



# TOWN COUNCIL

## WORKSHOP AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

**PREPARATION DATE:** August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**MEETING DATE:** August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Administration  
**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR:** Larry Pardee  
**PRESENTER:** Johnny Ziem

**SUBJECT:** Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bag Waste Discussion

### PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP ITEM

The purpose of this item is to receive direction from the Council on a draft Ordinance P, an ordinance adding Chapter 8.36 to the Municipal Code of the Town of Jackson to address reducing single-use plastic bag waste.

### BACKGROUND/ALTERNATIVES

This item was discussed at the May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Town Council Workshop. At the end of that discussion, staff was directed to bring back a draft ordinance to reduce single-use plastic bag waste by imposing a ban on single-use plastic bags and imposing a minimum fee for the provision of paper bags. In doing so staff reached out to multiple stakeholder groups, including the Chamber of Commerce and local interested citizens. For your consideration today is the first draft of the ordinance reducing plastic bag waste. Policy decisions for Council discussion are listed below and include: Waste Reduction Fees, Exemptions, Violations and Penalties, and an Effective Date.

#### Waste Reduction Fees

This draft ordinance was modeled on other ordinances relating to the ban on single-use plastic bags from other municipalities and includes a Waste Reduction Fee of ten cents (\$.10) for each disposable paper bag that is provided to a customer. The fee is required to be itemized on the receipt provided by each retailer or retail store. The fees collected by the retailers and remitted to the Town of Jackson would be transferred to the Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling (ISWR) division of Teton County to be used for:

1. ISWR sponsored reusable bag distribution and retailer support;
2. Spring and Fall Community litter Clean-Ups; and
3. Zero Waste Infrastructure and Programs.

#### Exemptions

Staff has also crafted a section, Jackson Municipal Code § 8.36.020(F) (1), which allows for certain types of single-use plastic bags to be allowed in this ordinance. These allowances fall in line with other ordinances found within many jurisdictions around the country. Typically, allowances such as these are given to certain products because there are usually no other convenient alternatives to using a single-use plastic bags. For example, in order for newspaper's to be delivered, a single-use plastic bag is used to prevent the paper from getting damaged or wet upon delivery to a location.

### Violations and Penalties

Jackson Municipal Code § 8.36.070 “Audits and Violations”, articulates how retailers and retail stores must keep records and lists the penalties for violating the chapter. Council has a few options in determining the associated penalties:

1. Council could adopt the standard penalty provision allowing for a fine of \$750.00 per day/per violation, which will leave code enforcement and the prosecutor with the discretion to cite/warn for offenses;
2. Council could require the first citation always be a warning, then leave any subsequent charges under the general penalty provision (a fine of up to a max of \$750.00); or
3. Council could require the first citation always be a warning, then have a graduated system of first, second, and third convictions (akin to the ordinance prohibiting cell phone use while driving).

The downside of the third option is that it is difficult for staff to track convictions over time and make sure establishments are properly cited as years pass.

### Effective Date

A final important topic for Council consideration and discussion is when this ordinance will take effect. It is typical for jurisdictions to allow a period for retailers to use existing inventories of single-use plastic bags. Staff discussed this particular issue with ISWR and the Chamber of Commerce and recommends an effective date of July 1, 2019, which also coincides with the beginning of the Town’s fiscal year. Staff feels this is important because some funds will have to be budgeted in order to purchase reusable bags and perform preliminary educational outreach prior to any waste reduction fees being collected for paper bag usage.

Staff recommends Council provide direction to staff to place Ordinance P on the addenda for first reading as presented as the next available Town Council meeting which includes a ban on single-use plastic bags, a \$ .10 cent fee for paper bags, exemptions as outlined, and an effective date of July 1, 2019. Staff also recommends Council provide direction on violations and penalties, section 8.36.070(C) (2) and 8.36.070 (D) in this ordinance.

The Town Council has many options available to it including:

1. Make amendments and additions to the ordinance at today’s Council Workshop Meeting and direct staff to prepare the amended ordinance for first reading at the next Town Council Meeting.
2. Make amendments and additions to the ordinance at today’s Workshop Meeting and direct staff to prepare the amended ordinance for presentation and discussion at a future Council Workshop Meeting.
3. Take no action.
4. Other.

### STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Staff has been working diligently with a local grass roots group of citizens who support this ordinance, the Chamber of Commerce, Town Staff, the Riverwind Foundation, and the Travel and Tourism Board. Each stakeholder has been given copies of the draft ordinance to review and offer constructive suggestions for additions and/or clarifications. The Chamber of Commerce has been in contact with their members seeking feedback on this draft ordinance as well. Further, Town staff has also sent a notice out to all affected business license holders letting them know of the discussion and proposed ordinance that would ban single-use plastic bags and institute a fee for paper bags. Retailers and retail stores will be

affected if this ordinance were to pass, specifically in the increased cost to provide additional paper bags for their customers and potentially purchasing reusable bags for resale.

ISWR is a stakeholder in this issue in that they would be charged with administering the funds collected from the waste reduction fees for paper bags. The Town of Jackson organization is a stakeholder in this issue in that this effort would support the Town's efforts related to environmental stewardship. The citizens of the community are a stakeholder in that the regulations would move the community forward in terms of generating less trash, less County and citizen fees for waste hauling with a reduction in single-use plastic bag waste, and sustainable efforts.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Council choose to provide the direction staff recommends, there would be no immediate fiscal impact. However, ultimate passage of an ordinance banning single-use plastic bags and imposing a minimum fee for paper bags that is remitted to ISWR would have a fiscal impact. There will be a fiscal impact to the Town's FY20 Budget in that funds would be budgeted to implement the initial education and outreach prior to collecting any Waste Reduction Fees. There would be a positive fiscal impact to ISWR in that it would have an additional revenue stream from the Waste Reduction Fees to address education, outreach, and the provision of reusable bags. Additionally, ISWR could avoid the cost of disposal for single-use plastic bags, which reportedly costs taxpayers \$40 per ton.

### STAFF IMPACT

Staff impact included preparing the ordinance for first reading and may include making changes/amendments as directed by Council. If the ordinance is passed after the third and final reading, staff would need to dedicate time to continue working with stakeholders and retailers in order to ensure a smooth transition for implementation before the effective date. Further time would also be needed to coordinate an implementation plan with ISWR, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Travel and Tourism Board to educate retailers. This would involve approximately 10-15 hours of time from the Town's Public Information Officer. Further, there would be additional staff time for the Police Department to investigate any possible violations of this ordinance. The estimated time for each citation would require roughly two hours of Police Department time and an estimated two hours of Legal time per each offense. Should citations proceed to Municipal Court, there would also be time spent by the Municipal Judge and the court staff in processing and disposing of each citation. The Police Department estimates a time of approximately one hour for written warnings. There would also be a notable amount of staff time spent in the Finance Department processing the fees collected by retail establishments, entering those amounts in the Town's accounting system and remitting those fees to ISWR.

### LEGAL ISSUES

Complete.

### ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Ordinance P.
- Public comment received since the last presentation on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council provide direction to staff to place Ordinance P on the agenda for first reading as presented at the next Town Council meeting which includes a ban on single-use plastic bags, a \$ .10 cent fee for paper bags, exemptions as outlined, associated penalties for violations, and an effective date of July 1, 2019.

## SUGGESTED MOTION

Should the Council be ready to take action, one possible motion would be:

1. I move to direct staff to place Ordinance P on the agenda for first reading as presented at the next available Town Council meeting which includes a ban on single-use plastic bags, a \$ .10 cent fee for paper bags, exemptions as outlined, associated penalties for violations, and an effective date of July 1, 2019.

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Synopsis for PowerPoint (120 words max): *The information entered in this section will be displayed on the monitors in the Council Chambers during meetings. In 120 words or less, provide a brief synopsis of the agenda documentation and any relevant information that should be displayed on the monitors, for example, purpose, background, or fiscal impact.*

Purpose:

Background:

Fiscal Impact:

ORDINANCE P

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 8.36 TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF JACKSON ESTABLISHING DISPOSABLE BAG REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION AND DESIGNATION OF THE FEE TO THE TETON COUNTY WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JACKSON, WYOMING, IN REGULAR SESSION DULY ASSEMBLED THAT

**SECTION I.**

There is hereby added Chapter 8.36 of Title 8 Disposable Bag Requirements of the Municipal Code of the Town of Jackson as follows:

**CHAPTER 8.36  
DISPOSABLE BAG REQUIREMENTS**

**Sections:**

<b>8.36.010</b>	<b>Legislative Findings</b>
<b>8.36.020</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>8.36.030</b>	<b>Single-Use Disposable Plastic Bag Prohibition</b>
<b>8.36.040</b>	<b>Disposable Paper Bag Fee Requirements</b>
<b>8.36.050</b>	<b>Collection and Remittance of the Waste Reduction Fee</b>
<b>8.36.060</b>	<b>Exemptions</b>
<b>8.36.070</b>	<b>Audits and Violations</b>

**8.36.010 Legislative Findings**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Jackson, Wyoming (“Town”) is a municipal corporation existing pursuant to the laws of the Wyoming Constitution, the Wyoming Statutes, and the Town Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has a responsibility to protect the natural environment, economy, and health of its citizens and guests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town, pursuant to Resolution 15-18 (“A Resolution Adopting Zero Waste as a Guiding Principle and Supporting the Creating of a Zero Waste Plan”) is committed to: pursuing a waste diversion goal of 60% or better; preserving Jackson’s unique environmental resources for generations to come by limiting environmental degradation and waste; and promoting practices that are sustainable and minimize harms to the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town, pursuant to Resolution 12-001 (“A Resolution Certifying the Illustration of Our Vision Chapter of the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan as Part of the Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town of Jackson, Wyoming and Teton County, Wyoming”) is committed to minimizing the amount of solid waste it directs to landfills with a goal of “zero waste” by increasing efforts such as recycling and composting of waste; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town, pursuant to Resolution 17-08 (“A Resolution Recognizing Jackson Hole as a World-Leading Sustainable Community and Destination”) is committed to be a model of sustainability and support public and private sustainability efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Town, innumerable single use disposable plastic bags are used each year that cannot be recycled in a cost-effective manner; and

**WHEREAS**, single-use disposable plastic bags create waste, pollute the Town’s waterways, roadways, landscapes and harm wildlife populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds and determines that prohibiting single-use disposable plastic bags and requiring a charge for disposable paper bags at grocers and other retailers would address the environmental and health problems associated with such use, would relieve Town taxpayers of the costs incurred by the Town in conjunction therewith, and would be in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the Town.

### **8.36.020 Definitions**

As used in this Chapter the following definitions apply:

- A. *Disposable Paper Bag* means a bag made predominantly of paper that is provided to a customer by a Retailer at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting goods which is subject to the Town’s Waste Reduction Fee.
- B. *Fast Food Restaurant* means a retail food establishment where food and beverages are:
  - 1. Prepared in advance of customer orders or are able to be quickly prepared for consumption on or off premises; and
  - 2. Are ordered and served over counters or at drive-through windows; and
  - 3. Are paid for before being consumed.
- C. *Retailer* means any person, corporation, partnership, business, facility, vendor, organization or individual that sells or provides merchandise, goods or materials, including without limitation, clothing, food, or personal items of any kind, directly to a customer.
- D. *Retail Store* includes, without limitations, any department store, grocery store, hardware store, pharmacy, liquor store, restaurant, catering truck, convenience store, gas station, and any other retail store or vendor.
  - 1. *Retail Store* for the purposes of this ordinance does not include:
    - a. Vendors at a farmers’ market, excluding any of the vendors’ associated permanent business location(s);
    - b. Fast Food Restaurants; or
    - c. Art galleries and Art Fairs.
- E. *Reusable Bag* means a bag that is:
  - 1. Designed and manufactured to withstand repeated uses over time; and
  - 2. Is made from a material that can be cleaned and disinfected regularly; and

3. At least 2.25 mil thick if made from plastic.

F. *Single-Use Disposable Plastic Bag* means any bag that is less than two and one quarter millimeters (2.25 mil) thick and is made predominately of compostable or non-compostable plastic that is provided to a customer by a Retailer or Retail Store at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting goods.

1. Single-Use Disposable Plastic Bag does not include the following:

a. Bags used by consumers inside Retail Stores to:

1. Package bulk items including: fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items; or
2. Contain or wrap fresh or frozen meat or fish; or
3. Contain or wrap flowers or potted plants; or
4. Contain unwrapped prepared foods or unwrapped bakery goods.

b. Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs.

c. Newspaper bags, door hanger bags, dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended to enclose garbage, pet waste, or yard waste.

G. *Waste Reduction Fee* means the Town fee of \$.10 imposed and required to be paid by each consumer making a purchase from a Retailer or Retail Store for each Disposable Paper Bag used during the purchase.

#### **8.36.030 Single-Use Disposable Plastic Bag Prohibition**

- A. No Retailer or Retail Store shall provide a Single-Use Disposable Plastic Bag to a customer at the point of sale.
- B. Nothing in this section shall preclude any person or organization from making Reusable Bags available for sale or for no cost to customers.

#### **8.36.040 Disposable Paper Bag Fee Requirements**

- A. Retailers and Retail Stores shall collect from customers, and customers shall pay, at the time of purchase a Waste Reduction Fee of Ten Cents (\$.10) for each Disposable Paper Bag provided to the customer.
- B. Retailers and Retail Stores shall record the number of Disposable Paper Bags provided and the total amount of the Waste Reduction Fee charged on the customer transaction receipt.
- C. A Retailer and Retail Store shall not refund to the customer any part of the Waste Reduction Fee nor shall the Retailer advertise or state to any customer that any part of the Waste Reduction Fee will be refunded to the customer.
- D. For the purposes of subsection 8.36.040, a restaurant is not a Retailer or a Retail Store.

#### **8.36.050 Collection and Remittance of the Waste Reduction Fee**

- A. The Waste Reduction Fee collected by the Retailer shall not be classified as revenue for the purposes of calculating sales tax.
- B. The Waste Reduction Fee collected by the Retailer shall be paid to the Town of Jackson Finance Department and shall be deposited into the Waste Reduction Fee account.

- C. A Retailer shall pay and the Town shall collect the Waste Reduction Fee at the same time as the Retailer remits payment of sales tax to the Department of Revenue. The Town shall provide the necessary forms for Retailers to file individual returns.
- D. The Town of Jackson Finance Department shall remit all funds collected pursuant to this ordinance to Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling Division.
- E. The Waste Reduction Fee shall be administered by Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling Division.
- F. Waste Reduction Fees deposited in the Waste Reduction Account shall be used for the costs of the Plastic Bag Outreach Plan managed by Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling (ISWR), which includes:
  - 1. ISWR sponsored reusable bag distribution and retailer support; and
  - 2. Spring and Fall Community litter Clean-Ups; and
  - 3. Zero Waste Infrastructure and Program; and
- G. No Waste Reduction Fee collected in accordance with this ordinance shall be used to supplant funds appropriated as part of an annual approved budget.
- H. No Waste Reduction Fee collected in accordance with this ordinance shall revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year, or at any other time.

#### **8.36.060 Exemptions**

A Retailer may provide a Disposable Paper Bag to a customer at no charge to that customer if the customer provides evidence that he or she is a participant in a state or federal food assistance program.

#### **8.36.070 Audits and Violations**

- A. Each Retailer shall maintain accurate and complete records of the Waste Reduction Fees collected, the number of Disposable Paper Bags provided to customers, and any underlying records, including any books, accounts, invoices, or other records necessary to verify the accuracy and completeness of such records. It shall be the duty of each Retailer to keep and preserve all such documents and records, including any electronic information, for a period of three (3) years from the end of the calendar year of such records.
- B. If requested, each Retailer shall make its records available for audit by the Town Manager or his/her designee during regular business hours for the Town to verify compliance with the provisions of this Chapter. All such records shall be treated as confidential commercial documents.
- C. Violation(s) of any of the requirements of this Chapter subject a Retailer to the following penalties:
  - 1. If it is determined that a violation occurred, a warning notice will be issued to the Retailer for the initial violation.
  - 2. The penalty for each subsequent violation after the issuance of the warning notice shall be no more than.
    - a. \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the first conviction.
    - b. \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the second conviction.
    - c. For the third and all subsequent convictions there shall be a mandatory Jackson Municipal Court appearance and such penalty as may be



determined by the Jackson Municipal Court pursuant to Jackson Municipal Code § 1.12.010.

3. No more than one (1) penalty shall be imposed upon a Retailer within any seven (7) calendar day period.
- D. If payment of any portion of the Waste Reduction Fee is not received by the Town Finance Department on or before the applicable due date a \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_.00) late fee shall be imposed the last day of each month until said payment is received. Late fees shall not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_.00).

**SECTION II**

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed

**SECTION III**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed as a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance

**SECTION IV**

This Ordinance shall become effective on July 1, 2019.

PASSED 1ST READING THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.  
PASSED 2ND READING THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.  
PASSED AND APPROVED THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

TOWN OF JACKSON

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Muldoon, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy P. Birdyshaw, Town Clerk

ATTESTATION OF TOWN CLERK

STATE OF WYOMING     )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF TETON     )

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ was duly published in the Jackson Hole News and Guide, a newspaper of general circulation published in the Town of Jackson, Wyoming, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

I further certify that the foregoing Ordinance was duly recorded on page \_\_\_\_\_ of Book \_\_\_\_\_ of Ordinances of the Town of Jackson, Wyoming.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy P. Birdyshaw  
Town Clerk

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** Katie R <katie.raitz7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 3:18 PM  
**To:** Roxanne DeVries Robinson  
**Cc:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags!!

Hi Roxanne,

I just read the informative article in Green Matters regarding the recent history on response to plastic bags here in Jackson. I'd love to know how I can support a ban on plastic bags - reuseable bags are so easy and worthwhile!

Thanks for all you do!  
Katie

Sent from my iPhone

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** jlotshaw@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 27, 2018 5:47 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Fwd: plastic bag issue

Thank you for making the wise decision to ban plastic bags in the community! I can't wait to see this go through. During the May cleanup, it seems like most of the roadside debris are plastic bags. What a welcome relief to see those go away. Hopefully this can be implemented during this summer's visitor season.

Thank you again!

John and Dawn Lotshaw

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [jlotshaw@aol.com](mailto:jlotshaw@aol.com)  
**Date:** May 15, 2018 at 1:44:54 PM MDT  
**To:** [Council@jacksonwy.gov](mailto:Council@jacksonwy.gov)  
**Subject:** plastic bag issue

Mayor and Councilmen;

I read with interest last week's News & Guide which states that a comprehensive study on the use of plastic bags was done years ago, but yet nothing has been addressed with the issue. Given the fragile nature of our environment, especially where we live, we should be extremely careful about these issues. I know, in traveling around, plastic bags have already been banned in so many towns/areas, and Jackson Hole should be banning them too. As I have read, this will be readdressed on May 21, and I cannot urge all of you enough to adopt a plastic bag ban in our town.

I will look forward to the results of next week's meeting.

Sincerely,

Dawn Lotshaw  
Jackson WY

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** Molly Absolon <molly.absolon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2018 4:43 PM  
**To:** Jim Stanford  
**Subject:** Teton Valley magazine article on plastics

Hi Jim,

Not sure if you remember me, but our paths crossed at the News&Guide on occasion.

I have been assigned to write an article on plastics for next summer's issue of Teton Valley magazine and we'd like to include mention of the town of Jackson's ban on plastic bags (juxtaposed with Idaho's law forbidding towns to ban plastic bags...). You seemed like a good person on the council to talk to about the topic because i seem to remember that you were one of the primary advocates for the ban. Would you be willing to talk to me on the topic? I won't actually be working on the story until the winter, but we'd like to get a source list to our photographer so she can get images in the summer if possible. So, please let me know if you are willing to be included and I will pass your email on so the photographer can contact you. I'll get back to you in a few months!

Thanks,  
Molly

Molly Absolon  
9055 Village Way  
Victor, ID 83455  
[molly.absolon@gmail.com](mailto:molly.absolon@gmail.com)  
307-349-2464

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** JustinaLindeman <jlindeman88@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 10, 2018 2:24 PM  
**To:** Pete Muldoon  
**Subject:** The Last Straw (in a good way)

Dear Mayor,

My name is Justina Lindeman, and I am a resident of Teton County. I have lived in Jackson for almost 5 years, working mostly in restaurants and bars and I've been continuously bothered by the amount of plastic waste that I see being tossed out in the form of straws. I want to make a sustainable difference and there is single-use plastic straw trend that I feel the community would really get behind.

Single-use plastic straws are harming earth's environment at an alarming rate. Over 500 million plastic straws are used every day in America. In one year, that is over 175 billion straws. Plastic straws do not biodegrade, they only break down into smaller and smaller pieces. Some straws contain a type of plastic that is not recyclable. Straws that are recycled can barely ever make it to the recycling center because many conveyor belts have too large of gaps, and the straws fall through and go to the landfill. Plastic straws also threaten wildlife because animals eat it and cannot digest. These straws are the fifth most common found piece of trash on coastlines.

Many cities across America and the world have already banned plastic straws (Malibu, Seattle etc.), and I feel that we should follow their lead. Alternatives to single-use plastic straws are paper straws, bamboo straws, or even no straw. Banning plastic straws in the Town of Jackson would create a positive impact on the environment. This simple change could make a huge impact on plastic waste.

I understand that this change would affect businesses, but do we really want to be hurting the environment so badly just because tourists want a plastic straw? I hope to hear a response from you, I can be reached by email, or phone.

Sincerely,

Justina Lindeman  
[Jlindeman88@gmail.com](mailto:jlindeman88@gmail.com)

307-699-7803

## **Johnny Ziem**

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**From:** Brook Erenstone <adk.skylight@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018 1:12 PM  
**To:** Roxanne DeVries Robinson; Town Council  
**Subject:** Jackson Plastic Bag Ban Endorsement

**Dear Jackson Town Council,**

**I am writing to wholeheartedly voice my support of a total ban on plastic bags and a fee for paper bags in the town of Jackson.**

**These single-use bags are extremely wasteful, they take up space in our landfill and many bags inevitably end up in our rivers, streams and forests.**

**After asking many questions and playing "devil's advocate" a little bit, it is clear that the task force working on this project has looked at it from every angle and has a clear plan. It also seems that they have come up with creative solutions for making this as easy as of a transition as possible.**

**Please take this step towards reducing our footprint and moving towards a zero-waste destination.**

**Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making Jackson a better place to live and vacation.**

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**Brook M.E. Phillips**  
**Western Wyoming Vision Services; EcoTour Adventures**  
**(307)690-3346**

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** Terry C <repealbagfee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2018 10:24 AM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** NO on Plastic bag ban

Dear Mayor and Council members:

I am disappointed that Jackson Town Council is considering adopting a plastic bag ban and fee.

I applaud NY and MS States in BANNING plastic bag bans. Utah and South Carolina are in the process of adopting one.

Plastic bag bans are feel-good eco-fads. They HARM instead of help the environment. They hurt businesses and consumers. I pray that all the other states will preemptively BAN local plastic bag bans.

Plastic bags are made of polymer. It is a by-product of petroleum; something that must be remove, else the gas will combust too hotly. Our clothing; sport wear, yoga pants, polyester and many household items are made of petro-chemical products. They serve us well.

Somehow thin-film plastic bags have been singled-out as scape-goats. These bags are so humble yet so useful. They can be mass produced fast with no water and little energy. We use plastic bags to carry purchases home. We reuse them to line our trash bins, for wet trash, and pick up after our pets. Compare to paper which comes from trees and is heavy and take lots of water and energy to make, plastic costs little to produce.

In California, with this bag ban applied to ALL retails starting 2012, many retail shops have closed. And remain so. Bagging customers' purchase is the most BASIC customer service retailers should do. The "Do you want a bag? It is 10c." is infuriating! Our supervisors do not seem to understand customer service, consumer behavior, and discretionary spending vs. necessities purchases. We also have issue with shop-lifting – how do shopkeepers tell who have paid or not? I saw some people simply put the food in their bags, including some well-dressed customers in premium grocery stores in various cities!

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In this KQED California report here: (<https://www.kqed.org/news/11461251>)

"Eben Schwartz, from the Coastal Commission, said plastic bags were about 9 percent of what they picked up on San Francisco beaches before the local bans went into effect — and are about 6 percent of trash they pick up now."

– We are talking about less than 10% of the debris!

People litter. Irresponsible human IS the problem. NOT the bags! And the severity of plastic bags waste is OVER exaggerated.

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I urge you to watch and read a collection of videos and articles on my blog: <http://repealbagfee.blogspot.com/2013/08>

Bottom line: the plastic bag ban is a trendy feel-good eco-fad that harms instead of helps the environment.

Sincerely,  
Terry Chong  
blogger, [repealbagfee.blogspot.com](http://repealbagfee.blogspot.com)



## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** jlotshaw@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 23, 2018 8:07 AM  
**To:** Town Council; Pete Muldoon  
**Subject:** Plastic bags

Council & Mayor;

When will the ban be in effect for plastic bags? It's disturbing to see customers leaving the grocery stores with shopping carts filled with plastic bags. Can't that be put in place immediately?

Thank you.

Dawn Lotshaw

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** Brigid Mander <brigidmander@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2018 4:16 PM  
**To:** rrobinson@jacksonwy.com  
**Cc:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Plastic bags ban

Hi Robin,

I found your email in a little Green Matters news leaflet I picked up somewhere. I'm writing to let you know of my strong support for a plastic bag ban in Jackson. Thoughtless plastic bag use is unreasonable in a time when we are finally seeing mainstream awareness about the enormously detrimental impacts on our world by short lived, one time plastic-based conveniences.

I travel a lot, and have spent a large amount of time in Europe, as well as Chile and Argentina, where in most places free, non-biodegradable plastic bags are banned. It is simply not that hard, when confronted at a checkout, to buy a bag, or better yet a canvas bag to take your groceries in. (In fact its a fun reminder to have a canvas bag from something like an itty bitty local store in the Italian Alps...which I then reuse over and over again here at home.) But for example, Pucon, an action sports resort town in Chile with similar values as JH, banned plastic bags a few years ago. The Chilean national government just enacted a nation-wide ban. Argentines support this from the capital district to tiny rural enclaves in the mountains. Europe is way ahead of us, on this topic.

Part of Jackson's tourism economy is based on showcasing our values and ostensibly, a respect for the environment and for the creatures we share it with - here in the mountains and at the end of the journey where our rivers and snowmelt hit the marine ecosystem. Let's help educate visitors and feel like a town with honest marketing pitch, and ability to adhere to the ideals and the hard work it takes to uphold this place!

Also, I think this would be a super popular topic with plenty of locals, as well, but it's pretty hidden from the general public - nearly all my friends and acquaintances are on board already with canvas and reusable shopping bags.

Thanks for reading and your consideration.

best,  
Brigid

(PS: Maybe we can get rid of plastic straws locally, as well? Just a thought!)

--

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## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** Aaron Pruzan <aaron@jacksonholekayak.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 6:31 PM  
**To:** Jim Stanford; Jim Stanford; paul vogelheim; Paul Vogelheim  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags

Jim & Paul,

Hope you are both well. I was thinking about this because the Kayak Club did its annual Flat Creek Clean-up the weekend before last. We float the creek from McPhails down to Smiths and while it is getting better, the amount of plastic bags is really sad. Seems like there is a simple solution to start making this better and Jackson and Teton County should do what many, many other counties, towns and states have done and ban plastic bags and have stores charge for paper bags. While I know Wyomingites don't like regulation we are way behind on this and it totally makes sense for our community. Let me know what you think and what you suggest for next steps. I'm ready to move on this.

Thanks,

Aaron

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Aaron Pruzan  
Rendezvous River Sports  
Jackson Hole Kayak School  
PO Box 9201 945 W. Broadway  
Jackson, WY 83002  
307-733-2471

## Johnny Ziem

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**From:** Katie Weiler <kweiler263@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 12:37 PM  
**To:** Roxanne DeVries Robinson  
**Cc:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Jackson Plastic Bag Ban Endorsement

To the Jackson Town Council,

I fully am behind and endorse the plastic bag ban that we are trying to move through to Jackson. I think this is an extremely important move for the town of Jackson to show that we are a leader in sustainability and showing that we are taking action to save our planet that is drowning in single use plastics.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet and give this ban a look and backing that we need through all of you. I wasn't able to attend the meeting, but I heard it went very well, and for that I thank you as well.

I think I speak for all the residents in this beautiful town that we appreciate you taking the time to help make this town a leader in the outdoor community and keeping our environment free and clean from plastics, and this ban will help take a few more steps toward that goal!

Best,  
KW

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Katie M Weiler

