

DAILY MINER

Monday, March 15, 2010

City impact fee update slated

Decision on how room tax is allocated also expected

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KINGMAN - Fees, taxes and grants will dominate the agenda at Monday's meeting of the Kingman City Council.

Council members will first revisit the issue of impact fees, with Finance Director Coral Loyd set to give a report updating them on how much has been collected and spent through the city's four-year-old policy. The policy, which requires builders to pay for the perceived impact their new construction will have on the city's infrastructure, has long been criticized as a deterrent to new businesses relocating to the city, particularly during the current economy.



Courtesy

Several sitting Council members, as well as all three newcomer Council candidates, have expressed an interest in either reducing or abolishing the fees, though that may be easier said than done, as some of the fees are already tied up or intended for future capital improvement projects, which Loyd is expected to address.

Council will also revisit where it allocates the city's recently-raised 4 percent hotel bed tax. Currently, half the tax goes to pay for the Economic Tourism and Development Commission's operations, with the other half designated for future capital projects. At the March 1 Council meeting, Councilwoman Carole Young expressed a desire to reallocate part of the tax for the recently-formed Economic Development and Marketing Commission, which was designed in part to take over economic duties from the ETDC. The EDMC is currently unfunded, and must approach Council to request contingency funds for any endeavors it wishes to pursue.

A separate item on the agenda will also address the redundancy between the names of the ETDC and the EDMC. The item proposes changing the ETDC to simply the Tourism Development Commission, or TDC, removing the overlapping reference to economic development

responsibilities now assumed by the EDMC.

Finally, Council will select which projects it wants to submit for the city's 2010 Community Development Block Grant regional account application. The city is eligible to receive \$597,340 in CDBG funds, and has a list of ten eligible projects it can submit.

A government program dating back to 1974, CDBG is a way of providing federal and state funding for community development projects in large and small cities alike. Of the eligible projects listed, city staff is recommending Council choose four water and sewer line improvement projects at Park Avenue and Commercial, the Richard/Smith Addition, First Street and Spruce and Goldroad Alley. Staff's recommendation would also call for \$30,818 in housing rehabilitation funds.

Monday's meeting begins at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at 310 N. Fourth St. For full agenda details visit

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