

## June 4, 2024 City Council Minutes

Unfinished Business  
FY25 Budget Update, Q2

### Landfill Tipping Fee Increase

Zaremba reported landfill rates were last raised in May 2015 (6.25¢ or \$125/ton to 8¢ or \$160/ton). He referenced Reierson's *Landfill Rate Increase* memo, dated May 31, 2024, and read three options that were based on volume from 2022 and 2023: 1) 11¢ per pound, 2) 12¢ per pound, or 3) 14¢ per pound, as recommended by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Each option would bring in significant revenue.

Reierson said Fairbanks charges non-residents 14¢/lb. If landfill tipping fees increased to 11¢ per pound (\$220/ton) it would bring in \$277,600.80 in additional revenue. If increased to 12¢ (\$240/ton), it would bring in \$370,134.40 and if increased to 14¢ (\$280/ton), it would bring in \$555,201.60 extra revenue.

Rawson and Leith agreed to take the hit (14¢/lb.) and move on.

Riesner favored less impact by raising rates by one or two cents a year. A recent trip to the landfill cost him \$60. With the price hike, it would cost \$90-\$100. Raising rates will affect residents who use commercial haulers also.

Hallgren said to increase septage rates accordingly (gallon of waste same as pound of refuse). No matter which option, the City could contribute \$300,000 to the \$900,000 projected cost to fund the ambulance service.

Discussion followed regarding using additional revenue toward replacing aged equipment, developing Cell 3, closing Cell 2, and a startup volunteer BLS ambulance service in Alaska costing \$750,000.

Zaremba expressed concern with increasing prices too fast. Charging high rates is going to result in less refuse.

**Motion:** Hallgren moved to increase the landfill tipping fee to 12¢ per pound (and 12¢ per gallon for septic waste), dedicating 3¢ per pound to the local Emergency Medical Services, effective July 1, 2024, and to revisit the topic in three months; Leith seconded.

Hallgren noted that the ambulance crew houses its operation out of the fire station where apartments are available.

**Motion passed** on a roll call with five in favor (Leith, Hallgren, Prestegard, Rawson, Zaremba) and one opposed (Riesner).

## October 15, 2024 City Council Minutes

### Revisit Landfill Price Increase

Reierson referenced a spreadsheet that compared landfill waste volumes between 2022 and 2024 and patron visits (675 in June 2023 compared to 724 in June 2024, 669 in July 2023 compared to 677 in July 2024, 749 in August 2023 compared to 641 in August 2024, and 708 in September 2023 compared to 556 in September 2024).

Discussion followed regarding three cents of the four-cent increase allocated to EMS and one cent to inflation, \$66,953 raised in three months for EMS, the last few landfill fee increases (6.25¢/lb. on July 1, 2007 to 8¢/lb. on March 16, 2015 to 12¢/lb. on July 1, 2024), and revisiting landfill prices again in January 2025.

