

Agenda Report

August 19, 2013 City Council Meeting

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Item No. 12

ISSUE: Ambulance Billing Charges

For your consideration is Ordinance 13-10 adjusting Windsor Heights EMS billing schedule

BACKGROUND:

The proposed changes are below and are the only changes being recommended by staff to the current rate structure. As a reminder from the August 5th work session, ambulance rates were last adjusted prior to 2007. Staff is recommending the rates be updated to ensure those who use the services pay for a majority of the costs associated with providing the service. The new fees are comparable with the metro averages from neighboring communities and they all fall within the reimbursement rates for most private pay insurance. If approved, Windsor Heights will now truly be in line with all other metro communities. The recommended changes include:

Mileage: Change to **\$12.00** per loaded mile from \$7.50 (current)

BLS Emergent: Change to **\$611.00** from \$525.00 (current)

ALS Emergent: Change to **\$665.00** from \$525.00 (current)

ALS2: Change to **\$962.00** from \$625.00 (current)

Oxygen: **\$30.00** no change

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve Ordinance 13-10 on first reading

STAFF CONTACTS:

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, City Administrator

Christopher Cross, Fire Chief

ORDINANCE 13-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 37, FIRE CODE OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS
CODE OF ORDINANCES

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Windsor Heights, Iowa:

WHEREAS, Section 37.02 of the Code of Ordinances states that all permit fees and departmental charges for services offered by the Windsor Heights Fire Department are set forth in a document titled Exhibit A and dated November 4, 2005; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief and his staff have conducted a fee schedule review and process analysis to gauge customer service and evaluate all permit fees and departmental charges for services offered by the Fire Department—this review involved an examination of the past three (3) year average of the consumer price index; **AND**,

WHEREAS, the review and analysis determined that changes are required to the schedule of permit fees and departmental charges set forth in Exhibit A; **AND**,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the amended schedule of permit fees and departmental charges is reasonable and permits the City to recover its administrative costs for said services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Windsor Heights City Council in session this ___ day of August, 2013, that it is hereby adopts the following changes to the City of Windsor Heights Code of Ordinances Chapter 37 by adopting the amended schedule of permit fees and departmental charges for service attached hereto as Exhibit A and dated August ___, 2013:

I. SECTION 1: Chapter 37, Section 02 and Chapter 37, Exhibit A of the City of Windsor Heights Code of Ordinances are hereby amended by modification through addition or deletion of language as identified through the following underlined language:

37.02 PERMIT FEES AND DEPARTMENTAL CHARGES. All permit fees and departmental charges for service shall be as detailed in Exhibit A of this chapter, dated August ___, 2013.

Exhibit A to Chapter 37

August ___, 2013

WINDSOR HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FEES CHARGED BY FIRE DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1 – PERMIT FEES. All permit fees are annual fees except those required for installation or removal of tanks, equipment, and similar appliances; and special one-time activities.

1. CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES IN ASSEMBLY AREAS: To use ~~open~~ flame or candles in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of all restaurants or drinking establishments.....\$15.00
2. CARNIVALS AND FAIRS: To conduct a carnival or fair\$50.00

3. COMPRESSED GASES: To store, handle or use at normal temperature and pressure compressed gases in excess of the amounts listed in *Fire Code*:
 - A. Up to five times the maximum allowed without permit.....\$37.00
 - B. All greater amounts \$75.00

4. DRY CLEANING PLANTS: To engage in business of dry cleaning .. \$37.00

5. FIREWORKS: To provide a fireworks display\$200.00

6. FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS CLASS I: To store, handle or use Class I liquids:
 - A. Ten or more gallons in any building or other occupancy\$50.00
 - B. In excess of ten gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons outside a building, to include underground storage – per tank \$37.00
 - C. In excess of 1,000 gallons but not more than 5,000 gallons outside a building, to include underground storage – per tank \$40.00
 - D. In excess of 5,000 gallons but not more than 10,000 gallons outside a building, to include underground storage – per tank.....\$50.00
 - E. In excess of 10,000 gallons but not more than 20,000 gallons outside a building, to include underground storage – per tank.....\$60.00
 - F. In excess of 20,000 gallons but not more than 40,000 gallons outside a building, to include underground storage – per tank.....\$75.00
 - G. In excess of 40,000 gallons but not more than 100,000 gallons ~~outside a building~~ – per tank..... \$100.00
 - H. In excess of 100,000 gallons but not more than 500,000 gallons ~~outside a building~~ – per tank..... \$150.00
 - I. In excess of 500,000 gallons outside a building – per tank \$200.00

7. FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS CLASS II AND III: To store, handle, or use Class II or III liquids:
 - A. In excess of 25 gallons but not more than 60 gallons in a building.\$37.00
 - B. In excess of 60 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons in a building – per tank.....\$50.00
 - C. In excess of 1,000 gallons but not more than 4,000 gallons in a building – per tank.....\$75.00
 - D. In excess of 4,000 gallons in a building – per tank.....\$100.00
 - E. In excess of 60 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons outside a building, including underground storage – per tank.....\$37.00
 - F. In excess of 1,000 gallons but not more than 5,000 gallons outside a building, including underground storage – per tank \$40.00
 - G. In excess of 5,000 gallons but not more than 10,000 gallons outside a building, including underground storage – per tank.....\$50.00
 - H. In excess of 10,000 gallons but not more than 20,000 gallons outside a building, including underground storage – per tank.....\$60.00
 - I. In excess of 20,000 gallons but not more than 40,000 gallons outside a building, including underground storage – per tank.....\$75.00
 - J. In excess of 40,000 gallons but not more than 100,000 gallons ~~outside a building, including~~ underground storage – per tank.....\$100.00
 - K. In excess of 100,000 gallons outside a building, including underground storage – per tank \$150.00

8. FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, RETAIL SALES:

- A. Retail dealers of flammable liquids \$37.00
- B. Each pump or outlet in excess of four \$5.00

9. FLAMMABLE LIQUID TANKS – REMOVAL FROM SERVICE:

- A. To temporarily place tanks out of service:
 - First tank taken out of service..... \$100.00
 - Each additional tank on same site at same time.....\$50.00
- B. To remove and dispose of tanks:
 - First tank removed \$100.00
 - Each additional tank on same site at same time.....\$50.00

10. FLAMMABLE GAS – INSTALL AN LP GAS CONTAINER:

- A. Water capacity in excess of 120 gallons but not more than 500 gallons.....\$37.00
- B. Water capacity in excess of 500 gallons but not more 1,000 gallons.....\$50.00
- C. Water capacity in excess of 1,000 gallons but not more 10,000 gallons.....\$75.00
- D. Water capacity in excess of 10,000 gallons.....\$100.00

11. FLAMMABLE GAS – RETAIL SALES OF LP GAS:

- A. To sell LP Gas in portable tanks.....\$37.00
- B. To sell LP Gas and dispense from tank \$50.00

12. GARAGES – MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR: To use any building, shed, or enclosure as a place of business for the purpose of repairing any motor vehicle therein.....\$50.00

13. HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS STORAGE:

- A. To store, dispense, use or handle hazardous materials in excess of quantities specified in the *Fire Code*.....\$50.00
- B. To install, repair, abandon, remove, place temporarily out of service, close or substantially modify a storage facility or other area regulated by the *Fire Code*\$100.00

14. LIQUID- OR GAS-FUELED VEHICLES OR EQUIPMENT IN ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS: To display, compete or demonstrate liquid or gas fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings.....\$ 50.00

15. LUMBER YARDS: To store lumber in excess of 100,000 board feet . \$100.00

16. PLACES OF ASSEMBLY:

- A. Maintenance, operation, or use of a place of assembly:
 - i. Any assembly building or area with a stage and an occupant load of 1,000 or more in a building.....\$150.00
 - ii Any assembly building or area with a stage and an occupant load of less than 1,000 in a building \$125.00
 - iii Any assembly building or area without a stage and having an occupant load of 300 or more..... \$100.00

- iv Any assembly building or area without a stage and having an occupant load of less than 300, excluding such buildings used for education.....\$75.00
- v Any building used for day care purposes for more than six children.....\$75.00
- vi Any building or parts of a building used solely for religious purposes.....\$50.00
- vii Any drinking and/or dining establishment with an occupant load of less than 100.....\$75.00
- viii Any drinking and/or dining establishment with an occupant load of 100 or more \$.....\$100.00
- ix Any other assembly building not listed above \$75.00

B. Increasing Occupant Loads: See Section 12.103: To increase occupant loads above the posted load of approved areas during special events as set forth in the Fire Code (Fire Department Standby Personnel will be required. The Fire Chief shall determine the number of personnel needed. Fire Department apparatus may be required. See Standby Fees.)
\$75.00

17. USE OF PYROTECHNIC SPECIAL EFFECTS MATERIAL:

- A. To store pyrotechnic special effects material \$100.00
- B. To use pyrotechnic special effects material.†\$200.00

18. TENTS, AIR-SUPPORTED MEMBRANE STRUCTURES; CANOPIES:

- A. To erect or operate a tent or air-supported temporary membrane having an area in excess of 200 square feet, but less than 1,000 square feet, except structures used exclusively for camping.....\$37.00
- B. Tent or air-supported temporary membrane in excess of 1,000 square feet.....\$50.00
- C. To erect or operate a canopy having an area in excess of 400 square feet, but less than 1,000 square feet, except structures used exclusively for camping.....\$37.00

19. TIRE RECAPPING: To operate tire recapping or rebuilding facilities \$50.00

20. FIRE ALARM CENTRAL STATION: To provide service from a Fire Alarm Central Station for local businesses. Central Station must be UL certified.....\$ 50.00

21. FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE: To install and maintain fire sprinkler systems in buildings within the City.....\$ 50.00

SECTION 2 – SERVICE FEES. Service fees are charged for services provided to individuals or companies that, with the exception of those fees charged for a hazardous materials incident response, are not an emergency response.

1. PLAN REVIEW AND CONSTRUCTION RELATED INSPECTIONS:

- A. Building plan reviews, buildings of 5,000 or less square feet \$50.00
- B. Building plan reviews, buildings of 5,000 to 9,999 square feet \$75.00
- C. Building plan reviews, buildings of 10,000 to 14,999 square feet .. \$100.00

- D. Building plan reviews, buildings of 15,000 to 19,999 square feet .. \$125.00
- E. Building plan reviews, buildings of 20,000 to 34,999 square feet .. \$150.00
- F. Building plan reviews, buildings of 35,000 to 49,999 square feet .. \$175.00
- G. Building plan reviews, buildings of 50,000 to 74,999 square feet .. \$200.00
- H. Building plan reviews, buildings of 75,000 to 99,999 square feet .. \$250.00
- I. Building plan reviews, buildings of 100,000 to 124,999 square feet.\$300.00
- J. Building plan reviews, buildings of 125,000 to 149,999 square feet.\$350.00
- K. Building plan reviews, buildings of 150,000 to 174,000 square feet.\$400.00
- L. Building plan reviews, buildings of 175,000 to 199,999 square feet.\$450.00
- M. Building plan reviews, buildings over 200,000 square feet.....\$500.00, plus \$100.00 per additional 50,000 square feet or portion thereof
- N. Site plan review (1/3 the cost of the building plan review) – Minimum.....\$37.00
- O. Fire alarm system plan review/inspection (per system)..... \$75.00
- P. Fire sprinkler system plan review (per system) \$100.00
- Q. Fire sprinkler system plan review (minor changes in operating system).....\$75.00
- R. Hazardous operations plan review \$75.00
- S. Plan review, other, including any changes in plans previously approved, will follow the same schedule as letters A through R of this section.
- T. Inspection services related to building construction (per hour).....\$ 30.00

2. NOTE: Fees will double if work is started prior to plan approval by the Fire Department.

SECTION 3 – INSPECTIONS FEES. The City of Windsor Heights has adopted a fee schedule for re-inspections conducted by the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Fire Department. The first inspection is provided at no charge unless a violation is noted. If a violation is noted and corrected prior to the first re-inspection, there is no additional charge.

- 1. First inspection of property/facility.....none (If previous violations found on first inspection, fee shall be upgraded to meet re-inspection fee rates. A written work order to correct the Fire Code Violation, secured by the occupant and/or building owner, with a completion date agreed to by the Fire Department, will serve in place of the next re- inspection fee. A copy of the written work order shall be provided to the Fire Department for the files. If the Work Order is not completed by the agreed upon date, the corresponding re-inspection fee will be charged and another re-inspection scheduled.)
- 2. First re-inspection following a previous inspection and code violation ~~have~~ **been** corrected.....\$25.00
- 3. Second re-inspection for same violation \$100.00
- 4. Third re-inspection for same violation.....\$200.00
- 5. Fourth re-inspection \$400.00
- 6. Each additional re-inspection thereafter for same violation..... \$800.00
- 7. Inspections involving issuing of permits or construction approval ~~when~~ **operations/inspections** are required on weekends or after 5:00p.m. **during the week. Charges are per hour to the quarter hour, with two hours minimum** \$40.00
- 8. Annual inspection/testing of fire alarm and sprinkler systems \$30.00

SECTION 4 – STANDBY SERVICES. Services provided when building systems are inoperable or when required for dangerous operations, based on 1/4 hour with a one-hour minimum.

HOURLY RATE:

- 1. Command Car \$50.00

- 2. Engine Company \$125.00
- 3. Rescue/Truck Company \$125.00
- 4. Ambulance Company – including paramedic unit \$100.00
- 5. Mobile Command Post.....\$100.00
- 6. Air Unit \$100.00
- 7. Personnel (per person per hour) \$ 20.00

SECTION 5 – REGULAR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OR CRIME SCENE. These fees are in addition to any charges made by the Des Moines Fire Department Hazardous Materials team or any other agencies responding to the incident.

CHARGES PER HOUR (One Hour Minimum On All Charges):

- 1. Command Car \$50.00
- 2. Engine Company \$125.00
- 3. Truck Company..... \$125.00
- 4. Ambulance Company – including paramedic care\$100.00
- 5. Mobile Command Post.....\$100.00
- 6. Air Unit \$100.00
- 7. Personnel (per person per hour) \$ 20.00
- 8. Expendables: Actual cost plus 15% storage and handling.
- 9. Contract equipment and other outside expenses: Actual cost plus 15%.
- 10. Any addition expense, including loss of apparatus or equipment: Actual cost plus 15%.

SECTION 6 – MINOR INCIDENT INVOLVING LIQUIDS SPILLED.

- 1. When expendables used cost less than \$50.00 and spill can be handled by fire company(s) already responding to the incident \$150.00
- 2. NOTE: If additional companies or special units must be called in, the charges shall be the same as those for a regular hazardous materials incident.

SECTION 7 – REPORTS. Courts, insurance companies, and other agencies sometimes request copies of fire and EMS reports. The following shall be charged for these reports:

- 1. Basic Fire Report \$5.00
- 2. Each additional page \$.50
- 3. EMS Report (includes staff preparation time for HIPAA release and authorization to acquire records.)..... \$10.00
- 4. Any report not computerized (includes staff research time to locate and retrieve records).....\$37.00

SECTION 8 – AMBULANCE FEES. Costs for response and for patient care are listed below:

- 1. BLS Emergent Transport\$611.00
- 2. ALS Emergent Transport.....\$665.00
- 3. ALS2 Transport.....\$962.00
- 4. Mileage..... \$12.00
- 5. Oxygen \$30.00
- 6. Capital Equipment Replacement Surcharge.....\$26.25 per transport

SECTION 9 – RESCUE/EXTRICATION FEES. These fees cover response for extrication using extrication tools and equipment and include response of a command officer, one rescue truck, and one engine. This does not include EMS fees for patient care and or transport or fees for handling hazardous materials. Additional charges will apply if additional resources are required.

- 1. Basic extrication of one hour or less \$200.00

- 2. Additional hours (charged per quarter hour until back in service).....\$200.00

SECTION 10 – MALICIOUS ACTS. These fees cover response to alarms involving malicious acts by a person that do not involve arson of a building or injury/death to a responder or occupant.

- 1. Malicious starting of a grass, field, or other non-structure fire:
 - A. First offense \$100.00
 - B. Second offense.....\$200.00
 - C. Third offense – refer to law enforcement.
- 2. Malicious reporting of a fire or activating a fire alarm system:
 - A. First offense \$100.00
 - B. Second offense.....\$200.00
 - C. Third offense – refer to law enforcement.

SECTION 11 – UNPAID INVOICES.

If acceptable payment is not made within 30 days, a 35% cost of collection will be added to any outstanding balance. The full amount owed may be forwarded to private collection agents to commence collection activities.

Section 12-Annual Review

The city administrator and the fire chief will evaluate EMS billing rates annually, comparing the current rates to the Wellmark reimbursement rates and other area EMS services. The city administrator and fire chief will bring forth recommendations for rate changes to the city council as needed.

II. SECTION 2. REPEALER. All parts of the "MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA" in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

III. SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision, sentence, clause, phrase or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any section, subsection, provision, sentence, clause, phrase or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

IV. SECTION 4. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This Ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and notice of its passage is given as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council this ____ day of August 2013, and approved this ____ day of August, 2013.

David J. Sullivan, Mayor

Attest:

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, City Administrator/Clerk