

Staff Report

Public Hearing _

Subject: Ordinance Revision
Author: **Elizabeth Sapp, Fire Inspector**
Department: Development Services
Meeting Date: **August __, 2023**
Item Description: Consideration for Establishing Fire Inspection Fees for New and Existing Commercial / Industrial Buildings. – **Zoning Ordinance, Article VIII – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**

Summary Recommendation

In order to establish fire inspection fees for new and existing commercial / industrial buildings in Effingham County. Staff recommends approval of an ordinance addition which creates a new fire inspection fee schedule for failed life safety inspection(s) and / or re-inspection(s) for commercial and industrial occupancy's.

Executive Summary/Background

- The definition of "Life safety" refers to the design and operating features of a building (inside the building and the surrounding site) that provides its occupants a reasonable level of life safety during fires and other emergencies.
- This ordinance would create life safety re-inspection fees for those commercial and / or industrial occupancy's who fail to comply with Effingham County's Code of Ordinances and applicable adopted building and fire codes.
- Staff has had an influx of life safety inspection failures due to new and existing commercial / industrial building occupant casualness resulting from the failure to comply with the County Code of Ordinances, and adopted building codes.

Alternatives

1. **Approve an amendment to the Code of Ordinances – Zoning Ordinance, Article VIII – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**
2. **Deny an amendment to the Code of Ordinances – Zoning Ordinance, Article VIII – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Development Services, County Attorney

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments: 1. **Effingham County Fire Inspection Checklist & associated fees**