



Friday, March 27, 2026

Council Votes to Postpone Annual Citywide Cleanup to Fall

The City Council voted unanimously during a Wednesday special session to postpone the city's annual cleanup program, which typically takes place in June, until this fall.

Council members held the special meeting after Mayor Dave Casotti raised concerns during their March 16 meeting about abuses, such as attempts to dispose of prohibited items and excessive amounts of waste.

Casotti noted at that meeting that the program was launched to clean up "properties on the outside, cleaning up yards, making Boone a little bit nicer looking as prospective families came into town," but it has evolved to people using the free program to empty their garages and basements at a large cost to the city.

Andrews said on March 16 that the annual event has cost approximately \$600,000 over the past 15-years, He added that holding the cleanup in June adds uncertainty to the public works department budget with the end of the fiscal year just days away.

During the special session, it was noted that many items being set out during the annual cleanup program could and should be either disposed of in weekly pickups or hauled to the Boone County Landfill independently.

Council members, Casotti, Public Works Director/Project Manager Waylon Andrews and City Administrator Ondrea Elmquist discussed potential changes to the program – such as limiting the number of large items like mattresses and box springs or shifting the program focus to fencing and other outdoor materials – but acknowledged that new guidelines could not be developed during a single meeting.

"I've seen swing sets out there," Fourth Ward Councilman Terry Moorman said. "They should have to disassemble this stuff."

Council members voted unanimously to postpone the cleanup until fall. Elmquist revamp program guideline information, which will be reviewed and approved in the near future.

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