



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

CC: Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk; Stephanie Mandregan, Finance Director

DATE: December 6, 2023

RE: Resolution 23-22 - A Resolution of the City of Saint Paul Approving the Refuse Rate Schedule for 2024

SUMMARY: Resolution 23-22 approves increase the refuse utility rates by 25%.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: In December of 2022, Council approved 50% of the recommend refuse rate increase amount for 2023. Council approved the first reading of this resolution on November 14, 2023.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION: Pursuant to City of Code of Ordinances Chapter 13.20 the City Manager shall recommend utility rates to the City Council and the City Council shall review and approve these rates. The City has observed over a 60% loss in fish tax revenue because of the closure of BBRK and BSS crab fisheries. The decline in tax revenue has resulted in hiring freezes, limiting expenditures, deferring maintenance and other projects, an increase in public utility rates, and using investment funds to offset the loss in revenue. The expenditures in Fund 323 have increased over the past five years and the rates have not increased to keep up with the increase in expenditures.

ALTERNATIVES: Council could choose not to approve this resolution and transfer funds from the general fund to balance out Fund 323 – Refuse Utility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: If Council chooses not to increase refuse rates, the utility we be in the red by approximately \$27,890. To balance out the fund it would require a transfer from the general fund to Fund 323. The general fund for 2024 is proposed to be over budget by \$580,350. To balance out the general fund, the City will need to cash out its investments.

LEGAL: N/A.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of this resolution.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to introduce Resolution 23-22, and schedule it for public hearing, second reading and adoption at the City Council meeting scheduled for December 12, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 23-22, Proposed 2024 Refuse Rates, 2023 Refuse Rates