

HISTORY OF CITY SERVICES:

After Indiana's property tax laws restructured local government causing a steep decline in the City's operating revenue in 2012, the City found itself hard pressed to provide all of the public health and safety services it traditionally offered to the citizens of Peru for lack of funds.



Consideration was given to various options before the decision was made to impose a user fee on all residents and businesses within the corporate city limits to fund trash collection services. On September 17, 2012, citing Indiana Code 36-9-30-21, the Peru Common Council voted unanimously to adopt a fee of \$12.00 per user and to enter into an inter-local agreement Peru Utilities whereby the Utility would bill and collect the user fees by adding a charge for "City Services" on the utility bill. The intent was that any residence or business currently receiving trash collection services from the City would be charged this fee. Failure to pay would result in penalties and civil action.

As directed, Peru Utilities began including a charge for trash collection services on the December 2012 Peru Utilities bill, and has continued billing on behalf of the City since that time. Peru Utilities collects the payments and forwards them to the City less a small monthly charge for the Utility's expense.

The \$12.00 fee has not been changed since it was established.

Questions about actual trash collection services are directed to the Street Department or to City Hall since the Street Department remains under the supervision of the City rather than the Utility.