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To: City Council

From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator
RE: Building Permit Fees and CloudPermit

Meeting Date: September 19, 2024

Executive Summary:

The council adopted a fee schedule for building permits which differs from Skamania County. The County keeps all the revenue from the permit fees and the city is not billed for the inspector's services. The auditors are reviewing the matter to determine what changes may be needed to get the agencies into compliance.

Overview of Items:

The City and County signed an interlocal agreement in 2020 for the county to provide Building Inspection services. The agreement has the county receiving the payment for building permits according to the city's fee schedule. The city and the county's permit fee schedules don't align and in discussions with the former county Public Works Director Tim Elsea, it was agreed to keep the city's fees where they were at, and the county would slowly increase their fees over time to match. The county recently increased their fees, however they still do not match the city's fee schedule.

During the current county audit, the implementation of CloudPermit is under review and this billing discrepancy was identified. The full scope of the matter is still being determined. Preliminary discussions with the county have a couple of possible options. The first is to lower the city's fees to match the county. The second is to keep the city's fees where they are at and update the fees in CloudPermit. The difficulty in updating the CloudPermit fees is unknown.

The fee schedules for both agencies are attached.

Action Needed:

None at this time.