

The Morning News

Local News for Northwest Arkansas

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Councilman Pledges To Revive Road Impact Fee Issue

By [Dug Begley](#)

THE MORNING NEWS

FAYETTEVILLE -- Lioneld Jordan has been down this road before, but this time the Fayetteville City Council member hopes for new allies.

"I'll be bringing the road impact fees back," Jordan said Thursday during a half-day planning session for the City Council.

Proposed impact fees were defeated in April by a tie vote of 2,015 for and against. The fees would have assessed a charge on new construction based on the type of building.

Many in the business community opposed the fees, calling them double taxation for development.

In the future, Jordan said he is going to work with Mayor Dan Coody and business officials to configure an equitable fee they can support. Coody said the impact fees might be inevitable.

"I think the street impact fee is in our future; the question is going to be when," the mayor said.

The city already assesses impact fees for some city services, such as water, sewer, police and fire. Adding street impact fees in a way the community can support is beneficial, Jordan said.

"I think it is an alternative revenue stream we should use," he said.

Specifics of the proposal are being worked out, Jordan said. One would be a sliding rate based on the size of a new home that could make the fees fairer and encourage lower-priced housing, something the council has said it wants to make a priority.

Jordan said he remains optimistic that road impact fees will become a reality.

"If that doesn't work," he said of the new push, "I'll bring something else forward."