



CITY OF LA PORTE WRECKER COMMITTEE **MEETING AGENDA**

Notice is hereby given of a called meeting of the City of La Porte Wrecker Committee, to be held July 26, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., in the City Hall Council Chamber, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas.

Social distancing protocols will be in effect in the Council Chamber. Remote participation is available. Join the Zoom meeting via a screen using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82022166997?pwd=VXZsVUd0Q3hIMW1zU3FFWHdrVjlrZz09>

The meeting ID is 820 2216 6997 and the passcode is 962009. Join by phone at 877-853-5257 or 888-475-4499.

Call to order

1. **CITIZEN COMMENT** (*Generally limited to five minutes per person; in accordance with state law, the time may be reduced if there is a high number of speakers or other considerations.*)
2. **Presentation, discussion, and possible action to approve the December 20, 2021, meeting minutes.**
3. **PUBLIC HEARING – The Committee will receive a report from La Porte Towing, Inc. regarding improvements to La Porte Towing, Inc.’s processes and procedures.**
 - A. Open public hearing
 - B. Public comments
 - C. Staff comments
 - D. Close public hearing
4. **Consider possible action to suspend, cancel, or revoke wrecker permit issued by the City of La Porte to La Porte Towing, Inc. for operation of wrecker vehicle, pursuant to Sec. 78-223 of the City Code of Ordinances.**
5. **Consider possible action regarding citizen requests to increase non-consent tow rates for standard and heavy-duty tows within the city limits of La Porte.**
6. **Committee comments**

Adjourn

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of La Porte will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending public meetings. To better serve attendees, requests should be received 24 hours prior to the meetings. Please contact Maria Peña, Committee Secretary, at 281-470-5057.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of the July 26, 2022, agenda of the City of La Porte Wrecker Committee was posted on the City Hall bulletin board on the _____ day of July 2022.

Maria Peña

Committee Secretary



**Wrecker Committee Meeting
July 26, 2022**

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. December 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes



**City of La Porte Wrecker Committee
Minutes of December 20, 2021**

The Wrecker Committee of the City of La Porte met in a called meeting on Monday, December 20, 2021, in the City Hall Council Chamber, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, at 10:00 a.m., with the following in attendance:

Committee Members present: Lt. Lance Cook (Police Chief's designee); Sharon Harris (City Secretary's designee); Teresa Evans (City Manager's designee)

Staff Members present: Clark Askins (City Attorney); Maria Peña (Committee Secretary)

Call to order

Meeting called to order by Teresa Evans at 10:02 a.m.

- 1. Citizen Comments** (*Generally limited to five minutes per person; in accordance with state law, the time may be reduced if there is a high number of speakers or other considerations*).

None

- 2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action to approve the January 5, 2021 meeting minutes.**

Motion by Sharon Harris to approve the January 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Lance Cook. The motion was carried.

- 3. Public Hearing – The committee will receive public comment on a complaint concerning possible action to suspend, revoke, or cancel wrecker permits issued by the City of La Porte to La Porte Towing for the operation of wrecker vehicles, pursuant to Sec. 78-223 of the City Code of Ordinances.**

A. Open public hearing:

The hearing was opened at 10:04 a.m.

B. Public Comments:

- Mr. Bobby Slocum provided information on the wrecker driver. (He stated the driver is no longer employed by La Porte Towing.)
- Mr. Joe Davis, with Priority Towing commented on why permit to La Porte Towing should not be revoked.

C. Staff Comments:

Committee had questions for Mr. Bobby Slocum and Mr. Joe Davis. All questions regarding background checks and training were answered.

D. Closed Public Hearing:

Teresa Evans closed the public hearing at 10:14 a.m.

- 4. Presentation, discussion, and possible action to suspend, revoke, or cancel wrecker permits issued by the City of La Porte to La Porte Towing for the operation of wrecker vehicles, pursuant to Sec. 78-223 of the City Code of Ordinances.**

Committee shared comments and concerns about La Porte Towing operations.

Sharon Harris made a motion to not suspend or revoke the wrecker license for La Porte Towing and instead for La Porte Towing to meet with Committee in six months with a report showing changes to La Porte Towing operations.

Motion second by Lance Cook

Motion passed

5. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sharon Harris

Second by Lance Cook

Teresa Evans adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Prepared by Maria Peña, Committee Secretary



Wrecker Committee Meeting
July 26, 2022

Public Hearing

- a. La Porte Towing, Inc. Processes and Procedures

From: [Bobby Slocum](#)
To: [Pena, Maria](#)
Subject: background
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:03:18 AM

hello maria this is Bobby Slocum
since the last meeting we connected with First Advantage Global background checks to check out all Employees and we are having weekly meetings on safety and work environment situation to better all Employees. WE also have random drug and alcohol test



Non-Consent tow rates

- a. Non- consent tow rates for standard and heavy duty tows within the city of La Porte.



Regulatory & Neighborhood Affairs Committee:

Public Hearing and Presentation of Proposed
Non-Consent Tow Rates

December 14, 2021



What is a Non-Consent Tow?

- A non-consent tow occurs whenever a vehicle is towed without the consent of the vehicle's owner and includes:
 - Police-authorized tows
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Parking violations



Setting Non-Consent Tow Rates

Two ways to set non-consent tow rates:

1. Annual computation via formula in §8-123 of the Houston Code of Ordinances
 2. Cost of Service rate study requested by the towing industry
- The public hearing regarding the proposed new rates is taking place during today's Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs Committee meeting.



Non-Consent Tow Rates: Quick Facts

- Two types of non-consent tow rates:
 - Standard (“light duty” <10,000 lbs) – currently \$174.00
 - Heavy duty (>10,000 lbs) – currently \$264.50 per hour (with a two-hour minimum charge)
- The State sets the maximum that can be charged for non-consent private property tows
- The City establishes rates for all non-consent tows originating in Houston pursuant to §8-123



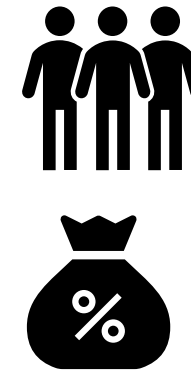
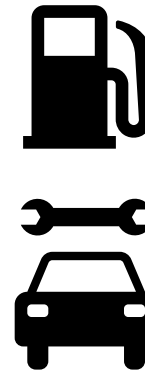
Rate Review Process

- ARA, with the assistance of the Eixenberger Group, developed a methodology and completed a towing rate review that:
 - Surveyed Houston's tow companies for cost of service data
 - Reviewed components that impact tow costs
 - Reviewed industry reports and other available factors that impact tow costs
 - Surveyed current non-consent tow rates in other Texas cities
 - Benchmarked the rates that resulted from the cost of service analysis against the Consumer Price Index formula outlined in Chapter 8 applied during non-rate study years



Surveyed Cost Components

- Tow volume
- Business model
- Fuel
- Equipment
- Maintenance
- Insurance
- Labor
- Training
- Property
- Taxes
- Utilities
- Administration
- Communications
- Other



Data Sources:
ATRI
BLS
IBIS World
Towing Companies
Utah Rate Review



2021 Tow Rate Survey Summary

Standard - Reported Cost Per Tow										
	R2	R3	R8	R10	R12	R13	R14	R15	R16	Average
Cost Per Tow	\$149.60	\$248.00	\$137.48	\$115.00	\$107.00	\$219.20	\$158.72	\$108.85	\$187.65	\$159.06
Profit Margin	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
\$ Profit per Tow	\$14.96	\$24.80	\$13.75	\$11.50	\$10.70	\$21.92	\$15.87	\$10.89	\$18.77	\$15.91
Estimated Tow Rate	\$164.56	\$272.80	\$151.23	\$126.50	\$117.70	\$241.12	\$174.59	\$119.74	\$206.42	\$174.96

Heavy-Duty - Reported Cost Per Tow	
	R16
Cost Per Tow	\$370.76
Profit Margin	10%
\$ Profit per Tow	\$37.08
Estimated Tow Rate	\$407.84



Tow Rates in Other Texas Cities

Summary of Rates for Major Texas Cities Standard (Light-Duty)	
<u>City</u>	<u>Rates</u>
El Paso	\$100.00
Dallas	\$121.00
Fort Worth	\$150.00
Galveston	\$165.00
Houston	\$174.00
San Antonio	\$177.00
Austin	\$185.00
Victoria	\$200.00
Corpus Christi	\$255.00
Arlington	\$272.00
State (Private Property)	\$272.00



Proposed Rates

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Increase
Regular (Light-Duty)	\$ 174.00	\$ 190.00	9%
Heavy Duty (per hour, 2 hour min.)	\$ 264.50	\$ 289.00	9%

- Light-Duty recommendation is based on conclusions from rate review
 - Nearly identical result had we implemented CPI adjustments
- Heavy Duty recommendation is only based on CPI adjustment
 - Did not receive sufficient data to make a recommendation



Non-Consent Tow Rate History

CPI Adjusted - Houston Non-Consent Tow Rates				
<u>Effective</u>	Standard		Heavy-Duty (2-hr. min.)	
	<u>Rate</u>	Increase/ (Decrease) \$	<u>Rate</u>	Increase/ (Decrease) \$
2020	\$174.00	(\$1.50)	\$264.50	(\$2.00)
2019	\$175.50	\$8.50	\$266.50	\$13.00
2018	\$167.00	\$8.00	\$253.50	\$12.50
2017	\$159.00	\$3.50	\$241.00	\$5.50
2016	\$155.50	(\$7.00)	\$235.50	(\$11.00)
2015	\$162.50	\$2.50	\$246.50	\$4.00
2014	\$160.00	(\$0.50)	\$242.50	(\$1.00)
2013	\$160.50	\$5.50	\$243.50	\$8.00
2012	\$155.00	\$9.50	\$235.50	\$14.50
2011	\$145.50	\$5.50	\$221.00	\$8.50
2010	\$140.00	(\$3.50)	\$212.50	(\$5.50)
2009 ¹	\$143.50	NA	\$218.00	NA

¹ Rates established as a result of a non-consent tow rate study



Upon researching the following cities the tow charges averaged at \$143. The average of the listed local cities (marked with an *) the average is \$145. Another average excluding Friendswood the lowest and Houston the highest, the average is \$146. Included in the listed information are a few larger cities in Texas. Their average tow rate is \$133.

- *Pasadena \$140
- *Deer Park \$185
- *League City \$150
- *Baytown \$150
- *Clear Lake Shores \$125
- *Kemah \$125
- *Webster \$150
- *Friendswood \$85 (Extra fee for dolly or flatbed \$100)
- *Texas City \$150
- *Houston \$190
- Dallas \$139
- Plano \$127
- Fort Worth \$135
- Austin \$150

Lt. Lance Cook