



MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
FROM: Mark Whitley, Assistant City Manager
RE: Ordinance to Adopt a Recycling Fee for the City of Fredericksburg
DATE: May 5, 2021 (for May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting)

ISSUE

City Council is asked to adopt a recycling fee for the City of Fredericksburg that will offset part of the cost of the single-stream curbside recyclables collection program.

RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance was considered at a public hearing on April 20, 2021.

Staff recommends approval on second reading. The ordinance passed first reading on April 27, 2021.

BACKGROUND

The City of Fredericksburg collects single-stream curbside recyclables from customers throughout the City. In the past, the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board (the "R-Board"), which operates the landfill in a joint partnership with Stafford County, received revenue from processors for the recycling that was collected. Unfortunately, the cost of recycling solid waste has increased dramatically over the past several years. In January 2018, China sharply curtailed the amount of recycled waste it accepts from around the world, which reduced global demand for recycled materials. As a result, the R-Board now has to pay processors to accept the materials. As of July 2020, the R-Board began to charge the City a fee of \$50 per ton for recycling to offset the costs that the R-Board pays to handle the material. This change has added approximately \$54,000 per year to its cost for the recycling program. The total budgeted cost of the program in FY 2022, including the recycling tipping fees and the costs of collection, is \$200,474.

Staff recommends that the City add a fee to utility customers of \$3 / bill (\$18 per year) to help defray the costs of the R-Board charges along with the costs to the City to collect the recycling and deliver it to the R-Board. This charge would apply to all utility customers, as the entire community benefits from the recycling program and the extension of the useful life of the landfill facility.

FISCAL IMPACT

The additional fee will be implemented July 1, 2021 and is projected to increase the City's General Fund revenue by \$125,000, which will reduce the General Fund impact of continuing the program to \$75,474.

Attachment: Ordinance Adopting a Recycling Fee for the City of Fredericksburg



May 11, 2021
Regular Meeting
Ordinance No. 21-12

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: Adopting a Recycling Fee for the City of Fredericksburg

ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 0; Nays: 0

FIRST READ: April 27, 2021 **SECOND READ:** _____

SEC. I. Introduction, purpose and authority.

The City of Fredericksburg collects single-stream curbside recyclables from customers throughout the City. The market for recyclables changed, and there is less demand for single-stream recycling materials than in previous years. The Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board (the “R-Board”), which operates the landfill in a joint partnership with Stafford County, has been charging the City Public Works Department a fee per ton to process single-stream recyclables. This reflects the charges that the R-Board is paying processors to handle the recycling.

The City Council wishes to adopt a fee to recycling customers of the City to reflect the charges that the City and the R-Board landfill are paying to process single-stream recycling.

The Council adopts this ordinance pursuant to its authority under §15.2-948 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. Public notice has been duly made and public hearings held in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Virginia.

SEC. II. Adopting a recycling fee.

Therefore, the City Council hereby ordains the following fee be adopted for customers of the City of Fredericksburg Public Works Department.

Solid Waste Collection Fees	Current	Proposed	Change
Recycling Fee			
Bi-monthly Rate	\$-	\$3	\$3

SEC. III. Effective date.

This ordinance shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved as to form:

Kathleen Dooley, City Attorney

Clerk's Certificate

I, the undersigned, certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 21-12 duly adopted the City Council meeting held at which a quorum was present and voted.

***Tonya Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council***