



**THE CITY COUNCIL OF WATERLOO, IOWA
WORK SESSION TO BE HELD AT
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
Monday, April 21, 2025
4:45 PM**

RULES FOR WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT

Iowa Code Chapter 21 gives the public the right to attend council meetings, but it does not require cities to allow public participation except during public hearings. The city council shall not receive any public comment during a work session.

Roll Call.

Agenda, as proposed or amended.

Approval of Minutes of the April 7, 2025 work session as proposed or amended.

4:45 p.m. Update from the Sanitation Department.

Submitted by: Randy Bennett, Public Works Division Manager

ADJOURNMENT

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk

April 7, 2025

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Harold E. Getty Council Chambers

Roll Call.

Members present: Mayor Pro Tem Ray Feuss in the Chair. Mr. Boesen, Mr. Nichols, Ms. Creighton-Smith, Mr. Chiles, Mr. Simon, M. Wilder and Mr. Feuss.

Agenda, as proposed or amended.

Nichols/Chiles

that the agenda as proposed be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the March 3, 2025, Council Work Session as proposed or amended.

Nichols/Chiles

that the minutes of March 17, 2025, Work Session, as proposed, be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

FY26 Budget Updates.

Bridgett Wood, Finance Director, shared a slide presentation on the FY2026 Published Levy Rates, Analytics and the FY26 Proposed Certified Budget and shared citizen input from the budget simulator.

Mr. Chiles asked Bridgett Wood if she would provide a clear explanation to the citizens why, if we are reducing the levy rate we are still seeing a small percentage increase.

Bridgett Wood explained that the State Department of Revenue determines the percentage each year. This year it was increased by one percent, which raises the taxes by one percent.

Mr. Simon clarified with Bridgett Wood that the increase is dictated by the State of Iowa.

Mr. Nichols shared additional clarity about how the roll-back affects taxes.

Mr. Simon commented that homeowners can request that their property value be reevaluated.

Bridgett Wood confirmed that a request for an informal review could be made at the county assessor's office by the 25th of April or through an appeal board for a formal review.

ADJOURNMENT

Chiles/Simon

that the council adjourn at 5:07 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk

City of Waterloo

Sanitation Department Update 2025

CURRENT PERSONNEL & WORKLOAD

PERSONNEL

- 13 Full Time Sanitation Techs
- 1 Administrative Secretary

WORKLOAD

- Curbside refuse collection
- Curbside yard waste collection
- Maintain the yard-waste site
- Deliver/exchange/pick-up refuse carts
- Repair & wash carts to maintain inventory
- Break down irreparable carts to be recycled
- Compost Site Grinding
- Code Enforcements
- Pick up illegal dumps
- Pick up Christmas trees
- Bulk Item pick ups
- Downtown trash collection
- City dumpster collection
- Neighborhood clean ups
- City Wide Clean Up
- Assisting Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Clean Ups

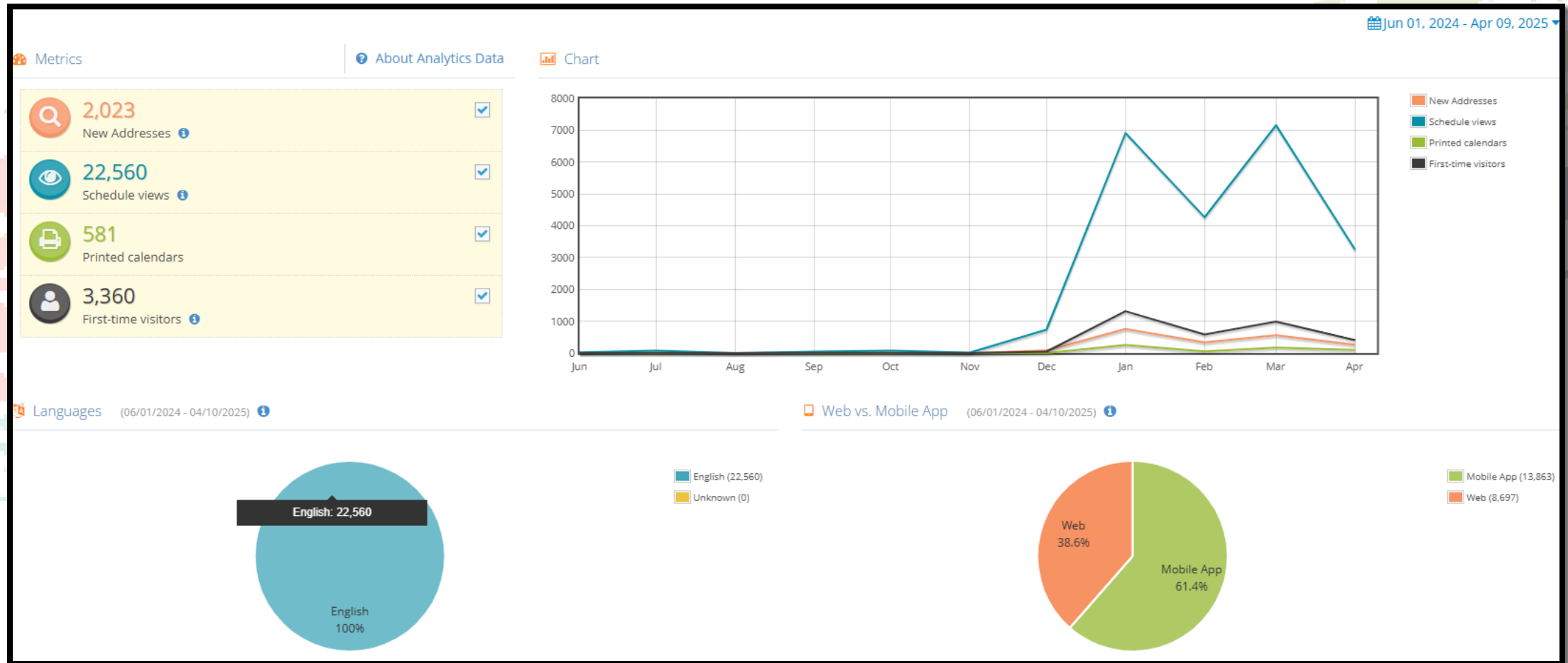
Waterloo WYRE App is Live!

- View, Download, or Print Calendars SPECIFIC TO YOUR ADDRESS!
- The Waste “Wizard” helps you find disposal options for any product.
- Schedule a Bulk Item Pick Up
- Set reminders for your collections! All you need is a phone number!
- Smart phone or PC/laptop for App (web-based platform also).

The screenshot displays the Waterloo WYRE App interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with three main icons: 'Calendar' (a calendar icon), 'Wizard' (a recycling symbol with a magnifying glass), and 'Bulk Item' (a truck icon). A 'Need help?' link is also present. Below the navigation bar, the user's address is shown as '123 Lewis St, Waterloo'. The 'Next Event' section displays 'Thursday, April 10, 2025' with two collection types: 'Garbage' and 'Yardwaste'. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Get a reminder!' (highlighted with a yellow box) and 'Get a calendar'. At the bottom, a monthly calendar for April 2025 is shown, with collection dates and types indicated for each day.

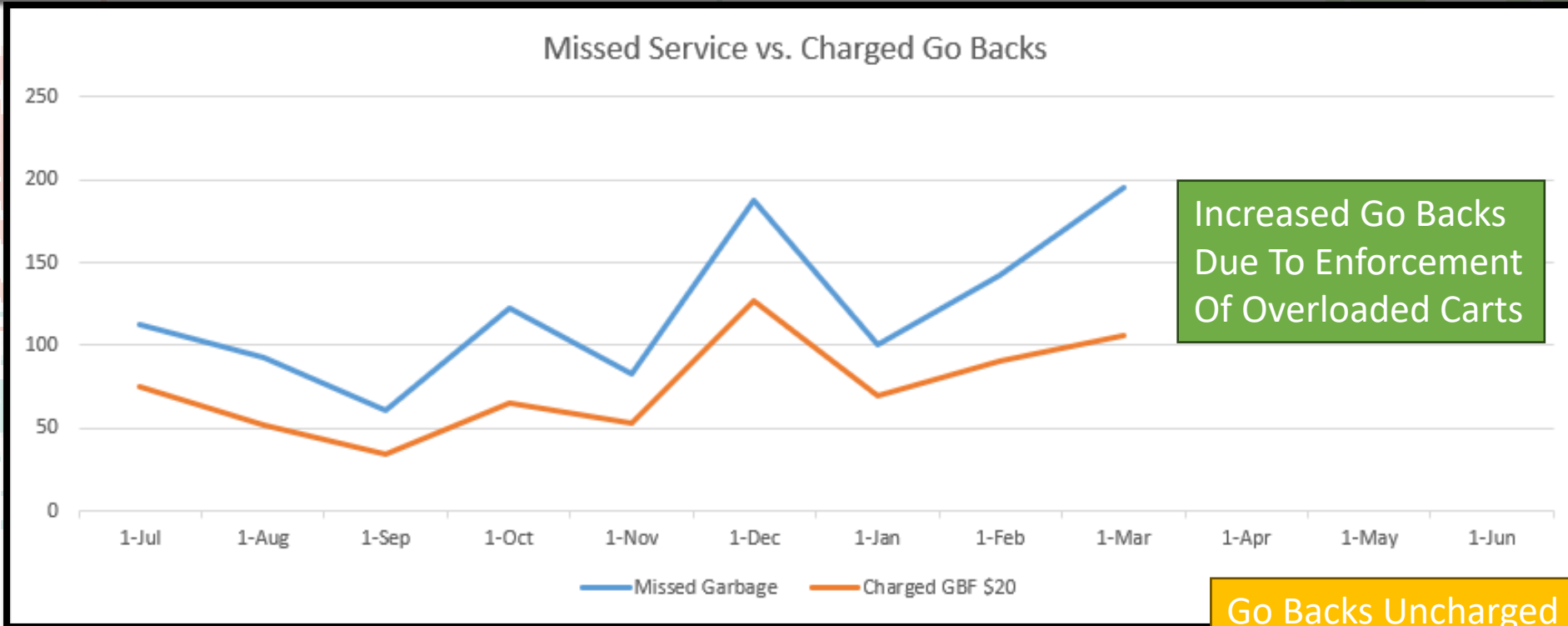
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3 ● Garbage	4 ● Recycling	5
6	7	8	9 ● Garbage ● Yardwaste	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 ● Garbage ● Yardwaste	17 ● Recycling	18	19

CURRENT APP METRICS



CHARGED GO BACK PERCENTAGES

	24-Jul	24-Aug	24-Sep	24-Oct	24-Nov	24-Dec	25-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	25-Apr	25-May	25-Jun		TOTAL	AVG
Missed Garbage	113	93	61	123	83	188	101	142	195					1099	122.11
Charged GBF \$20	75	52	34	65	53	127	70	90	106					672	74.67
% Charged	66%	56%	56%	53%	64%	68%	69%	63%	54%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!		61%	

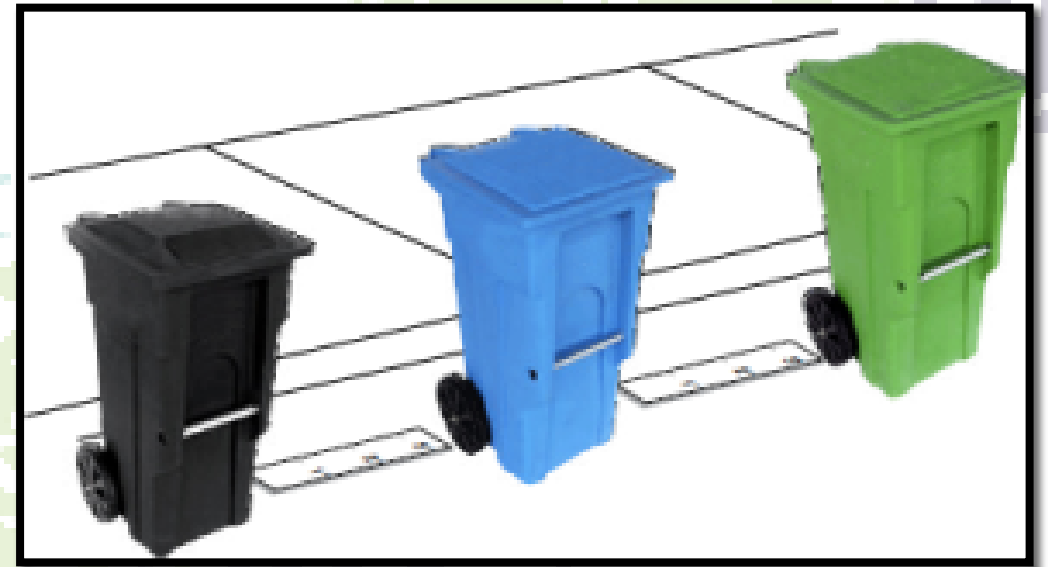


Go Backs Uncharged Due to

- * Bad Images from Truck
- * No record of service
- * Extenuating Circumstances

Waterloo is a “Pay To Throw” System

- Waterloo is a “Pay To Throw” collection system, meaning you can dispose of the trash you generate, but you need to pay for the appropriate service.
 - Offer 3 different sizes
 - Offer multiple carts
 - Offer recycling & yard waste collection



Litter & Illegal Dumping

Where is it coming from?

- Illegal Dumping
- Vehicles Hauling Garbage (not properly enclosed/sealed)
- Dumpsters (missing/defective/open lids)
- Overloaded Carts
 - Vermin
 - Wind
 - Spilling when dumped



PLAN OF ATTACK

- Addressing concerns at the source is key
 - Educating the individual putting trash out.
 - Educating the commercial business with dumpsters
 - Holding the hauler hauling garbage/recycling accountable to enforce and educate customers.



Overloaded Carts

Collection Issues

- Overloaded carts are becoming excessive and causing litter issues throughout our community.
- These are not isolated. About 5-10% of carts are overloaded (about 225 carts per day)



STEP 1: Educate Proper Cart Management

- Educate
 - Residences of collection ordinance standards
 - Lid closed
 - Facing Street
 - Within 3' of curb
 - Cart must be accessible 3' around it



STEP 2: Educate Haulers/Commercial Entities

- Education
 - Commercial Garbage Haulers and their Customers of Locking Mechanism Ordinance
 - Locking Lid Mechanisms Should be Applied to All Dumpsters
 - Must Be Locked When Not In Use
 - Corrals or Fencing May Be Required In Extreme High Wind Cases
 - Crossroads area
 - Airline Hwy
 - Others Examined



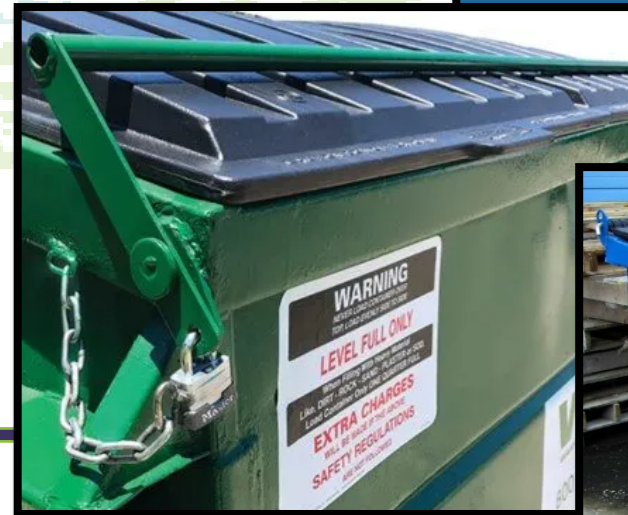
H. Securing Accumulations; Removal Of Same By Private Collectors: Any multiple dwelling and any business shall have garbage and refuse collected by a private licensed collector and may have recycling materials or yard waste hauled by a private licensed collector. This shall not preclude the provisions of subsection F1 of this section. All containers for collection of the garbage, refuse, recycling materials or yard waste of any multiple dwelling or any business shall be securely fastened in a closed position at all times, except when the container is opened for depositing additional accumulations or when the container is being emptied by a private licensed collector. No person other than the owner of the premises, its authorized agents, or a private licensed collector may remove garbage, refuse, recycling materials or yard waste from any container intended for collection of same.

Common Lock Systems for Dumpsters

- Chain Lock
- Sliding Bar Lock
- Swivel Bar Lock
- Gravity Bar Lock
- Secure Lids When Closed & Not In Use



MANUAL LOCK BAR



Locking the Lock System

Padlocks are not the only option:

- Padlocks
- Hasps
- Carabiners



Fencing/Alternate Cover

- We will be reaching out for funding opportunities to help businesses with enclosures/fence lines to help keep litter from waterways and heavy traffic areas such as Crossroads.



Increasing Costs

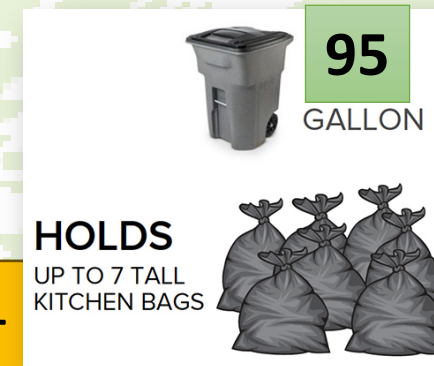


- 2019 was the last increase given by the City of Waterloo Sanitation Dept.
- Costs continue to rise approx. 4% annually through agreements
 - Recycling curbside has increased from \$5.15/hh to \$6.26/hh over 5 years (\$12,210/month for curbside collection increase)
- Routeware, Elements, Samsara and other programs have helped with efficiency to battle rising costs.

Current Monthly Fees

- 35ga Small Garbage Cart --- \$10/mo
 - 65ga Medium Garbage Cart --- \$11.75/mo
 - 95ga Large Garbage Cart --- \$17.75/mo

 - 95ga Large Recycling Cart
 - 95ga Large Yard Waste Cart
 - \$4/mo for Either/Or/Both Services (voluntary)
- Yard Waste/Recycling Site Maintenance Fee -
-- \$5/mo (mandatory)



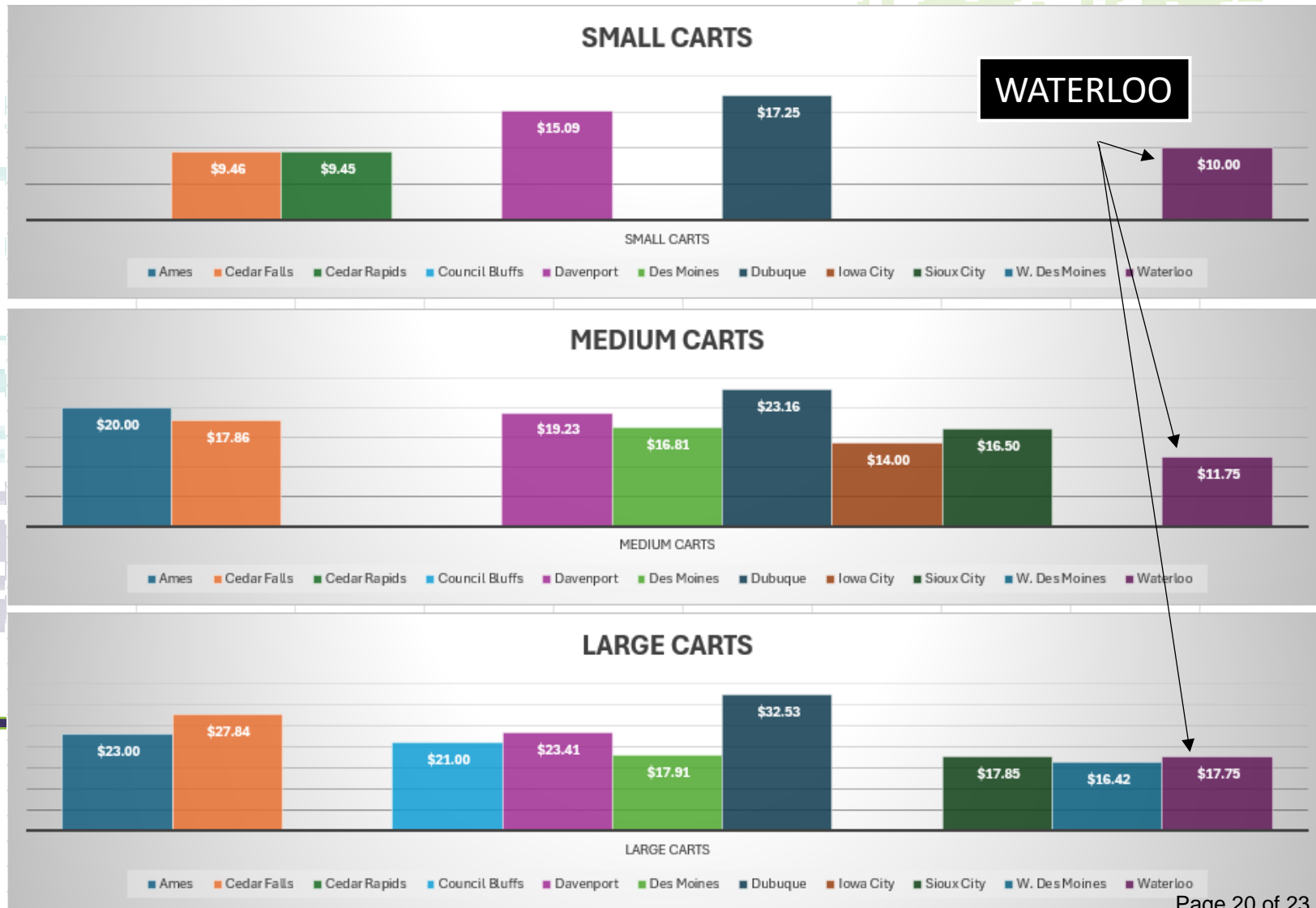
Community Price Comparison

The City of Waterloo features some of the lowest garbage collection rates in the state of Iowa compared to communities of relative size.

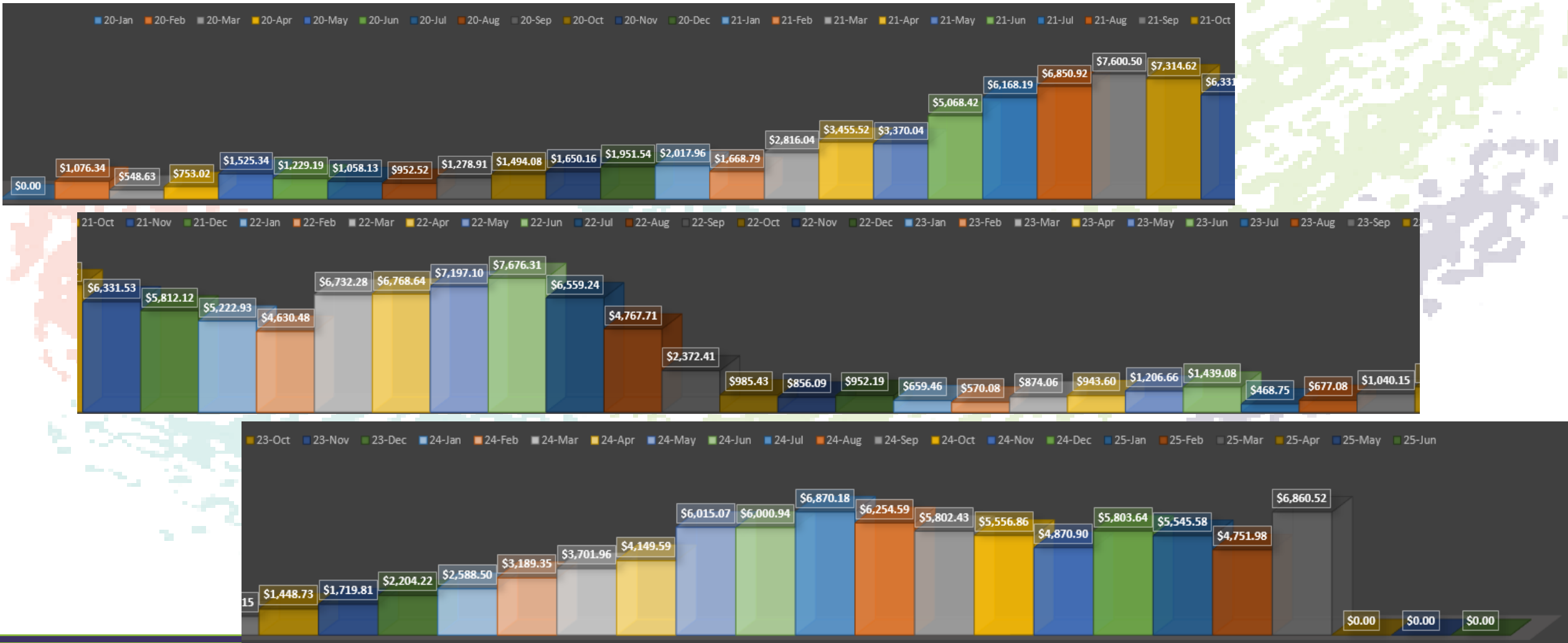
Almost all communities surveyed outside of Waterloo charge rental fees for cart + \$5-10 per tip of the cart.

Waterloo charges \$4/month for yard waste/recycling/both services!

The \$5/month mandatory fee is unique to Waterloo but is still much cheaper than cart rentals of other communities.



Recycling Fees – Rebates (Monthly) --- A Rollercoaster Ride



Rebates Fluctuate Regularly but Processing and Hauling Fees Continue to Rise Annually (4%)

Increase Suggested for Maintenance Fee

- To help battle the increasing annual costs of vendors and suppliers, we are requesting a \$1.00 increase to the Maintenance Fee to City of Waterloo residents from \$5.00/month to \$6.00/month.
- Curbside collection rates would stay at the current rates.
- Continued efforts to keep costs low and affordable for the residents of the Waterloo.



• Questions?