

City of Leslie Trash Pickup – Frequently Asked Questions

The City Council voted in January to begin looking at alternatives to trash pickup in the City. The following list of questions and answers are here to help City of Leslie residents understand what the City is currently researching.

Q: What is the City looking at?

A: The City is researching whether it would be a benefit to current City Residents to bid out trash services to one company for the entire City.

Q: Why is the City looking at a one company system?

A: There are several reasons:

1. Leverage city buying power – by leveraging all the residents we can negotiate a better price for everyone.
2. One pickup day – there are currently five different trash companies servicing the City. Everyday of the week there is at least one trash company in town. We could alleviate this by having one trash company and one pickup day.
3. Less Trucks – As the State of Michigan continues cutbacks to local communities and transportation dollars become scarce, we are looking for ways to preserve our roads. One trash company would limit the amount of heavy trucks that we have on our City streets prolonging the life.
4. One contact person – having one trash hauler in town limits the problems that we will have because there will be one contact with one company who can help resolve problems.
5. Other services – we are looking to add additional services such as curbside recycling and/or yard waste pickup.

Q: How would this affect me?

A: If you are a resident in the City of Leslie, you would possibly need to transfer to the trash hauler that was chosen through the competitive bidding process. If you currently do not have any trash service, you would not need to do anything. The goal is to save residents money and potentially give more services.

Q: Does this affect commercial property?

A: No, commercial properties would not be included.

Q: What if the City puts it out to bid and it does not save residents money?

A: The City will judge proposals on many different criteria. If there is not a clear improvement in cost or other services, it is likely the current system would remain in place. We would continue to analyze in subsequent years to continue to ensure savings for residents.

Q: Has anyone else done this?

A: There are many communities throughout Michigan that have done this including local communities such as Mason, Dimondale, Portland, Perry, and many others. We have analyzed their experiences which have appeared to be very positive.

Q: Why does the process take so long?

A: With limited resources, we are taking the time to research this ourselves. As with all decisions in the City, we try to collect as much information as possible and make the best decision.

Q: What would be the process for selecting a trash hauler?

A: The first step is to review the information that is out there and look at other cities. The next step is to determine what types of services we would like. Then, the City would prepare a request for proposal from different trash companies. The City would then examine all the proposals and decide on a company to hire.

Q: Does this affect my choice as a resident?

A: Yes, you would need to use the trash company chosen by the City, however, the reason we are looking at this is to save residents money and provide additional services. We have been challenged to do things smarter and more efficient at the local level.

Q: How will this be billed?

A: This is a detail that has not been determined yet. This service would not affect your taxes, it would replace what you currently spend on garbage removal.

Q: Will recycling be a part of this?

A: We hope to include recycling services as part of this. Most likely it would be curbside recycling.

Q: What would the process be to change companies?

A: If the City decides to move to a single hauler system, we will provide instructions on how to make the transition.