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## City updates water, sewer impact fees

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RINCON - City Council on Monday approved an updated water and sewer facilities impact fee ordinance.

The ordinance imposes fees on land development in the city for providing water and sewer infrastructure needed by such developments.

Fees range from \$1,182 per unit for groundwater for a single family home to \$1.18 per square foot for office space, and 79 cents per square foot for commercial retail.

The council voted for the new impact fees to become effective the next day.

The funds collected from the water and sewer impact fees can only be used for acquiring, equipping and/or making capital improvements to facilities and cannot be used for maintenance operations, according to the ordinance.

To come up with the new fees, officials took into account several factors, including the \$2.17 million projected cost of expanding the city's water and sewer facility as well as established consumption standards by land use.

In other actions:

Council approved an ordinance allowing the city manager to adjust disputed water and sewer bills when the bill is caused from a water leak. The consumer will be required to prove the usage was caused by a leak.

Council approved an ordinance that imposes a \$500 fine for the unauthorized use of city water and sewer services. If the violator is a customer of the city of Rincon utility services, then the costs and penalty shall be tacked on to the customer's utility bill. If the violator is connected to a development project, then the city manager will have the authority to issue a stop work order until the costs and penalty are paid.

Council approved a resolution to transmit an updated joint solid waste management plan for Effingham County and the cities of Guyton, Rincon and Springfield and to submit the plan to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to begin the review process. The plan is required by the state and must be updated every 10 years. The purpose of the plan is to assure adequate solid waste collection, implement measures that can reduce waste, identify solid waste facilities and identify land areas unsuitable for solid waste handling.

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