

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	August 19, 2019
Action Required:	Amend City of Charlottesville Code (1 st of 2 Readings)
Presenters:	Marty Silman, Public Works
Staff Contacts:	Paul Oberdorfer, Public Works Sebastian Waisman, City Attorney's Office Marty Silman, Public Works
Title:	Amend Charlottesville City Code §26-29

Background:

Charlottesville City Code §26-29 currently provides two methods by which a resident may dispose of fallen leaves between November and January. Residents may place leaves in clear plastic bags and set them at the curb for weekly pick-up or rake leaves to the curb for loose-leaf collection by the City's vacuum trucks, which occurs twice during the season.

The City's Public Service personnel are responsible for both methods of collection. City staff transports both bagged leaves and loose leaves to a nearby farm where they are used to make mulch. Bagged leaves are dumped at the farm and the plastic bags are then disposed of in the landfill.

This service is provided at no cost to all City residents.

Discussion:

After a review of the City's leaf collection program, Public Service is proposing to amend City Code § 26-29 to eliminate bagged leaf collection for the following reasons:

- Relying on plastic bags to collect and dispose of leaves has a negative environmental impact, as plastic bags increase the City's waste and reliance on landfills.
- The cost of the bags, including staff time to coordinate, assemble, distribute, and dispose of the bags, totals approximately 34.5% of the entire leaf collection program. It is estimated that eliminating use of the bags would save approximately \$81,129.47 annually in operational costs. (This figure excludes any equipment replacement costs.)
- The City's equipment for collecting bagged leaves is outdated and in dire need of replacement. Replacing this equipment would cost approximately \$650,000, whereas increasing the loose-leaf collection would only require the purchase of one addition vacuum apparatus at \$73,000, which can be absorbed in the current budget.
- The effort to coordinate, assemble and distribute the bags is an inordinate misalignment of time and skilled tradespeople, who would otherwise be employed in maintaining the City's transportation infrastructure.

The level of service for loose-leaf collection will be increased to offset this impact.

Alignment with Council Vision Areas and Strategic Plan:

This ordinance amendment aligns with the City's Vision Areas for A Green City, A Connected Community and Smart, Citizen-Focused Government.

This ordinance amendment aligns with the City's Strategic Plan Goal 3.4 "Be responsible stewards of natural resources"; Goal 5.1 "Integrate effective business practices and strong fiscal policies"; and Goal 5.3 "Provide responsive customer service".

Community Engagement:

During the 2018/2019 leaf season, Public Service initiated an on-line survey regarding the leaf collection program. The survey ran for the entire 3 months of the leaf season and received 538 completed surveys, which yields a 95% confidence level with a 4.2% margin of error. The results of the survey indicated more than 65% of survey respondents approved of a proposal to abandon bagged leaf collection. In addition, 650 written responses were provided, which will be used to inform changes in the future.

Budgetary Impact:

Termination of bagged leaf collection will result in approximately \$81,129.47 of operational savings annually. Retention of the bagged portion of the leaf program will cost the city approximately \$650,000 to replace the aging equipment required to perform bagged leaf pickup, whereas increasing the loose-leaf collection would only require the purchase of one addition vacuum apparatus at \$73,000, which can be absorbed in the current budget.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment of the City Code.

Alternatives:

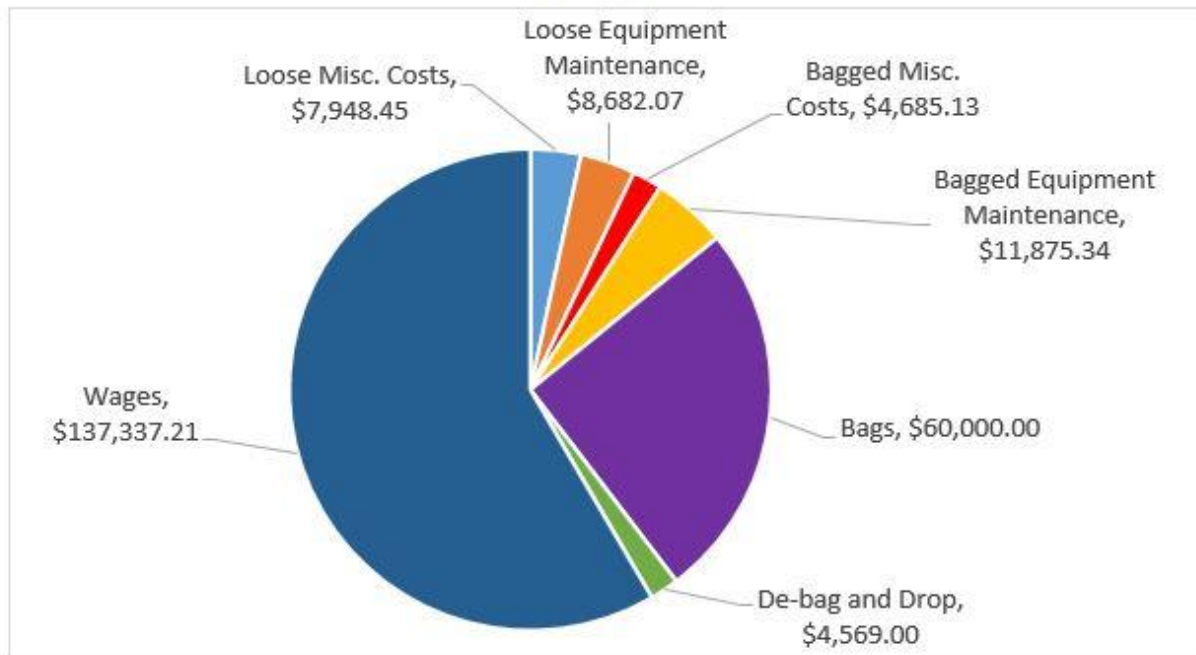
The Council could decline to enact the proposed ordinance. If it chooses to do so, it would need to appropriate funding in the near future to replace the trucks used for bagged leaf pickup, which his estimated at \$650,000.

Attachments:

Data regarding the leaf collection program.
Proposed ordinance

Leaf Collection and Disposal

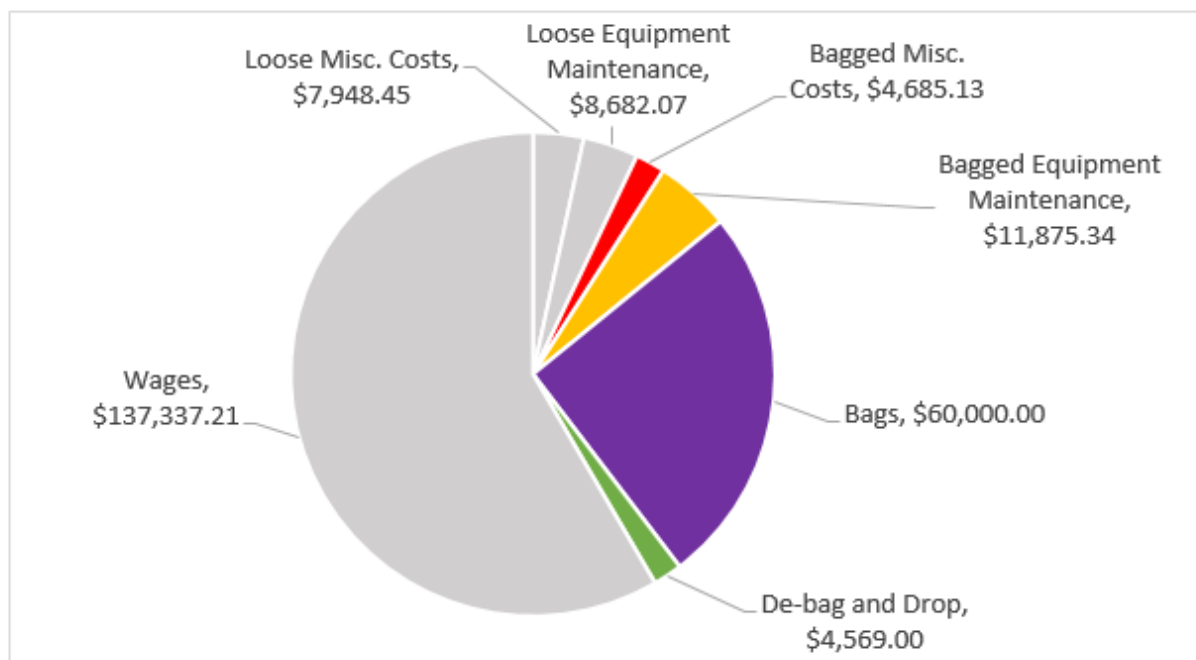
Existing Program Costs



Total FY19 Cost = \$235,097.20

Leaf Collection and Disposal

Bagged Program Costs

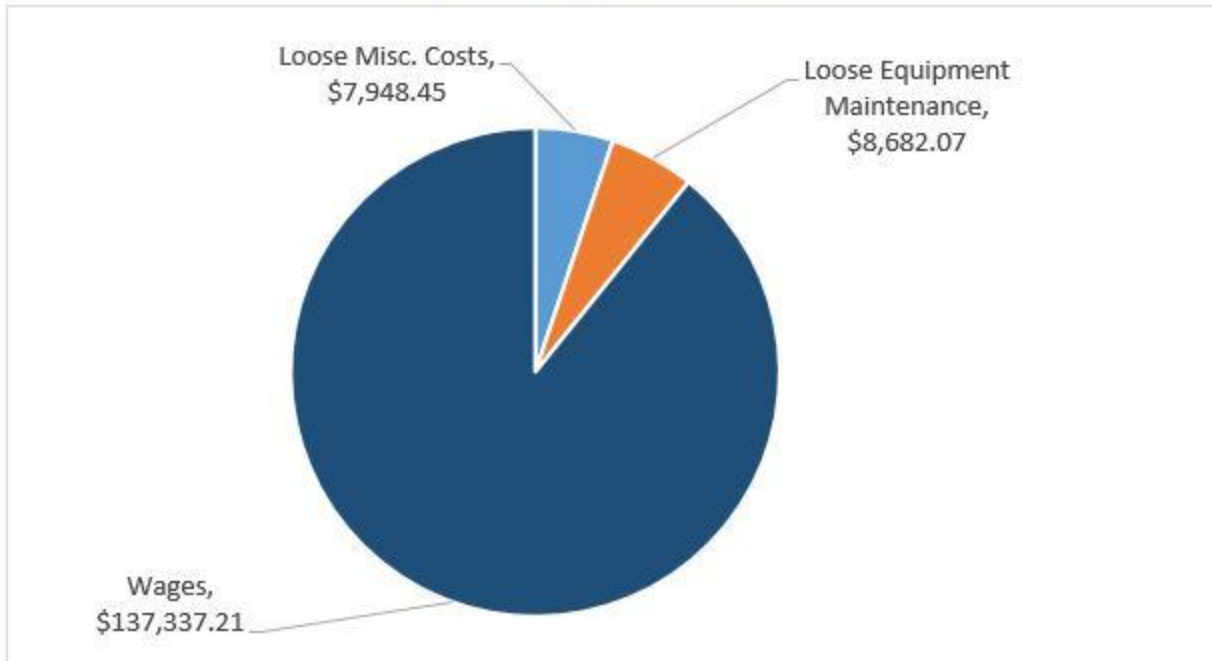


Total FY19 Bagged Cost = \$81,129.48

(Does not include equipment replacement)

Leaf Collection and Disposal

Proposed Program Costs



Anticipated FY20 Cost = \$153,967.73

(Does not include new replacement)

Leaf Collection and Disposal

Cost per Ton

<i>Cost Element</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Loads</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Loose Leaf Comptime	30.0			\$567.57
Loose Leaf Time	4136.0			\$78,249.36
Loose Leaf Overtime	380.0			\$12,336.19
Loose Leaf Loads			119.0	
Loose Leaf Tonnages		111.3		
Loose Leaf Vacuum Maintenance				\$8,682.07
Printing and Duplicating				\$2,131.00
Misc.				\$5,817.45
Subtotals Loose Leaf	4546.0	111.3	119.0	\$107,783.6
Bagged Leaf Preparation	717.5			\$13,574.45
Bagged Leaf Time	1655.0			\$31,311.09
Bagged Leaf Overtime	40.0			\$1,298.55
Bagged Leaf Loads			60.0	
Bagged Leaf Tonnages		82.3		
Bags				\$60,000.00
Bagged Leaf Truck Maintenance				\$11,875.34
AVL software Maintenance				\$384.00
Debag and Waste Drop				\$4,569.00
Misc.				\$4,301.13
Subtotals Bagged Leaf	2412.5	82.3	60.0	\$127,313.6
Totals	6958.5	193.5	179.0	\$235,097.2

Cost per ton - Loose	\$968.75
Cost per ton - Bags	\$1,547.70

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING AND REORDAINING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
CHAPTER 26 (SOLID WASTE) ARTICLE II (CURBSIDE COLLECTION BY CITY)
SECTION 26-29 (PREPARATION OF LEAVES FOR COLLECTION)
TO DISCONTINUE LEAF-BAGGING PROGRAM**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that:

Section 26-29 of Article II of Chapter 26 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville (1990) is amended and reordained as follows:

Sec 26-29. - Preparation of leaves for collection.

During the months of November through January, it shall be unlawful to place leaves in containers for collection by the city. During such months, leaves shall only be ~~placed in clear plastic bags for curbside collection or~~ placed loose at the curb or street edge for vacuum collection. It shall be unlawful to rake leaves into any street far enough from the curb of street edge so as to create a traffic hazard. The safe distance from a curb or street edge for the deposit of leaves for vacuum collection will vary depending on street widths and other traffic conditions. It shall be unlawful to rake leaves onto a sidewalk so as to cover its entire width and obstruct pedestrian traffic on such sidewalk.

During the months of February through October, any leaves intended for city collection shall be placed in containers with the appropriate sticker or decal as yard waste in accordance with section 26-28. This includes any leaves deposited earlier for vacuum collection if such leaves were not so collected during the months of November through January.