

Commercial Bulk Container Garbage Collection

- Charleston County Solid Waste User Fee - is the principal funding source for the County's solid waste management programs.
 - Residential – included in the annual property tax bill
 - Single Family \$150, Multi-family \$105
 - Commercial – billed directly to businesses and is based on the prior year's volume as reported by the hauler
 - \$260 per cubic yard of garbage
- Garbage Collection Service Fee
 - Garbage collection company paid by the city to collect bulk containers used by condos and businesses
 - Price per cubic yard (Annual cost is based volume and frequency of collection)

Municipal Compactor

- Located in the small parking lot behind Public Safety Building (Lot A)
- Compactor is owned and maintained by the city
- 10 Front Beach businesses use the compactor as they do not have the space to accommodate a commercial dumpster in their property
- City pays for the collection/service fee, and bills the user fee to each business
- The user fee is split among the businesses that use the municipal compactor based on volume
- Per City Code 3-2-4, businesses that generate more than two (2) 90-gallon roll out carts between collection dates, may be required to use a bulk container

Commercial Bulk Container Garbage Collection

- Current vendor increased price from approximately .75 cents per yard to \$3 starting June 1, 2024.
- Approximately \$75K annual cost to \$288K
- City has been paying for commercial bulk container collection for island businesses for decades. We believe it started after Hugo to help struggling businesses.
- Staff is not aware of any other municipality in the state that pays for bulk container services for businesses.
- Not only the cost has increased, but also the volume and frequency of collection has increased due to increased activity and growth on the island.
- Immediately upon learning of the increase in cost, we issued a new request for bids to get other prices
- Bids ranged from \$2.50, \$2.79 and \$3.75

Business	New Monthly Cost
Acme	\$ 606
Beachside Vacations	\$ 433
Boat House	\$ 433
Charleston County Park	\$ 455
Circle K	\$ 433
Citadel Beach House	\$ 130
Islander 71	\$ 866
Liquor Store	\$ 130
Long Island Café	\$ 325
Lutheran Retreat Center	\$ 87
Marina Outpost	\$ 433
Municipal Compactor (shared by 10 business)	\$ 1,848
Ocean Park Center	\$ 433
Palm Blvd IOP LLC	\$ 130
Post Office	\$ 65
Sea Biscuit	\$ 43
The Co-Op	\$ 130
The Refuge	\$ 130
Wild Dunes (Villages Resort, Conference and Golf Course)	\$ 6,931

Hospitality Tax Fund

- 2% of prepared food and beverage sales
- FY25 budget projects revenues of \$1.3M
- Hospitality Tax funds support city services that benefit our commercial businesses:
 - Police and Fire – emergency vehicles, body worn cameras for police officers, equipment for beach services officers, public safety drone
 - Public Works – landscaping, street sweeping, portion of capital projects
 - Recreation – Events held on Front Beach to attract visitors to the area during the off season
 - General – Maintenance of parking lots, Ocean Boulevard, public restrooms, free service for CARTA shuttle that stops at 14th Ave
 - Personnel – 2 police officers, Livability Officer, 2 firefighters, 50% of Fire Inspector, 1 CDL driver

Action Item and Next Steps

- Public Services & Facilities Committee recommended extending a 6-month agreement w existing provider to ensure continuity of service, and provide city time to decide on the policy for commercial garbage collection going forward
- Cost for 6-month extension is \$177K
- New vendor needs at least 3 months to purchase and install new dumpsters ahead of service
- After 6 months, city can transition to only servicing condominiums, and businesses would be responsible to schedule and pay for the collection of their own commercial bulk containers.
- The Front Beach businesses that use the city's compactor would be billed for the cost of garbage collection and the user fee on an annual basis.