

**To:** President and Members of the Munster Town Council

**From:** Patricia Abbott  
Controller/Interim Town Manager

**Date:** November 7, 2024

**Re:** Ordinance 1971: Solid Waste Management Fee

---

At the August 5, 2024, meeting, Council approved an engagement letter with Baker Tilly to perform a solid waste management fee analysis. This fee is charged to residential utility customers and must cover the cost of weekly garbage and recycling collection, branch and leaf collection, and the ongoing costs required for the maintenance of a closed municipal landfill. It is known that the monthly collection fees paid to Homewood Disposal Service will increase next year by 4.00% per the existing contract.

The current charge is \$29.36/month and Staff has observed that the rate is not sufficient to support the needs of the Solid Waste Management Fund. This user fee is the primary source of revenue for the fund. Baker Tilly has performed their analysis and recommended an 8% increase in 2025 with 3.50% increases in the years 2026, 2027, and 2028. These increases would happen with the bills due in March of each year.

The rate increase requires adoption of an ordinance, but no public hearing is required. Ordinance 1971 has been drafted for this purpose.

**Recommendation:**

By motion and roll call vote, hear Ordinance 1971 on first reading as presented and set second reading for November 18, 2024.