarterly file with the city clerk, in writing, a list of customers, and each regular scheduled route and collection schedule and certificate that collection complies with sections 16-22, 16-23 and 16-24.
 - b. Volume and disposal plan report. Licensed hauler shall quarterly file, with city clerk, in writing, a description of volume or weight concerning recycling, garbage and refuse collected and disposed, including a description of where collected recyclable materials will be processed, handled and final disposition.
 - c. Employees name and drivers licenses of all vehicle operators.
 - d. Vehicle registration for each vehicle and certification the vehicle complies with section 16-25.
 - e. Proof of insurance.
3. Determine the revocation period
 - a. Council determines the revocation period by vote
 - b. The city council will perform the hearing

City Hall will use code enforcement to perform all investigations. The city will only enforce based on complaints.