



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Willows City Council Approves Updated Master Fee Schedule

(Willows, CA) – On June 25, 2024, the Willows City Council approved a completely updated Master Fee Schedule. While some fees experienced a substantive increase, others remained the same or were reduced. Although there is no record and/or memory of when the Master Fee Schedule was last comprehensively updated, records show that some individual fees have not been updated since the 1990's.

“It’s imperative that fees pay for the actual cost of providing services such as permitting and code enforcement; otherwise, taxpayers end up subsidizing the cost of an applicant’s residential and/or commercial inspections and permits,” commented Mayor Hansen.

The purpose of updating the Master Fee Schedule is to determine the full cost of providing services or programs including review of fee schedules based on service delivery, identifying potential new fees (not currently collected), reducing or removing fees, and using fully burdened rates (e.g., staff time) to calculate full cost recovery. The Master Fee Schedule Study also identified appropriate fee levels that enhance reasonability and applicability, maintain consistency with local policies and objectives, and maintain legal compliance with state law. Fees are for private projects that should only be paid for by the applicant, ensuring that the general public is not burdened with the cost to process individual applications and permits.

“While no one likes fees, they are a necessary part of providing city services to meet the needs of the public we serve and ensuring that our costs are covered by those benefiting from the services provided. Updating the city’s fees to market rate standards is in the best interest of everyone,” stated Councilmember Thomas.

The Master Fee Schedule was updated by incorporating or establishing cost recovery goals and updating fees for services based on cost analysis including, expenditure data, staffing structures, central service/indirect overhead, productive/billable hours, time estimates to complete tasks, and city/department input, feedback and policies. By ensuring fees are paying for the cost of providing services, the city will experience increased revenues and demonstrated integrity in the fee structure.

Vice-Mayor Hutson added, “This has been a long overdue update and another way to bring the City of Willows some much needed revenue to support the services we offer.”

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