

ORDINANCE NO. NS-2149

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BEND CODE BY ADDING A NEW SECTION TO 1.807 RELATING TO FEE REDUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES

Findings:

- A. The City has received input from the business community that small businesses have suffered from the recent economic downturn.
- B. Small businesses are particularly important to the Bend economy as they provide living wage jobs and provide innovative, diverse and needed economic development to the benefit of the entire community.
- C. It is sometimes advantageous for small businesses to relocate within the City, but the cost of relocation can be a barrier to moving to a better location. City planning and building fees may be a part of the cost of relocation.
- D. The City necessarily incurs costs for planning, building and engineering review associated with business relocation.
- E. The City Council believes that it is in the public interest to lessen the burden on relocation of small businesses within the City in order to encourage the retention and/or expansion of existing small businesses, but without adversely affecting the budget for planning, building and engineering services.
- F. The City Council therefore wishes to adopt a fee reduction for certain businesses and to reimburse budget funds that are affected by the discount by transfers from the general fund. This will be a pilot program, to be reassessed as to its use and effectiveness after one year.

Based on these findings, the City of Bend ordains as follows:

Section 1. The Bend Code is amended by adding a new Section 1.807 to read as follows:

1.807 Fee Reduction for Business Relocations Within City.

- (1) The following definitions apply in this Section:
- (a) **Eligible business:** An existing business (meaning a business in operation as of November 1, 2010) with fewer than 20 total full time equivalent employees.
 - (b) **Relocate:** To move from one business location in the City to another in the City.
 - (c) **Relevant time period:** November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011.
 - (d) **Specified fees:** Building fees, planning fees and engineering fees. Specified fees do not include sign permit fees, system development charges, in-lieu of fees, fire prevention plan review fees, or the affordable housing surcharge.
- (2) An eligible business that applies for planning approval or building permits within the relevant time period shall be provided a 50% discount on specified fees associated with the application, provided that the cap on total discounts under Subsection (3) has not been exhausted.

- (3) The total discount to all businesses authorized by this section shall not exceed \$50,000. If and when the total amount of discounts provided under this section reaches \$50,000, no further discounts will be available. The discount shall be available on a first come, first served basis.
- (4) Funds shall be transferred from the General Fund to fully compensate any fund affected by the discount authorized by this section.

Read for the first time the 1st day of September, 2010.

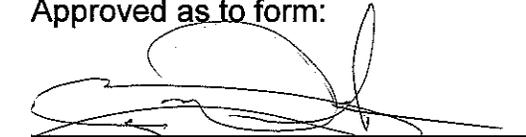
Read for the second time the 15th day of September, 2010.

Approved by roll call vote the 15th day of September, 2010.

YES: 6 NO: 2

Authenticated by the Mayor the 15th day of September, 2010.

Approved as to form:



Mary Winters, Legal Counsel



Kathie Eckman, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia Stell, City of Bend Recorder