

CITY OF BETHLEHEM
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT: Request for Approval by City Council the recommended changes to the fee scale pursuant to City Ordinance 1501, Article 2011-211, Fire Safety and Code Enforcement Inspection Fees.
TO: City Council, all members, and Council Solicitor
FROM: Deputy Chief Craig Baer/Fire Marshal
DATE: 9/27/2017

On behalf of the Fire Administration, I request City Council's approval of the attached recommended changes to the fee scale pursuant to City Ordinance 1501, Article 2011-211, Fire Safety and Code Enforcement Inspection Fees.

These changes are being recommended to more fairly distribute the cost of Annual Fire Inspections. This will be done by charging the buildings/businesses an Inspection Fee that is directly related to the amount of time required to conduct the inspection.

The current single tiered commercial property fee scale will be divided into two categories, Assembly Occupancies, and Non-Assembly commercial occupancies. The Assembly Occupancy category will still be billed by occupancy load, and the dollar amount has not changed. The Non-assembly occupancy category will be billed by square footage calculation. The fee scale is entirely new. The new fee scale will keep the actual inspection cost very close to, if not the same as the previous fee scale with the exception of the largest buildings in the city.

Under the current fee scale there are businesses that are charged a higher fee that require a minimal amount of time to inspect. There are also large buildings that do not house a large number of people that are charged a small fee even though building size necessitates a long inspection time. The new fee scale will help alleviate this problem.

All other language and fees will remain unchanged.

By: Craig Baer, Deputy Fire Chief

Copies To: file

Attachment: proposed fee changes

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that the following fees are hereby established:

Fire Department

Fee Schedule for Inspection of Commercial Structures and Premises

Assembly Occupancies:

Under 100 persons	\$ 25.00
101 to 500 persons	\$ 50.00
501 persons and above	\$100.00

Non-Assembly Commercial Occupancies:

Will be billed by square footage of inspection area

Under 2500 square feet	\$ 25.00
2,500-5,000 square feet	\$ 35.00
5,001-10,000 square feet	\$ 55.00
10,001-50,000 square feet	\$ 75.00
50,001-100,000 square feet	\$100.00
100,001-500,000 square feet	\$150.00
500,000+ square feet	\$250.00

All fees include one (1) inspection and one (1) re-inspection. All Subsequent re-inspections shall be billed at the rate of \$75.00 per hour, one (1) hour minimum and billed in ¼ hour increments thereafter.

Sponsored by _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of _____, 2017.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk