

Annual Fee Review

Under State Law, the City may charge fees which fully recover the cost of the services provided to individuals, businesses and organizations including appropriate allocation of overhead. In practice, cities often subsidize services intentionally as a policy decision, or unintentionally through failure to regularly review and update fees. Generally the public understands that minor annual increases are needed to keep pace with inflation. There is more acceptance of regular, minor increases than occasional large increases.

Each year the fee review will be undertaken as part of the budget process. To accomplish this, each department undertook an analysis of the existing fees to determine which fees needed to be increased, decreased, or even eliminated. In most instances, the recommended change in fees is minimal.

The most significant changes are for development related fees. Last year an effort was made to reduce and simplify the fees for less complex projects. That effort is being expanded this year by:

- Limiting charges for signs and other smaller items to an amount that is more in line with the cost of the project itself; and
- Using fixed fees rather than full cost recovery deposits for minor discretionary approvals; and
- Lowering the initial deposit for some fees.