



Myersville Town Hall
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TOWN OF MYERSVILLE
PLANNING OFFICE

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To: Myersville Mayor & Council
CC: Kathy Gaver, Town Clerk; File
From: Brandon Boldyga, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Date: July 31, 2024
Re: Schedule of Fines

Mayor & Council of the Town of Myersville,

In July, the Mayor and Council adopted three (3) ordinances related to vacant structure regulations, for both residential structures and non-residential structures. While drafting those regulations, the Planning Commission recognized that the municipal fine structure for the Town appears to be outdated. Staff research would indicate that the schedule of fines was last updated in 1976. Given the rate of inflation since 2020, and the depreciation of the US dollar since 1976 overall, staff would recommend that the Mayor and Council adjust the schedule of fines for municipal infractions.

Below is a current schedule of municipal fines for the Town of Myersville:

Class of Infraction	Initial Offense	Repeat Offense
Class A	\$400	\$400
Class B	\$250	\$400
Class C	\$250	\$400
Class D	\$150	\$300
Class E	\$100	\$200
Class F	\$50	\$100
Class G	\$25	\$70
Class H	\$10	\$20

Staff would recommend adjusting the schedule of fines proportionately to each class in respect to one another. The level of overall inflation of the US dollar since 1976 is approximately 553% or \$5.53 for each dollar in 1976; however, Maryland State Law restricts municipal civil infractions, in most cases, from exceeding \$1,000. Staff has proposed changes to the schedule of fines based upon that general methodology then rounding to the nearest \$500, \$100, \$50 or \$5 value as appropriate for each class in a as follows:

Class of Infraction Initial Offense Repeat Offense

Class A	\$1,000	\$1,000
Class B	\$500	\$1,000
Class C	\$500	\$1,000
Class D	\$250	\$500
Class E	\$150	\$250
Class F	\$100	\$150
Class G	\$50	\$100
Class H	\$25	\$50

The changes outlined above would increase fines to values higher than the original 1976 values, while maintaining the approximate proportions and ratios to one another. (i.e. double the lower class fine or double the total fine for a repeat offense, etc.) Staff believes that the proposed fine schedule will recapture the original initiative of the fine schedule to serve as a deterrent for violating the Town Code of Ordinances, while providing justification for such increases based upon economic factors without being arbitrary and/or capricious.

The fine schedule and maximum fine allowed may be changed by Resolution; however, other portions of Chapter 20, Penalties For Infractions, will need to be updated to reflect current State Laws by ordinance. Staff requests direction on the proposed changes to the fine schedule and whether to engage in amending Town Code to update Chapter 20 to meet current State Laws and common practices. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.