ORDINANCE NO. 1641

AN ORDINANCE ADDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 24, SECTION 165, FEES FOR GARBAGE, RUBBISH AND RECYCLABLES COLLECTION TO THE BLUFFTON CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the Common Council ("**Council**") of the City of Bluffton ("**City**") has authority under the Acts of the Indiana General Assembly to make all necessary regulations for the preservation of the rights, property, health, safety and welfare of its citizens and the Council finds that the interests of the citizens of the City would be best served by an amendment to the Bluffton City Code ("**Code**") to add the fees for the collection of garbage, rubbish and recyclables; and

WHEREAS, the Code currently provides the following in

8.24.160 Service Charges:

"The Board shall adopt one or more resolutions to establish regulations and fees for the collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials within the City. The fees shall be payable at the same time and in the same manner as the City's electric, water, and wastewater fees. The receipt and disbursement of all fees for the collection of Garbage, Rubbish and recyclable materials shall be accounted separately through the Bluffton Wastewater Utility Fund."

WHEREAS, 8.24.160 Service Charges is amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

8.24.160 Service Charges:

"The Council shall adopt an Ordinance periodically to establish regulations and fees for the collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials within the City. The fees shall be payable at the same time and in the same manner as the City's electric, water, and wastewater fees. The receipt and disbursement of all fees for the collection of Garbage, Rubbish and recyclable materials shall be accounted separately through the Bluffton Wastewater Utility Fund."

WHEREAS, the Board has solicited bids for the collection of garbage, rubbish and recyclables materials for the City and the Council desires to amend the Code to add a new Section 8.24.165 to establish the fees to be collected from the Citizens of the City to pay for the collection of Garbage, Rubbish and recyclable materials.

WHEREAS, Councilman Scott A, Mentzer has developed a methodology to determine the

percentage of a residential utility bill that is devoted to the collection of Garbage, Rubbish and recyclable materials ("**Trash**") and the administration costs to process invoicing and payments with respect to these services. This methodology included: (i) totaling all residential utility bills for each utility: Electric, Sewer, Water and Trash, (ii) dividing each utility total by the total number of residential units served by that utility to determine the average monthly bill for each utility for each residential unit, and (iii) dividing the average monthly bill for Trash services to a residential unit into the average monthly utility bill to a residential unit for all four utility services to arrive at the percentage of a monthly utility bill that is attributable to Trash collection services. This result is then increased by 15% to account for administrative costs. This methodology resulted in a determination that the monthly bid costs to the City for Trash services should be increased by 3.15% to determine the Trash fee for each residential unit.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUFFTON, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Title 8, Chapter 24, Section 160 is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety as set forth in "**Exhibit A**" attached hereto.

Section 2: Title 8, Chapter 24, Section 165 is hereby added to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluffton, Indiana as set forth in "**Exhibit A**" attached hereto.

Section 3: This amendment to the Code of the City of Bluffton is to be enforced as an Ordinance of the City of Bluffton, Indiana.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon adoption and publication as required by law.

[Signatures are on the following page.]

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Bluffton, Indiana, this 3 day of December 2024, by the following vote:

Councilperson	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Scott A. Mentzer			
Rickey D. Elwell			
Janella J. Stronczek			Absent
Joshua D. Hunt			
Chandler T. Gerber			
Blake A. Fiechter			
Sarah J. Reed			

Mayor John S. Whicker, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Bri Lautzenheiser, City Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Bluffton, Indiana, at 5:30 o'clock p.m. this 3 day of December, 2024.

Bri Lautzenheiser, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by me this 3 day of December, 2024.

Mayor John S. Whicker

This instrument was prepared by Anthony O. Crowell, Attorney for the City of Bluffton, Indiana, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714. I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each Social Security Number in this document, unless required by law. (Anthony O. Crowell)

Ordinance No. 1641

EXHIBIT A

8.24.160 Service Charges:

The Council shall adopt an Ordinance periodically to establish regulations and fees for the collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials within the City. The fees shall be payable at the same time and in the same manner as the City's electric, water, and wastewater fees. The receipt and disbursement of all fees for the collection of Garbage, Rubbish and recyclable materials shall be accounted separately through the Bluffton Wastewater Utility Fund.

8.24.165 Fees for the collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials within the City.

Fees for the collection of rubbish, garbage and recyclable materials within the City of Bluffton, Indiana shall be collected in accordance with 8.24.160 and shall be in an amount per household as follows:

Monthly Fees Per Household for
Collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials:

Year	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2028**
Monthly Fee	$20.86	$21.90	$22.99	$24.15