

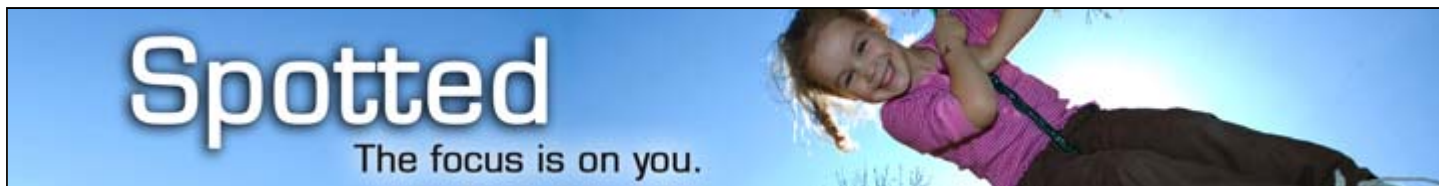


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Council favors lower movie theater impact fees

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By [Joe Lamb](#)

The Conway City Council voted in favor of adjusting the impact fee rate for movie theaters as an incentive for Cinemark's plan to rebuild the existing theater at the Conway Towne Centre.

As explained to the council, the current impact fee rate for movie theaters is based on what the council considered an outdated, inaccurate study of vehicular traffic at the

businesses. Based on newer studies, it was proposed, the impact fee rate for these businesses can be reduced roughly by half.

Impact fees are a one-time charge on development used by the city to fund work on roads impacted by traffic the development can be expected to generate and to improve the city's parks system.

An alternative presented but not recommended by the Conway Planning and Development Department was to alter the impact fee rate for the Towne Centre itself. This was not recommended by the department because it could not be demonstrated that the Towne Centre operates under different conditions than the city's other shopping centers.

The council requested that the planning department draft an ordinance altering the impact fee rate for movie theaters to be considered at the next council meeting.

The council also voted to use a \$64,000 fund generated by the impact fees paid by developers in lieu of new sidewalk construction to build sidewalks along College Avenue to service Ruth Doyle Intermediate School and along South Boulevard to service Sallie Cone Elementary School.

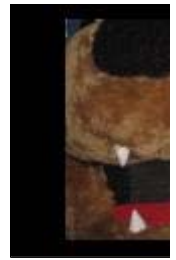
Remaining funds will be used to build a sidewalk along Favre Lane to service Ellen Smith Elementary School, the council decided.

The council also voted to hold on a decision concerning a building at 912 Front St. that city officials have determined to be leaning to the extent that it could pose a safety risk as a final engineering analysis should be submitted today. Mayor Tab Townsell said the building's owner has been addressing the issue to his satisfaction.

In other business, the council voted to approve:

- The nomination of Jeremy Gardner to the Conway Advertising and Promotions Commission;
- Resolutions requesting the Faulkner County Tax Collector to place certified liens on certain properties as a result of incurred expenses by the city;
- And scheduling construction of a widened Dave Ward Drive/Donaghey Avenue intersection to begin work at sections not requiring right-of-way acquisition until such acquisition may be more easily performed.

(Staff writer Joe Lamb can be reached at 505-1238 or by E-mail at joe.lamb@thecabin.net. Send us your news at www.thecabin.net/submit.)



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