

Council permanently tables water ordinance



By Jerry Herrmann, Special to Review

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Wednesday, March 03, 2010

The Chino Valley Town Council Thursday, on a 6-0 vote, permanently tabled the town's controversial proposed Water Sustainability and Conservation concept paper. Councilwoman Gloria Moore was absent.

Mayor Jim Bunker said at the council's Feb. 16 study session the public spoke out loudly about what the council should do with the proposed concept paper. So recommended, it be permanently tabled.

Councilman Joel Baker promptly seconded the motion. The council then voted in favor of the action.

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This Water Sustainability and Conservation concept paper was the result of 1.5 years of meetings of stakeholders - landscape nurseries, landscape architects, Yavapai County Contractors Association, developers, landowners and Chino Valley residents.

After Mark Holmes, the former Water Resources director, and the stakeholders came up with a proposed water conservation ordinance in December as the council requested, several residents spoke out against it.

Some residents asked the council during the Call to the Public part of a January meeting, to form a new committee of experts to bring a new proposed ordinance back to the council.

Many more residents also spoke out against the proposal at the council's Feb. 16 study session on water.

After the council permanently tabled the issue, Bunker said the council decide how to tackle the issue of water conservation at a future council meeting.

In other action, the council:

- Tabled the request to allow a bed and breakfast inn in an existing residence at 693 W. Center St. until the council next meeting.
- Adopted Resolution 10-929, which eliminates development impact fees for commercial and industrial new construction in the police, general government and roads categories.

Pat Clingman, Development Services director, said a survey of towns in the area showed Chino Valley is the only town that charges an impact fee for commercial and industrial construction.

Charlie Arnold, Chino Valley Area Chamber of Commerce president, said this proposal is something they have discussed for some time. "We need to incentivize ways to bring businesses here. This helps," he said.

Ab Jackson, chamber CEO, said he has had enquiries from businesses. "This (impact fees on commercial and industrial construction) was a deal killer in at least one case," he said.

Paul Aslanian of Arizona Development Co., said, "I think this is a great idea. Anything to spur economic development is needed."

He urged the council to take it one step further and remove the impact fees on residential construction.

Last week, Aslanian said he was working with a builder from the quad-communities who said he'd be willing to build a couple of spec homes if the council was willing to remove impact fees from residential construction.

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Aslanian said the council might want to consider it for the town's existing developments.

The council then unanimously approved Resolution 10-929. Council members made no comment to Aslanian's suggestion to carry its action one step further.

- Authorized the Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Department to submit a grant application to Yavapai County Emergency Food and Shelter Program for \$8,000 to subsidize congregate and homebound meals administered by the Chino Valley Senior Center for July 1-Dec. 31.
- Accepted the resignation of Jan Marr from the Senior Center Advisory Board.
- Accepted dedication of public roadway from Brian Webster to the town for the purposes of public roadway and utilities, the property that lies adjacent to the center line of Road 1 East just north of Red Cinder Road.
- Approved the letter of agreement between the law offices of Snell & Wilmer and the town for legal representation on water resources matters at a rate of \$275 an hour.

Town Manager Jerry Stricklin said this is necessary because Attorney Bill Staudenmaier, who has represented the town for 10 years in water-related issues, has joined Snell & Wilmer.

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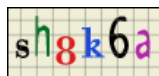
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