

ORDINANCE NO. 2060

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-42 OF THE NORTHPORT MUNICIPAL CODE
PERTAINING TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY**

WHEREAS, the City of Northport adopted a Public Records Policy in April 2016 by Ordinance 1897; and

WHEREAS, since 2016 the City continues to receive more and more requests from out of state “for profit” companies which is very time consuming for our staff; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northport recognizes and supports the public’s right to inspect and make copies of public records in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northport must also recognize the interests of the general public in having the business of government carried on efficiently and without undue interference; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northport must balance the interests of the citizens requesting the inspection of and/or copies of these requests to the cost to taxpayers of the City and the other needs of the City residents in the efficient providing of City services; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend Section 2-42 (d), pertaining to the fees charged for these requests so that the actual cost in providing this information is paid for by the persons or entities making these requests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHPORT, ALABAMA AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Section 2-42(d) of the Northport Municipal Code is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit “A” which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set out verbatim.
2. That this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and publication.

ORDAINED this the 14th day of December, 2020.

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NORTHPORT**


BY: _____

Jeff Hogg, Its President


ATTEST:


Warren H. McCollum, Interim City Administrator

APPROVED this the 14th day of December, 2020.


Bobby Herndon, Mayor

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing Ordinance was published on December 23, 2020 in the Northport Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Northport.


Warren H. McCollum, Interim City Administrator

1st Reading: November 16, 2020
By: Hinton
2nd Reading: December 14, 2020
Motion By: Hinton
Second By: Washington
Publication: December 23, 2020

EXHIBIT "A"

Sec. 2-42. - Policy regarding availability of public records.

(d) *Costs.* The first hour of city staff time responding to a request is free for any individual resident of Tuscaloosa County; ~~there shall be a ten dollar (\$10.00) per hour or portion thereof charge, per employee, thereafter~~ there shall be a charge for any employee time after the first free hour, if applicable, at the employee's hourly cost to the City. Request cannot be split to avoid charges. Time will be charged for researching and locating the requested documents. This charge shall also include the time of an employee being present while the document or documents are being inspected by the requesting party to ensure that all documents and records are properly preserved.

In the event the person requests copies of public documents, there will be no copying charge for the first ten (10) pages for any Tuscaloosa County resident and a twenty-five cents (\$.25) charge for each page thereafter for eight and one-half (8 1/2) x fourteen (14) inches. Actual cost will be charged for other sized documents.

The one hour of free staff time and 10 free copies shall be available to the same individual making multiple requests one time each calendar year.

The City may waive these costs if the request is not voluminous or time consuming and is made by a bonafide member of the press or media.

The City shall provide all elected officials and all announced candidates for an elected position on the City Council or Mayor up to ten (10) copies of district and or City maps at no cost.