



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bay City Commission Adopts Solid Waste Ordinance Changes

Bay City, Michigan – January 23, 2020 - The Bay City Commission adopted revisions to the City Code of Ordinances, Ordinance number 2020-1, Chapter 86, related to solid waste and material recovery, during its meeting on Tuesday, January 21st.

After extensive research and evaluation, City staff drafted revisions to Chapter 86, solid waste and material recovery, in order to more accurately align our operations with state and national industry standards conducted in both the private and public sector. According to Tim Botzau, Bay City Parks and Environmental Affairs Manager, “The changes will increase efficiency, safety, and provide other options of waste disposal for our residents.”

The City is currently working on a marketing, outreach and information campaign to inform residents, tenants, property owners and businesses of impending changes and what the ordinance revisions will mean to them. Most ordinance changes will be phased in starting in April 2020.

A summary of the most notable ordinance changes include:

- Implementation of a commercial recycling rate and required use of city-issued recycling carts.
- Brush and yard waste collection – clarifying and defining when and how brush and yard waste will be collected seasonally.
- Bulk item and refuse cart overflow – Bulk items (those items larger than what can be placed in the city provided refuse container) will require a bulk item sticker in order to be collected and in an effort to diminish refuse cart overflow, all refuse must be contained in the city provided refuse container.

The City is working to implement a public drop-off site that will allow for an alternate option to dispose of household refuse, building material, bulk items, extra refuse, and yard waste. The drop-off site will also include the opportunity to recycle some typically “hard-to-recycle” items, that are not currently part of recycling or solid waste collection. The drop-off site is expected to be open this spring and is being made possible, in part, with Renew Michigan grant funding from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). More information on the drop-off site is forthcoming.

“The updated ordinance is intended to better assist our residents with the removal of solid waste, recycling and yard waste and to make the service more equitable across all users. We will continue to identify opportunities for residents to reduce, reuse, and recycle items instead of throwing them away.”, states Tim Botzau.

A complete list of changes to Chapter 86 Solid Waste and Material Recovery can be found on the City of Bay City’s website: www.baycityrecycles.org

The City will continue to provide information and updates as we work through the implementation of the drop-off site and ordinance changes. In the meantime, residents, tenants, property owners and businesses can look for updates on the baycityrecycles.org webpage and by following us at Facebook.com/baycityrecycles.

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