

ORDINANCE NO. 818

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES AND THE COLLECTION THEREOF FOR FIRE AND MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED WITHIN THE PRINCETON FIRE DISTRICT

The City Council of Princeton, Minnesota ordains:

SECTION ONE: PURPOSES AND INTENT

This ordinance is adopted for the purpose of authorizing the City of Princeton to charge for fire and medical services as authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 366.011, 366.012, and 415.01.

SECTION TWO: DEFINITIONS

- (A) “Fire service” means any deployment of firefighting personnel and/or equipment to extinguish a fire or perform any preventative measure in an effort to protect equipment, life, or property in an area threatened by fire. It also includes the deployment of firefighting personnel and/or equipment to provide fire suppression, rescue, extrication, and any other services related to fire and rescue as may occasionally occur, including medical assistance requests.
- (B) “Fire service charge” means the charge imposed by the City for receiving fire service.
- (C) “Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle designed and originally manufactured to operate primarily upon public roads and highways, and not operated exclusively upon railroad tracks. It includes semi-trailers. It does not include snowmobiles, manufactured homes, all-terrain vehicles, or park trailers.
- (D) “Fire protection contract” means a contract between the City and a town or other city for the City to provide fire service.
- (E) “Mutual aid agreement” means an agreement between the City and a town or other city for the City’s fire department to provide assistance to the fire department of a town or other city.

SECTION THREE: PARTIES AFFECTED

- (A) Owners of property within the City who receive fire service.
- (B) Anyone who receives fire service as a result of a motor vehicle accident or fire within the City.
- (C) Owners of property in towns or cities to which the City provides fire service pursuant to a fire protection contract.

SECTION FOUR: RATES

Rates for providing fire and medical services within the Princeton Fire District are reviewed and established annually by the Princeton City Council under separate ordinance. Established fees are posted on the City’s website once adopted.

SECTION FIVE: BILLING AND COLLECTION

- (A) Parties requesting and receiving fire services will be billed directly by the City. Additionally, if the party receiving fire services did not request services but a fire or other situation exists which, at the discretion of the fire department personnel in charge requires fire service, the party will be charged and billed. All parties will be billed whether or not the fire service is covered by insurance. Any billable amount of the fire charge not covered by a party's insurance remains a debt of the party receiving the fire service.
- (B) Parties billed for fire service will have thirty (30) days to pay. If the fire service charge is not paid by that time, it will be considered delinquent and the City will send a notice of delinquency.
- (C) If the fire service charge remains unpaid for 30 days after this notice of delinquency is sent, the City will use all practical and reasonable legal means to collect the fire service charge. The party receiving fire service shall be liable for all collection costs incurred by the City including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney fees and court costs.
- (D) If the fire service charge remains unpaid for 30 days after the notice of delinquency is sent, the City Council may also, on or before October 15 of each year, certify the unpaid fire service charge to the county auditor in which the recipient of the services owns real property for collection with property taxes. The county auditor is responsible for remitting to the city all charges collected on behalf of the city. The City must give the property owner notice of its intent to certify the unpaid fire service charge by September 15.
- (E) False alarms will be billed as established on the fee schedule.

SECTION SIX: MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

When the City fire department provides fire service to another fire department pursuant to a Mutual Aid Agreement, the billing will be determined by the Mutual Aid Agreement.

SECTION SEVEN: APPLICATION OF COLLECTIONS TO BUDGET

All collected fire charges will be city funds and used to offset the expenses of the City fire department in providing fire services.

SECTION EIGHT: EFFECTIVE DATE

The ordinance shall become effective the 1st day of March, 2022, however the provision regarding collection shall be retroactive to January 1, 2008.

Passed by the City Council of Princeton, Minnesota this 10th day of February, 2022.

Mayor

Attested:

City Clerk