

From Mayor Patrick McClusky:

Garbage, trash & recycling services have always been a top priority for our city, and it's a service many Homewood citizens are appreciative of. For many years, we've been fortunate to have a very efficient and reliable service provided by the city.

Unfortunately, there have been a growing number of factors that have emerged which have forced us to evaluate the entire process and switch to other alternatives. These types of decisions are certainly some of the hardest that come before city leadership, but are necessary when looking at the future and the overall benefits to the city and it's citizens.

A couple of factors that came from the original proposal given by Streets and Sanitation Director, Berkley Squires, to the Finance Committee July 10, 2023:

- Trash and garbage would still run 4 days a week (as it currently runs). A Monday / Thursday route, and a Tuesday / Friday route.
- Recycling and garbage can be co-mingled (mixed) in the same can for Monday and Tuesday routes. Meaning that recycling will be picked up weekly.
- The recycling will be taken to RePower in Montgomery where it will be sorted along with the garbage.
- Employees currently with the Homewood Sanitation Department **will be offered the opportunity to remain** with the city in the Streets Department.
- Back door pick-up will still be afforded to those residents over 65 years of age, and anyone with a disability.
- This would allow us to move to a fully staffed Streets Department (with clam shell for large discarded items, limbs, etc...) so that we focus on maintaining and updating our city infrastructure.

The factors driving us to this point range from short staffing to the growing cost of the sorting of our recycling. Other Over The Mountain communities have been facing this very same issue, and have made the switch.

At the end of the day, be assured that we believe we have made the best decision for the City of Homewood. That also includes doing what is best for our staff. These guys have worked long hours in the elements to keep our city clean and we remain extremely grateful to them. I know you all share the same feelings.