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## City looks at impact fee deferment

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WASHINGTON CITY - A member of the Hurricane City Impact Fees Task Force approached the Washington City Council Tuesday to show an initiative Hurricane is working on to help revitalize the construction industry.

Jon Prince, task force member, said Hurricane Mayor Tom Hirschi asked him to look at the impact fees in the city.

After reading about impact fee issues in Washington City, Prince wanted to share what the task force was doing.

"Hurricane is working to strengthen the local economy," he said.

By doing so, the city is looking at putting a time deferment on impact fee collection for builders.

The problem, Prince said, is builders have to pay impact fees up front to the city at \$19,900. Builders borrow the money to pay it.

During the construction period before builders sell their homes, Prince said, they accrue interest with the bank at about \$1,300.

"We're (task force) saying if you didn't have to pay upfront, builders wouldn't have those extra costs," he said.

Prince said the objectives to the revised payment policy are to protect the municipality and assure collection, achieve the desired economic gains and keep the process simple.

"I thought it might be beneficial that you might be brought up to speed on what we're doing," he said. "We hope it enriches the builders to keep them going."

Prince said no matter how hard anyone tries to tighten this situation, it's better to have cash up front but he thinks this plan will work.

"This is a proactive plan that I would like to see catch fire in all municipalities," he said. "This initiative represents a break from traditional practice and it will be more readily accepted if municipalities get on board together."

There hasn't been a date set in Hurricane for a trial period.

City Manager Roger Carter, said he was impressed with Prince's presentation.

Tonight it is being recommended to the council that it approves the deferment of payments for builders.

"We're (Washington City and Hurricane) both talking about getting to the same end," Carter said. "We've (Washington City) been working on it for a number of weeks."

He said city staff is supportive of the recommendation and Carter thinks the council will be as well.

"(If approved) Our review period is June 30, the end of the fiscal year for the city," Carter said.

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