

On November 2, 2023, the City of Decatur will conduct two hearings concerning garbage and recycling collection rules and ordinances. The first hearing is on proposed rate changes, and the second hearing concerns non-rate revisions to City ordinances governing garbage and recycling collection (Chapter 56 of the City Code). The hearings will be conducted in the City Council Chambers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Decatur Civic Center, starting at 5:30 pm.

A rate hike has not been allowed since July 2021. Two local haulers have requested adjustments in their customer rates to reflect increases in labor, equipment, landfill, and other operational costs of providing their services.

A one-page summary of proposed rates changes follows this summary page. Other proposed ordinance revisions include:

1. Most alley collection of garbage and recycling will be moved to the street/curb, except where terrain and access issues make it too difficult (in the opinion of the hauler) to collect garbage and recycling from the street edge (curb). Alley collection requires the use of rear-loading trucks, and constant garbage truck traffic is very damaging to the alleys.
2. All residential customers in buildings with six(6) or fewer independent living units must use either 64-gallon or 95-gallon wheeled totes, carts/containers that meet the City's specifications for all garbage and recycling collections. Other containers of different sizes may only be used for yard waste collection. **A customers' assigned waste hauler will be responsible for providing containers at no additional charge.** There will not be a cost difference for 64-gallon and 95-gallon containers. The preferred size of container will be the customer's choice. After a phase-in period, no other containers will be allowed or collected, unless they are used for yardwaste storage and collection.
3. Extra 64-gallon and 95-gallon carts/totes can be obtained from each customer's assigned hauler for a fixed monthly fee added to the base fee billed for "Basic Residential Service."
4. "Basic Residential Service" means: weekly pick-up of trash and recycling; 5 separate bulky waste pick-ups per year (with certain limitations described in the ordinance); yardwaste collection for 6 weeks in the spring beginning April 1, and for 6 weeks in the fall beginning November 1 of each year. "Basic Residential Service" shall be provided by the customer's assigned hauler. However, all residential customers may contract for additional yardwaste services if they desire it (beyond the basic level) with ANY local hauler, for whatever extra fee they negotiate with their selected hauler. Premium yardwaste service fees charged by haulers must be filed with the city.
5. Customers will be charged for "overage," meaning trash not fitting inside containers, piled next to the customer's cart, in excess of volume and items allowed by the 5 annual bulky waste collection service, and other overages; but the hauler will have to photographically document overages in order to add such fees to customers' bills.
6. Where there is a sustained pattern of poor service on the part of a hauler, the City is empowered to assign a neighborhood to a different hauler, or competitively bid the neighborhood to other haulers.