

*submitted 2/2/14  
plastic Bag review*



January 14, 2016

A number of Ashland Chamber retail members communicated their concerns over the current bag ordinance to the Chamber. Due to these comments, the Ashland Chamber Board of Directors would like the Ashland City Council to explore changing the bag ordinance as follows:

- Continued elimination of plastic bags
- Require a \$.10 charge for bags that are standard barrel size or larger (definition: Standard barrel size is a typical Grocery store bag- Barrel size bags have approximate dimensions of 12 inches wide x 7 inches deep x 13-18 inches tall, or a capacity of 1,100 to 1,600 cubic inches.)
- No \$.10 charge for bags smaller than standard barrel size

These changes would ensure that the \$.10 charge would still apply in grocery stores, which is the bulk of the paper bag usage but wouldn't be as impactful in a small retail setting. In a retail setting, many retailers rely on the paper bag as a part of their marketing efforts and we believe this should have been considered before making an ordinance that applies to everyone equally. Prior to the ordinance, retailers were conscientious of the amount of recycled paper that went into their bag, along with the bags ability to be recycled after the fact. The Ashland Chamber board is supportive of the overall ordinance's elimination of plastic bags and this small change would reduce the ordinance's impact on small retailers. As you may know, no small retailers were consulted when this ordinance was first created. Thank you for your consideration of these changes impacting our small businesses.