City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

Staff Resources: Amy Deyton, Public Works Director; Jes Foster, Sanitation Division Manager; Darlene Barnwell, Sanitation Operations Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to allow them to dispose of their leaf material at City-owned property on Hardesty Lane, and to execute amendments adjusting rates as needed.

Background:

- Since Tropical Storm Helene, local municipalities have been struggling to dispose of leaves due to reduced capacity for leaf processing at local disposal facilities.
- Yard Waste Notification (YWN) sites are small-scale composting and/or mulching operations, regulated by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, designed to repurpose yard waste into a soil amendment or beneficial landscaping material.
- The City of Asheville utilizes a permitted YWN site at a City-owned lot at 120 Hardesty Lane for loose leaf disposal during peak leaf season.
- The YWN site at Hardesty Lane is currently the only YWN site that the City operates, and is only utilized for leaf disposal.
- The Town of Black Mountain has requested an interlocal agreement allowing them to dispose of their leaf material at the City's YWN site, provided the Town transports the material to our site, estimated to be approximately 75 tons annually or 45 loads based on the truck size.
- Both the City of Asheville and the Town of Black Mountain will benefit as a result of this agreement. The Town's costs for transporting their leaf material for disposal will be reduced, and the City will receive revenue from the Town of Black Mountain that can be used to help offset increased operating costs.
- Additionally, increasing the amount of leaf material at the YWN site will enable the City's Public Works Sanitation Division to produce additional usable compost, which can then be utilized by other City divisions / departments.
- The proposed disposal contractual fees for the Town of Black Mountain will be based on the transporting vehicle type - $125 for tandem vehicles and $50 for single-axle vehicles. Proposed fees are calculated in order to recoup City management costs based on usage estimates. These fees are also similar to the current disposal rates at a local yard waste disposal facility.
- Total costs were calculated based on estimated hours for staff and equipment used to prepare and maintain the YWN site, collect and report data, and handle administration (contract management and invoicing). These costs were then applied across the estimated number of truckloads to establish the disposal fees in the contract..

- The resulting revenue for the City of Asheville is expected to be approximately $4,500 annually based on our known operational costs and usage estimates. The costs of the initial year are based upon estimates of the amount of labor and equipment will be required to provide the service. Rates will be reevaluated annually to ensure that costs are being fully recovered.
- The interlocal agreement will have an initial term of one year with four optional one-year renewals, for a potential maximum term of five years.

Vendor Outreach: N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Healthy, and Safe Environment
- Connected and Engaged Community
- Financially Resilient City

Committee(s): N/A

Fiscal Impact: The City of Asheville will receive revenues - anticipated at approximately $4,500 annually - in the General Fund for each term of the agreement, and the ability to produce more compost could reduce expenses for other City Divisions/Departments by providing free usable compost for use in City Parks and other properties.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to allow the disposal of leaf material at City-owned property on Hardesty Lane, and to execute, and to execute amendments adjusting fees as needed.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to allow the disposal of leaf material at City-owned property on Hardesty Lane, and to execute, and to execute amendments adjusting rates as needed.

Whereas, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 160A-461, the City of Asheville may enter into contracts or agreements with other local governments in order to execute an undertaking; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville owns and maintains property at 120 Hardesty Lane that is utilized as a regulated Yard Waste Notification site for the disposal of brush and leaf materials; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville and the Town of Black Mountain wish to enter into an agreement allowing the Town of Black Mountain to dispose of their leaf material at said site; and

Whereas, the Interlocal Agreement will be mutually beneficial to the City of Asheville and the Town of Black Mountain by providing the Town a site to dispose of leaf material, generating revenue for the City, and also enabling the City to produce more compost;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Black Mountain to allow the disposal of leaf material at City-owned property on Hardesty Lane and to execute, and to execute amendments adjusting disposal fees as needed.

Read, approved and adopted this the 13th day of October, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk