

CITY OF BELTON
City-wide Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Collection
Begins Monday, January 1, 2018
Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What action has the City Council taken?*

Currently, individual homes contract directly for their solid-waste (trash) service with trash providers, or homeowner's associations negotiate a contract with a trash provider on behalf of their residents and recoup the costs through homeowner's association dues. The proposal approved by the City Council is to switch to a system in which the City will provide the service, by contracting with Jim's Disposal Service. Residents will make payment to the City in the same manner as they do now for water and sewer service.

2. *What was the input and decision making process that the Council employed?*

In 2014, the Mayor formed an Ad Hoc Trash Recycling Task Force Committee to review the problems and complaints about trash not getting picked up routinely; i.e. trash/bags being placed in commercial dumpsters that were not generated by the business and trash/bags dumped on public property, in ravines, and in culverts. The Committee recommended a centralized trash contract be explored. Over the course of two years City staff and Council notified the current haulers, reviewed neighboring communities' experiences with centralized trash services, considered the impact on City roads and infrastructure, and discussed providing better waste services with the possibility of reducing rates to Belton citizens. After due diligence, discussions during public meetings, and following a competitive bidding process, the Council determined a centralized trash hauler would, in fact, benefit the community and its citizenry in accordance with the aforementioned benefits.

Furthermore, the City Council has the authority to take these types of actions in accordance with Missouri state law. By state law, the City has a duty and responsibility to properly provide for the collection and disposal of solid waste by performing the service or by contracted services. The City Charter vests in the City Council the powers to make these decisions and policies and for the City Manager to carry out these policy decisions. The element of an election for this purpose is driven by the vote of the people for a Councilmember to represent their interests.

3. *Who is the new provider and what basic service will be provided? What is the price?*

The low and best bidder for this contract was Jim's Disposal Service (Jim's). Based on Jim's bid and subsequent discussions, trash, recycling, yard waste, and bulky pick-ups (2 per year) will be provided to residents at a monthly price of \$12.41. This amount will be included as a separate line-item on your utility (water/sewer) bill so you will have one less check to write each month.

4. *When will City-provided residential trash pickup begin?*

City-provided pickup in Belton is on Monday or Tuesday and will commence January 1, 2018. Residents will receive their first pro-rated bill for City-provided service contingent upon their billing cycle.

5. *Will residents be forced to recycle?*

No one will be forced to recycle, but recycling is included in the monthly cost. A separate recycling container will be provided by Jim's. Recycling is easy and the City encourages recycling to reduce the amount of trash going to landfills.

6. Will yard waste be collected?

Yard waste will be collected on a weekly basis March 1 through December 31. Yard waste will be picked up at the curb. Limbs/bushes must be securely bundled in less than 18 inches in diameter. Maximum length is 36 inches and maximum weight is 60 pounds. Leaves should be put in brown paper leaf bags.

Christmas trees will be collected at the curb during the month of January at no charge on your regular pick-up day. They should be cut in half if the length is more than 8 feet. All tinsel, lights, and ornaments must be removed from the Christmas Trees.

7. Will bulky pickup be provided? At what price?

The City's contract with Jim's calls for 2 bulky item pick-ups per year from your curbside – free of charge: 1 pick-up in the spring and 1 pick-up in the fall. Residents are allowed up to five (5) items on these days including white goods.

There are limitations on the type of bulky items. For example, "White goods," defined as appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators (limit 1,) freezers (limit 1), etc. are included, but items such as tube televisions, computers, or items classified as household hazardous waste: paint, thinners, batteries, light bulbs, etc., are excluded from this twice a year pick-up; instead, these items should be dropped off at the annual household hazardous waste (HHW) that is done in conjunction with the City of Raymore on an annual basis.

If there is a need beyond the twice a year bulky pick-up, the service is provided at a charge of \$25.00/pick-up. Residents should schedule extra pick-ups directly with Jim's and will be billed directly by Jim's for this service.

8. Are Jim's wheeled containers required to be used?

Jim's will provide residents wheeled containers with a lid. These containers are 45 gallons or 65 gallons in size. They are tan in color with a black lid for waste and a separate tan container with a blue lid for recycling. Jim's is sending a separate flyer with information on how to specify the size of container you desire for trash and recycling. Should you not select a size, the standard size container for both waste and recycling is 65 gallons.

Carts will be delivered in December 2017 prior to the start of the new service. You can utilize the carts for the new service beginning January 2018. Trash and recycling is unlimited; however, the City is requesting all residents to fill the carts first and then place excess bagged trash next to the cart.

9. Can I use my own carts/cans that I purchased?

No. You will be provided with carts/cans from the new trash hauler. Part of the savings is due to improvements in efficiency; therefore, we are asking that you fill the city/contractor provided carts first, before putting any other trash at the curb.

10. What should I do with my existing carts/cans?

If your carts/cans were provided by your current hauler, they should be contacting you for removing the carts shortly after December 2017.

11. What if I can't lift the large carts and take them to the street?

The carts provided have wheels and are designed such that most people should be able to easily tilt them and wheel them to the street.

12. What if I have health issues which prevent me from taking the carts to the streets? Can you help?

The City is initiating a “hardship program” for residents who cannot take their carts to the street wherein waste, recycling, and yard waste shall be placed in front of the hardship customer’s residence, anywhere between the residence and the street. Carts and containers will be picked-up from and returned to the original point of placement in front of the hardship customer’s residence.

Please note: To be considered for the “hardship program” the resident must provide proof/validation from their doctor they are medically disabled. Please call the City of Belton if you believe you qualify for this program.

13. What about homeowner’s associations (HOA) that have a contract with a trash provider?

Jim’s will be providing services to residential homes beginning January 1, 2018. All current haulers are aware their service contracts in Belton are ending on December 31, 2017.

The contract with the City covers residential homes under the following definition and exclusion:

Residential Dwelling Unit – is defined as any single home, two family unit, four family unit, all condominiums/town homes up to four (4) units per building, and all apartment complexes up to four (4) units per building serviced with individual containers.

Excluded Residential Dwelling Units – Any residential dwelling unit within a community that has private streets, private street lights, and total maintenance* provided shall be excluded from this contract.

Note: *total maintenance includes: street maintenance, cleaning, snow removal, yard maintenance, home exterior maintenance including painting and roof replacement, and sidewalk snow removal.

14. What if I don’t currently pay for trash services because I use the trash at my place of employment or dispose of my trash in another way?

Currently, all residents are required to have trash services. The only way to opt-out is in accordance with question #13 – “Excluded Residential Dwelling Units.”

15. Will my trash service be effected by holidays?

No. Currently, the Contractor has agreed that “No Holidays” will be observed; therefore, trash will be picked up on all holidays with no delays.

If you have additional questions, please contact Belton City Hall at 816.331.4331 or Jim’s Disposal Service at 816.221.1932. The City and Jim’s Disposal are scheduling 2 days in November to provide information and clarification about the new services beginning January 1, 2018. The City will update the City’s website www.belton.org with additional information.

As with all new programs, there is expected to be a transition period to “work out the bugs.” We appreciate your patience and assistance during this transition.

Best Regards,
City of Belton, Missouri