
Proposed Fee Schedule Changes on City Council Agenda 7/11/23

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On behalf of the Carmel Residents Association (CRA) Board we've identified 4 recommended cost-recovery fee increases that need further scrutiny prior to your decision.

These specific 4 proposed fee increases include:

- 1) \$0 to \$390 for Tree evaluation
- 2) 212% for Tree pruning permit
- 3) 422% for Tree removal permit
- 4) 146% Landscape plan/check inspection

These exorbitant increases will discourage proactive maintenance and necessary tree removal (due to safety, disease, or dead trees) by property owners. In many cases the city fees will exceed the separate cost of the service. And just like maintaining the trees, quality landscape projects should be encouraged and these new proposed fees don't. Landscape in our Village is a fundamental contributor to our charm and character.

What justifies these dramatic increases in fees, given that:

- 1) Carmel's proposed increases are many times the cost compared to other local cities. For example, Carmel's proposed tree pruning permit fee is \$795 compared to \$117.50 in the City of Monterey.
- 2) Why are other neighboring jurisdiction's costs so much lower? Do they subsidize these fees? If not, why are our internal costs so much more?

As stated in the staff report, City Council may determine that certain services have a community wide benefit, and choose to reduce fees associated with certain services. This has been the decision of City Council in the past, and they have historically subsidized selected fees, specifically tree permitting.

We recommend this practice continues now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Twomey
On behalf of CRA Board of Directors
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