

reviewed by staff. Staff requested additional information from WasteZero and the company supplied data to further the City's analysis.

In addition, staff shared WasteZero's critique with SERA and requested a written response to the issues raised by WasteZero.

In February, SERA provided a report to staff responding to WasteZero's concerns. Their sensitivity analysis supports the original recommendations across a range of values and assumptions.

Finance Committee Actions

As part of the City's budget process, in February the Finance Committee recommended an increase in the City of Asheville's solid waste fee from \$10.50 to \$14.00 per month. This increase was recommended to increase the level of cost recovery and to advance the long-term strategy for PAYT.

Subsequently, staff presented the PAYT Options Analysis Report to the Finance Committee as well as a critique of the report by WasteZero and the sensitivity analysis conducted by SERA.

The Finance Committee endorsed the continued pursuit of a PAYT model solid waste services. The implementation of PAYT aligns with the City Council 2036 Vision by supporting the goals of *A Clean and Healthy Environment* and *Smart City*. Additionally, the action complies with the goals outlined in the Sustainability Management Plan and Resolution 14-27 Waste Reduction Goal for the City of Asheville.

Staff intends to continue exploring PAYT delivery service models and to return to PED and the Finance Committee with a recommended model in the near future.

Pros:

- Staff will gain a greater understanding of the bag-based PAYT business model and financial implications
- New vendors will have an opportunity to present their waste reduction solutions

Con: None

Fiscal Impact: None.

Recommendation

Continue to explore a PAYT system for solid waste. Staff intends to issue a Request for Information for PAYT vendors with specific requests to demonstrate the workings of the business model, estimated waste reduction, estimated reduction in subsidy for the City, and financial impacts to residents. In a concurrent process, City staff will model a cart-based implementation for viability and comparison.

Attachments:

- (1) WasteZero Critique of SERA's PAYT report
- (2) SERA Sensitivity Analysis