



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting 09/03/2024
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting 09/10/2024

DATE: September 3, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Fauzia Khan, Director of Public Health
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Environmental Health and Consumer Health Services Fee Schedule Adjustments

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Sections 19-33, 19-44, 23-20, 23-22, 23-57, and 38-9 of the Corpus Christi Code to increase fees for food health permits, vendor permits, food handler certificates, on-site sewage facilities inspections, daycare and foster home inspections, and commercial swimming pool inspections; and providing for penalty, publication, and effective date of October 1, 2024.

SUMMARY:

The Environmental and Consumer Health Services proposes adjusting current fees based on the plan outlined in Ordinance 24-1449. The plan involves increasing eight existing fees for FY 25 and standardizing all fees to be one fee schedule instead of having separate City and County fees. These changes are projected to result in a total increase in revenue of \$167,343.00 per year.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Environmental and Consumer Health Services (ECHS) is a Public Health District division focusing on food-borne and environmental-borne illnesses. A primary focus is to educate the regulated industry regarding food safety. To ensure the safety of food preparation and sales, ECHS provides inspections and permits for restaurants, convenience stores, mobile food operations, temporary events, and catering operations. To ensure the safety of food preparation and sales, ECHS provides food health permits, retail health permits, mobile health permits, and food handler certificates. To ensure environmental health, ECHS provides OSSF (Septic System) permits and inspections, foster home inspections, and commercial swimming pool inspections.

Environmental and Consumer Health Services (ECHS) has not increased environmental and consumer health permit fees since 2006, except for a fee adjustment in 2021 for On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) permits in FY 21. An increase in environmental and consumer health permit fees is proposed after conducting a fee study in June 2024. The study shows that ECHS fees are lower than environmental fees in other major cities in Texas. The fee increases are based on the current cost of providing the service, accounting for inflation and increasing the cost of supplies and materials.

In March 2022, Corpus Christi became the sole operator of the Corpus Christi Nueces County

Public Health District, which oversees ECHS. As the City is the sole operator, the fee schedule for services provided under the ECHS will be adopted to standardize all fees and include services provided outside of the City of Corpus Christi.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total revenue using the current fees for FY 24 is anticipated to be \$685,625.00.

If applied, the proposed Environmental Health and Consumer Health Services fees for FY 25 are projected to increase total revenue by approximately \$167,343.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Environmental Health and Consumer Health Services fee schedule adjustments.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
New Fees Sheet