

**BILL NO. \_\_\_\_ - 2025**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-\_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ARTICLE 1702 OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED “FEES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, ACT NO. 45-1999”.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AND ENACT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE:

**SECTION 1.** Article 1702 of the City of Bethlehem Codified Ordinances relating to Fees for the Enforcement of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, Act No. 45-1999, Section 1702.01 relating to Schedule of Fees, is hereby amended to read as follows (**bold underlined** text denotes additions, whereas ~~**bold strikeouts**~~ denote deletions):

1702.01 SCHEDULE OF FEES.

Delete Section 401.2.a of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code and insert the following:

**(a) Building Permit Fees**

**(1) Type 1, 2, & 3 Construction**

For inspection of each building classified as Type 1, 2 & 3 construction, the fee shall be ~~**one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)**~~ **one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00)** for areas up to and including five hundred (500) square feet. For areas in excess of five hundred (500) square feet of floor area the fee shall be ~~**one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)**~~ **one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00)**, plus ~~**fifteen cents (\$0.15)**~~ **twenty cents (\$0.20)** per square foot after 500 Square feet of floor area.

**(2) Type 4 & 5 Construction (Frame - Section 605.0 and 606.0)**

For the inspection of each building classified as type 4 and 5 construction the fee shall be ~~**one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125.00)**~~ **one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)** up to and including five hundred (500) square feet of floor area. For areas in excess of five hundred (500) square feet of floor areas the fee shall be ~~**one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125.00)**~~ **one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)** plus

~~twenty cents (\$0.20)~~ twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per square foot after 500 Square feet of floor area.

(3) Computation of Floor Area

In computing fees, a story higher than eighteen (18) feet and not more than thirty (30) feet shall be considered two (2) stories; a story higher than thirty (30) feet and no more than forty (40) feet shall be considered three (3) stories; except for one (1) story industrial uses (use Group F). The square foot area shall be based on outside dimensions of the structure. All floor area shall be calculated on the square foot basis except those areas with ceiling heights under five (5) feet, or crawl spaces.

- (4) For the inspection of buildings for which application is made for repairs or alterations, the fee shall be ~~fifty dollars (\$50.00)~~ sixty dollars (\$60.00) for the first five thousand dollars (\$5,000) of estimated cost of construction. For estimated construction costs which exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), the fee charged shall be ~~1%~~ 1.2% up to \$500,000 cost of work plus ~~.2%~~ .3% of cost of work over \$500,000.00.

- (5) The building official shall have the right to verify or correct the estimated value of any proposed building, structure, addition or alteration.

(6) Demolition

The permit fee for all buildings or structures shall be ~~one hundred dollars (\$100.00)~~ one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) for the first two thousand (2,000) square feet of floor area, plus ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~ twelve dollars (\$12.00) for each additional one thousand (1,000) square feet of floor area or fraction thereof.

(7) Moving Buildings

A permit shall be granted for the moving of a building upon payment of a fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a dwelling or larger building and a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be added for each day a street, road, alley, or lane is occupied by a building or moving equipment. In addition, thereto, a permit shall be secured for the structure at the new location in accord with the permit fee schedule established for new construction.

(8) Roof Replacement

For replacement of roofing material of residential single-family dwellings and appurtenant structures the permit fee shall be ~~\$35.00~~ forty-two dollars (\$42.00).

For all other roofing permits the fee shall be ~~fifty dollars (\$50.00)~~ sixty dollars (\$60.00) for the first two thousand (2,000) square feet and ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~

**twelve dollars (\$12.00)** for each additional one thousand (1,000) square feet of roof area.

(9) Swimming Pools

For private above grade pools ~~\$25.00~~ **thirty dollars (\$30.00)**. For all other pools, ~~1%~~ **1.2%** of estimated construction costs.

See section (h) regarding State fee added to all permits.

See section (i) regarding additional reinspection fees.

**(b) Electrical Fees**

(1) Heating, Air Conditioners, Ranges, Water Heaters and Similar Equipment

Per single unit	<del>\$40.00</del> <b><u>\$50.00</u></b>
Each additional unit	<del>\$10.00</del> <b><u>\$15.00</u></b>

(2) Large Scale Industrial and Institutional - Yearly Permit Fees

Large-scale industries and institutions that have a Master Electrician on their staff shall pay a yearly fee of ~~\$250.00~~ **\$350.00**. This fee shall cover all of the maintenance work performed in that year. All new construction shall be covered under the fee schedule listed above.

(3) Non-Residential Work

Fee for installation of Electrical Systems in all other use groups, buildings new and remodeled, including Emergency Alarm Device, Smoke detectors, Computer wiring, or Phone Systems is as follows: ~~1%~~ **1.2%** up to \$30,000.00 cost of work plus ~~.5%~~ **.6%** of cost of work over \$30,000.00 with the minimum fee of ~~\$75.00~~ **\$90.00**.

(4) Nursing Homes

Three (3) year State required minimum per hour or part thereof - ~~\$50.00~~ **\$75.00**

(5) Public Pools, & Spas

Three (3) year inspection - State required	<del>\$100.00</del> <b><u>\$125.00</u></b>
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(6) Residential

Fee for installation of Electrical Systems in a new single family dwelling, the fee per dwelling unit will be: ~~\$100.00~~ **\$115.00**

Service change not over 200 amp.	<del>\$40.00</del> <b><u>\$50.00</u></b>
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Each additional meter	<del>\$10.00</del> <u>\$15.00</u>
Service change not over 400 amp.	<del>\$75.00</del> <u>\$90.00</u>
Minor alterations (one to four devices)	<del>\$40.00</del> <u>\$50.00</u>

Alterations, Additions, or Rewire Entire House Five (5) or more devices, including service	<del>\$75.00</del> <u>\$90.00</u>
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(7) Swimming Pools - Private

Above ground pool	<del>\$40.00</del> <u>\$50.00</u>
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Permanent pool	<del>\$65.00</del> <u>\$80.00</u>
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See section (h) regarding State fee added to all permits.

See section (i) regarding additional reinspection fees.

**(c) Schedule of Fire Code Fees**

Unless altered by subsequent Resolution approved by the City Council of the City of Bethlehem, the following schedule of fees shall apply:

Flammable/Combustible Above or Underground Tanks (New)

Tanks above 500 gallons	\$150.00/Tank plus state fee
Tanks below 500 gallons	\$100.00/Tank plus state fee
Flammable/Combustible Tank (Alterations)	\$100.00/Tank plus state fee
Underground Tank Removal	\$150.00/Tank plus state fee
Over 2000 gallons	\$225.00/Tank
Hazard Materials/Chemical Use	\$75.00/Material Type/Control Area plus state fee
Flammable/Combustible Liquid Use/Storage	\$75.00 plus state fee
Compressed/Liquid Gas Use/Storage Tank	\$75.00/Tank plus state fee
Flammable/Combination Above or Underground Tanks (includes operational permit)*	
Tanks 501 to 2000	\$150.00/Tank
Tanks 500 gallons or less	\$100.00/Tank
Tanks above 2000	\$350.00/Tank
Flammable/ Combustible Above Ground Alterations	\$75.00/Tank plus state fee
Stationary Per Tank Removal Above 2000 Gallons	\$100.00/Tank plus state fee
Stationary Per Tank Removal 2000 Gallons and Below	\$75.00/Tank plus state fee
Non-Medical Helicopter Landings within City	\$50.00 plus state fee
Helicopter Use (Construction, etc.)	\$150.00/hour plus state fee
Annual mobile cooking vendor (truck/trailer)*	\$100
Cooking Vendor*	\$25.00/hr. Administrative/Review Fee
Open flame cooking inspection*	\$25
Tents 400 square feet or larger	\$50.00 plus state fee

Fire Department Operational Permit for existing commercial occupancies with a change of commercial occupant	\$75.00
Fire Department Administrative Fee	\$25.00

**Filing fee for records of all system inspections, tests and maintenance** **\$15.00**  
**(per Resolution No. 2018-222)**

Construction Permits and Fire Department Operational Permits for new or existing commercial occupancies and commercial occupancies with a change of commercial occupant: Permit fees shall include one (1) inspection and one (1) re-inspection. All subsequent re-inspections shall be billed at the rate of \$75.00 per hour with one (1) minimum to be billed in ¼ hour increments thereafter.

Fire Systems Construction permit fees shall cover Fire Department Operational Permit for new occupancies.

All permit fees are not inclusive of any required roster duty fees as deemed necessary by the Fire ~~Marshall~~ **Marshal**, and are not inclusive of any state fees where applicable. All Fire Department Construction Permit fees will include/cover the operational permit fee for the occupancies.

\* All operational and construction permits required in the 2009 International Fire Code will have a fee of \$50.00 with the exceptions of these permits.

Exception: Interior home heating oil tanks.

Exemptions: Tanks exempted by Pennsylvania Propane and LP Gas Law

Fire Code Violations

Penalties: Penalties shall be imposed to the maximum extent possible under Third Class City Code, specifically Section 141A04(c).

(Ord. 2017-51. Passed 12/19/2017.)

**(d) Mechanical Permit Fees**

For use groups R-3 - R-4 structure the cost will be ~~\$40.00~~ **\$50.00** for installation or replacement of the first device and ~~\$10.00~~ **\$15.00** for each device thereafter.

Fee for installation of fireplace, wood burning stove or coal stove shall be ~~\$30.00~~ **\$45.00.**

Fee for installation of Mechanical System in all other use groups, buildings new and remodeled is as follows: ~~1%~~ **1.2%** up to \$30,000.00 cost of work plus ~~.5%~~ **.6%** of cost of work over \$30,000.00 with a minimum fee of ~~\$75.00~~ **\$90.00.**

See section (h) regarding State fee added to all permits.

See section (i) regarding additional reinspection fees.

**(e) Plumbing Fees**

Minimum permit fee for any construction is ~~forty dollars (\$40.00)~~ **fifty dollars (\$50.00)**

which includes three (3) fixtures or waste discharge ~~devices~~ devices plus ~~ten-dollars (\$10.00)~~ fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each additional fixture or waste discharge device.

For the purpose of this Section, plumbing appliances and plumbing appurtenance shall also be construed to be a fixture.

1 to 3 fixtures or devices	<del>\$40.00</del> <u>\$50.00</u>
each additional	<del>\$10.00</del> <u>\$15.00</u>
sanitary sewer - new, replacement, repair	<del>\$40.00</del> <u>\$50.00</u>
water service – new, replacement	<del>\$30.00</del> <u>\$45.00</u>
storm sewer connection	<del>\$30.00</del> <u>\$45.00</u>
replace or alteration of drainage or vent piping -	<del>\$10.00</del> <u>\$15.00</u> each fixture
water heaters	<del>\$20.00</del> <u>\$50.00</u>

#### Non-Residential Work

Fee for installation of Plumbing Systems in all other use groups, buildings new and remodeled, is as follows: ~~1%~~ 1.2% up to \$30,000.00 cost of work plus ~~.5%~~ .6% of cost of work over \$30,000.00 with the minimum fee of ~~\$75.00~~ \$90.00.

See section (h) regarding State fee added to all permits.

See section (i) regarding additional reinspection fees.

#### (f) Zoning Permit Fees

Change of Use	<del>\$60.00</del> <u>\$72.00</u>
Fences	<del>\$30.00</del> <u>\$36.00</u>
Home office use	<del>\$30.00</del> <u>\$36.00</u>
New Use	<del>\$60.00</del> <u>\$72.00</u>
Parking Lots	
0-\$5,000.00	<del>\$50.00</del> <u>\$60.00</u>
Over \$5,000	<del>\$50.00</del> <u>\$60.00</u> + <del>.1%</del> <u>.12%</u> of
cost thereafter	
Sheds and Accessory Buildings for Residential	
Up to 100 square feet	<del>\$15.00</del> <u>\$18.00</u>
101 to 200 square feet	<del>\$30.00</del> <u>\$36.00</u>
201 to 300 square feet	<del>\$50.00</del> <u>\$60.00</u>
301 to 600 square feet	<del>\$150.00</del> <u>\$180.00</u>
601 feet and over	<del>\$200.00</del> <u>\$240.00</u>
Signs	
0-100 square feet	<del>\$50.00</del> <u>\$60.00</u>
101-200 square feet	<del>\$75.00</del> <u>\$90.00</u>

Over 201 square feet  
Portable curb sign

~~\$150.00~~ \$180.00  
~~\$50.00~~ \$60.00

**(g) Refunds**

Twenty percent (20%) of the total permit fee will be retained by the City of Bethlehem if the permit is revoked or withdrawn or expires.

**(h) Training Fee**

Add ~~Four Dollars (\$4.00)~~ four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) to every permit issued to cover state-imposed training fee.

**(i) Reinspection Fees (other than fire code fees)**

After the first re-inspection a fee of ~~\$50.00~~ \$75.00 per additional inspection visit will be required prior to additional inspections.

(Ord. 3038. Passed 10/22/1985; Ord. 3242. Passed 2/7/1989; Ord. 4255. Passed 6/15/2004; Ord. 4421. Passed 3/6/2007; Ord. 2010-4. Passed 3/16/2010; Ord. 2017-51. Passed 12/19/2017.)

**SECTION 2.** All ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Sponsored by: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED finally in Council on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

This Ordinance approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor