



The Informer

The City of Wapakoneta Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1

February 2018

Mayor

**The Honorable
Tom Stinebaugh**
419-738-6111

City Law Director

Dennis Faller
419-738-4187

*Director of Safety
and Service*

Chad Scott
419-738-6111

President of Council

Steve Henderson
419-738-6999

Council Clerk

Terry McDonald

First Ward

James Neumeier
419-738-4338

Second Ward

Daniel E. Lee
419-738-3759

Third Ward

Bonnie Wurst
419-738-5370

Fourth Ward

Chad Doll
419-738-6180

Council-at-Large

Chad Dunlap
419-204-0921

Rodney Metz

567-356-7453

Terry Campbell

419-296-0255

www.wapakoneta.net

City Refuse & Recycling Costs Explained

With recent discussion of the future of refuse and recycling service in Wapakoneta, please find below an explanation of the costs and fees associated with the service. Please note that this article is targeted toward residential customers.

The flat, monthly fee of \$11.00 for refuse service is used to pay for the operation, maintenance and replacement of the trucks used for pick up, as well as to pay the wages and benefits of the city refuse / recycling workers. The fee for the city garbage bags is used to pay for fees associated with landfill service (often called tipping fees). The majority of this is for disposal and is based upon the weight of the refuse that is being disposed. Some of the fee covers the Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District fees associated with landfill closures, operations, and so forth. A very small portion pays for bag production. The tags available for large and unusual items function in the same fashion as the bags while giving residents options for disposal of unique items.

The projected operating costs for 2018 are as follows:

Refuse Department	\$1,186,000
Recycling Department	<u>\$ 110,000</u>
Total Operating Cost	\$1,296,000

The projected revenues for 2018 are as follows:

Flat Monthly Fees	\$705,000
Bag Sales	\$350,000
Transfer in to Recycling Fund	\$ 60,000
Yard Waste Sales	\$ 13,000
Fund Carryover	\$136,000
Recycling	<u>\$ 32,000</u>
Total Revenues	\$1,296,000

The current bag system attempts to accomplish two goals. First, charging per individual bag rather than a flat total fee provides an incentive to recycle. Secondly, charging per bag rather than a flat total fee provides a financial charge that is proportional to the amount of refuse a customer produces. Other services are billed in a similar manner. For example, there is a flat fee for having electric service and then there is a usage fee that varies by customer based upon the amount of energy that is consumed.

It is also important to note that there is no additional charge for recycling at this time. In addition to general income tax monies that are budgeted to provide recycling service, money is also transferred out of the refuse fund into the recycling fund to help sustain this service.

As has been noted in recent public meetings, the flat, monthly fee is not covering costs for truck replacement. Several trucks in the fleet are over 20 years in age and are deteriorating rapidly. While the daily operating costs are under control, long term costs need to be addressed.

(Please continue reading on the reverse side.)



Auditor

Wilbur Wells
419-738-6111

Treasurer

Barbara Steinke
419-738-6111

Electric

Levi Cecil
419-738-7713

Engineering

Mary Ruck
419-738-5596

Fire & EMS

Anthony Stinebaugh
419-738-2014

Income Tax

Diana Blackburn
419-738-3011

Parks & Recreation

Jack Hayzlett
419-738-7158

Police

Calvin Schneider
419-738-2222

Public Works

William Thomas
419-738-3223

Wastewater Treatment

Justin Waid
419-738-2418

Water Treatment

Brent Hamel
419-738-7439

City of Wapakoneta

701 Parlette Court
PO Box 269
Wapakoneta OH 45895
419-738-6111



Refuse & Recycling Information (continued from the front)

In light of these financial realities, the city has two options at this point:

1. Increase the flat, monthly fee by approximately \$5.00 per month (note that this is an informal estimate as no formal analysis or truck bid has been completed) to keep the service as a local utility function. A rate increase would depend upon projected price of replacement of trucks and upon the method selected for paying for them.
2. Put the service out for a private bid that will almost certainly use rolling totes for refuse and recycling and, depending upon how the bid is defined, may or may not have recycling incentives and possible sorting requirements.

City garbage bags are available at these locations:

City Hall Utilities Office - 701 Parlette Court
 Beer and Wine Depot - 804 Lima St
 Community Markets - 805 Defiance St
 Hutchinson Shell - 1402 Bellefontaine St
 Marathon - 1003 Defiance St.
 Schneider's Party Shop & Grocery - 512 S Blackhoof St
 Schwieterman's Pharmacy - 1302 Defiance St
 TrueValue Wapak - 805 Defiance St
 CJ's Pizza - 709 Defiance St

Survey

The city council is interested in citizen feedback. Please take this short survey and return it with your utility bill, or simply return it to city hall if you pay electronically.

1. On average, how many of these items does your home place out for pick up per week?

White Bags ____ Black Bags ____ Recycling Bins / Containers ____

2. Which of these changes would you support (check all that apply)

- From garbage bags to rolling totes
- Changing the size of the bags
- Eliminating city bags and switching to a tag system
- From twist tie bags to draw string bags
- From twist tie bags to bags with flaps that tie
- From the current recycle bins to bins with a lid
- From current recycling bins to a rolling tote
- I have no concerns about the current system

3. Would you be willing to sort recycling into two provided bins with one for fibers (paper & cardboard) and one for other items such as plastics, cans, etc.

Yes No