

**City of Columbus**  
**Public Hearing – Ordinance 15-XX; Fee Ordinance Amendment**  
**(PC-15-114)**  
**December 2, 2015**

The December 2, 2015 Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding amending the City of Columbus Fee Ordinance was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Jim Watson, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council member Bill Krebs, Sue Mulvihill, Pat Preiner, and Mary Preiner.

**Sternberg:** So then we'll move on to the Public Hearing and discussion: Ordinance 15-XX Fee Ordinance Amendment, pages 15 -23. And, at this time, I'd like to ask the recording secretary to read the notice as published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

**Sternberg:** Thanks, Karen. And, Elizabeth?

**Mursko:** Members of the Planning Commission, um, what you have before you is the fee ordinance. The last time we looked at the fee ordinance was in 2014. The reason for the public hearing is, we are required to have a public hearing if we change any of the planning and zoning fees. If we change fees to, let's just say, public utilities, it doesn't require a public hearing. And so, when we reviewed this with the attorney, he felt it was important, at this point, we, we have a public hearing in case of any, there was any input for planning and zoning fees, and, it also gave the opportunity, um, should someone want to change something, that we followed the rules in order to do that. So, what you have before you is the actual ordinance. The fee ordinance is a stand-alone ordinance, which means it's not codified. Um, it just stands alone in the book, in the front of the book. So, the first page is, basically, saying that when we adopt this ordinance, all the previous ordinances are rescinded. And, then, attached to it is the fee schedule. In this particular case, everything that's in red is a change, and everything that's struck through is what's existing and that we're proposing to change. So, looking at the building department, the building official felt that, um, it was better to combine the building, fire sprinkler, and fire alarm fee schedules and charges together, instead of having two separate ones. So he's, um, proposing those changes along with the State surcharge. For a number of years we have had, um, a five-dollar surcharge. And now they just recently changed it to fifty cents. So rather than having this problem of our fee schedule being wrong, we just simply felt it was better to have 'current rate', because we don't dictate when it changes. And so it will just reflect whatever the current rate is, that that's what's going to be on our fee scale. Other changes are kind of minor. At the last Council meeting, um, Larry presented some public utility changes, and that was for connection fees, and water, and, um, sewer charges. And that was based on connection fees and some other things that he felt that needed an escalator. So there were some changes there. But looking, ideally, at the planning and zoning, I have not recommended any changes, um, other than, I think it's the Comprehensive Plan amendment. It was the only application that was \$150, that required

a public hearing, minutes—I mean, the process is the same for an interim use permit, a conditional use permit, a comp plan amendment, so I don't know why that one was 50 dollars difference, because the process that we follow is the same. So that was the only change that I have in here. And then tonight, after this public hearing, there'll be an ordinance for lot line adjustment. And so I inserted a fee, only, kind of prior to adopting the ordinance 'cause I knew there would be an update to that. But, those are the only two changes other than the escrow amount that I'm proposing to change.

**Sternberg:** So this, the State surcharge, you just put 'current rate' just so when the state adjusts the surcharge you'll just coincide with the State then.

**Mursko:** Correct.

**Krebs:** So we don't have to change this every single time; it'll just float.

**Sternberg:** Any questions?

**Preiner:** No.

**Krebs:** Nope.

**Wolowski:** No.

**Sternberg:** Okay. At this time, I'm going to open the meeting to the, open the hearing to the public. Is there anyone here from the public? Okay. At this time I'm going to close the meeting with the right to reopen if it—hearing—if it becomes necessary.

Hearing closed at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary