

**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA  
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 8  
For Meeting of 08/20/07


**ITEM TITLE:** Discussion regarding storm debris/brush waste collection policy and fee

**CONTACT PERSON:** Marketa George Oliver, City Administrator

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION**

In its July meeting, the Public Works Committee discussed the issue of brush waste pick up following a storm. After the most recent storm event, it was clear that it would make the process much smoother if we had a policy in place as to how we can determine whether or not there would be a special pick up. A draft policy is attached. In order to accomplish this, it would be necessary to add a collection fee to the garbage bill to cover the costs of this service. The original amount discussed was \$.50 per month, however, based on the past year of usage, \$.32 would be enough to cover that amount. For example, the cost of storm debris/brush waste collection in the past year has been \$7,640.25. The City has approximately 2000 garbage accounts. Dividing the cost of the past year's collections by the number of garbage accounts, suggests a monthly charge of \$.32 would be needed to cover the costs. The brush waste collection is a function of the garage service, which is an enterprise fund, which should support its own functions.

The purpose of this item is to discuss the attached policy and give staff direction as to formalizing a policy and developing an ordinance to adjust any fees appropriately.

_____Resolution _____Ordinance _____Contract _____Other (Specify)_____
Funding Source _____
APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL _____ <div style="text-align: center;"> _____ City Administrator</div>

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** This is a discussion item.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

## **City of Windsor Heights Administrative Policy: Storm Debris/Brush Waste Collection**

### **Effective Date:**

This policy addresses the issue of brush waste collection following a storm.

Effective immediately, following a significant storm event, the Director of Public Works will evaluate the damage and make a recommendation to the City Administrator as to whether or not there should be a special storm debris collection. This action will take place within 24 hours of the event. The City Administrator will make a determination as to whether or not there will be a special collection and advise the Mayor, City Council Members and City Personnel.

Within 48 hours of the event, a press release will be dispatched related to the collection to inform the general public.

General guidelines for collection of storm debris include:

- Residents put debris at curb in manageable piles;
- Limbs do not need to be bundled, but should be in lengths of 6-feet or less;
- Limbs should be less than 10-inches in diameter;
- Smaller sticks should be bundled or contained in a bio-degradable bag.
- Note: Grass clippings will not be collected without a Compost It! sticker.

With the adoption of this policy, the City will no longer have an annual brush waste collection. A surcharge will be added to the City's garbage bill for the collection. The collection of the surcharge will be evaluated annually to determine whether or not the surcharge is necessary. For example, if there were no special pick ups during the year, there would be a surplus to handle future events.