

<p><b>Subject:</b></p> <p>An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Article II, Division I, § 8-31(c) of the Little Rock Revised Code of Ordinances to Revise Permit Fee Schedules for Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fire, and Related Work; and Declaring an Emergency.</p> <p><b>Submitted By:</b></p> <p>Planning and Development Department</p>	<p><b>Action Required:</b></p> <p>√ <b>Ordinance</b> Resolution</p>	<p><b>Approved By:</b></p> <p>Delphone Hubbard, City Manager</p>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS</b></p>	<p>The proposed ordinance updates the City’s permit fee schedules for building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, fire, and related construction activities. These revisions are intended to reflect current industry standards, support enhanced inspection and enforcement functions, and ensure the City recovers appropriate costs associated with regulatory oversight. The ordinance also includes an emergency clause to allow the revised fee structure to take effect immediately upon passage to prevent continued revenue loss and ensure consistent application of permit requirements.</p>	
<p><b>FISCAL IMPACT</b></p>	<p>Adoption of the revised fee schedules is expected to increase annual permitting revenue and more accurately align fees with the actual cost of providing review, inspection, and compliance services. The anticipated revenue enhancement will support operational needs within Planning &amp; Development, Building Safety, and Fire Prevention divisions. The exact impact will vary based on construction activity levels but is projected to result in a net positive fiscal effect for the City’s general and enterprise funds connected to permitting operations.</p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p>	<p>Pass the Ordinance.</p>	

<p><b>BACKGROUND</b></p>	<p>The City’s permit fees for construction-related activities have not undergone a comprehensive revision in several years. During this period, costs for labor, materials, technology, and regulatory compliance have increased significantly. Benchmarking with peer cities and consultation with industry stakeholders indicate that current permit fees fall below regional norms and no longer fully support the staffing, training, and administrative resources required for timely inspections, plan reviews, and enforcement actions.</p> <p>The proposed revisions modernize the fee schedule to reflect contemporary market conditions, improve cost recovery, and maintain high service standards for the construction community and the public. The emergency clause is included to avoid delays in implementing the updated fees, which would continue to result in insufficient cost recovery and operational strain if postponed.</p>
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