ORDINANCE NO. 1678

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 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.

WHEREAS, the Council now desires to amend Section 8.24.165 of the Bluffton City Code to clarify how the City is to account for the 15% administrative costs of the Trash Services Fee.

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

Section 1: Title 8, Chapter 24, Section 165 is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety as set forth in "**Exhibit A**" attached hereto.

Section 2: 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 20 day of January 2026, by the following vote:

Councilperson	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Rickey D. Elwell			
Janella J. Stronczek			
Joshua D. Hunt			
Ronald J. Neuenschwander			
Blake A. Fiechter			
Sarah J. Reed			
David P. Teeple			

Mayor Scott Mentzer, 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 20 day of January, 2026.

Bri Lautzenheiser, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by me this 20 day of January, 2026.

Mayor Scott Mentzer

EXHIBIT A

8.24.165 FEES FOR THE COLLECTION OF RUBBISH, GARBAGE, AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS WITHIN THE CITY.

Definitions applicable to this Section 165:

"Downtown": the geographical area the perimeter boundary of which is established by the center lines of the following streets – Washington, Scott, Marion & Wabash Streets.

"Residential Unit": Is a single-family dwelling. Each residential unit in a multi-family structure consisting of three (3) or less residential units (such as a condominium, apartment or other grouped housing structure) shall be treated as a separate Residential Unit. A multi-family structure consisting of four (4) or more residential units must contract for a waste dumpster for the collection of rubbish, garbage and recyclable materials.

"Downtown Food Business": a business conducted in a permanent structure in the Downtown and serves food and/or beverages to the public.

"Downtown Business": a business conducted in a permanent structure in the Downtown and which is not a Downtown Food Business.

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

Monthly Fees Per Residential Unit for the Collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials:

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

Monthly Fees Per each Downtown Food Business for the Collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials:

Year	2025	2026	2027	2028
Monthly Fee	$50.25	$52.64	$55.14	$57.78

Monthly Fees Per each Downtown Business for the Collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials:

Year	2025	2026	2027	2028
Monthly Fee	$23.77	$24.90	$26.08	$27.33

Monthly Fees for the Wells County Courthouse for the Collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials:

Year	2025	2026	2027	2028
Monthly Fee	$240.71	$252.16	$264.16	$276.79

Administrative Fee: Ordinance No. 1641 established an Administrative Fee equal to 15% of monthly trash fees to be included in each user's monthly fees for Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials. The administrative fee portion of monthly trash fees shall be transferred to the City's General Fund on a quarterly basis.