

**Finance Committee Meeting      Tuesday 12-01-2020 in Council Meeting Room**

The meeting commenced at 1959 hrs. and ended at 2031 hrs.

Committee members in attendance: Chairman David W. Voss, Raejean Hardig, Jim Sunderhaus, and Dan Cunningham.

Other Council Members in attendance: Amy Richter, Gail Griffin and President of Council Mark Waters.

Administration in attendance: via Zoom Mayor Sam Keller and SSD Tom Braun

Others: John Hardig

Meeting Objectives: To discuss the Administration's request to raise the current garbage fee from \$12.00 per month to \$14.00 per month for single family housing units.

The chair opened the meeting and provided the following pass outs and information:

- 1 Copies of ordinance no. 14-12. This ordinance enacted a corrected schedule of trash collection rates and fees relative clerical errors in the previous ordinance 13-27 fee schedule.
2. Informational sheet re Trash Fee proposed rate increases and questions and concerns.
3. Spreadsheet to obtain financial data re income and expenditures et cetera generated by the current trash fee and associated with trash collection.

There was discussion relative the following topics:

The trash fee when imposed by Council was meant to subsidize the cost of trash collection by the City. It was never intended to cover the whole cost of trash collection. Historically, there was not an additional fee to collect trash and the general fund paid for trash service for the residents. The first ordinance, no. 13-27 was adopted on November 19, 2013 to authorize fees for the collection of trash in the City of Cheviot.

The Administration's requested increase of \$12.00 per month to \$14.00 per month raised concerns. Council wants financial information relative trash collection costs. The chair had submitted a blank spreadsheet prior to the meeting listing information to be requested from the Safety Service Director. Committee members asked for additional information to be provided to council. The request is for every year the ordinance has been in force for the total amount of trash collection fees and the total cost of trash collection each year. Also, a breakout for the number of each rate in the Dumpster Fee Costs for Business Billing.

Why is the administration only proposing to raise the rate for single family units and not for the other rates in exhibit A of the ordinance? All rates should be subject to review.

Council members in attendance expressed that this is a terrible time to ask for a rate increase. With the ongoing pandemic, citizens are financially suffering and having difficulties paying their rent and mortgages and other living expenses.

Mayor Keller provided that the City will need to purchase a new garbage truck next year and one the year after. The cost of a garbage truck is \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00 each. Other costs to operate the garbage department are rising yearly.

Everyone agreed that the trash collection service is well liked by the citizenry. It provides service beyond what you would receive from a private contractor.

In closing, the chair advised that another meeting will be held in January 2021 when the financial information requested is available to Council. It will be held either before or after a regular Council meeting to limit meetings during the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Voss



Jim Sunderhaus

Raejean Hardig

Dan Cunningham

