

Council to Consider Extending Polk City's Impact Fee Moratorium

By [Miles Parks](#)

LEDGER MEDIA GROUP

Published: Monday, July 15, 2013 at 12:00 a.m.

POLK CITY | The City Council will be saving some of its heavy discussions for a weekend workshop but will still address a variety of issues in its regular meeting today.

The council is expected to vote today on whether to put off collecting impact fees for another 12 months, except for water and sewage.

The city is following Polk County's lead, but this time the council members are beating the county to the punch. The County Commission has not yet voted to extend its moratorium on impact fees, which expires later this year.

But City Attorney Tom Cloud said that is expected to happen.

Impact fees are charged on new development to pay for the costs of providing facilities and services to handle the impacts of that growth.

The moratorium is used to lure business and development to the area.

"This would not be in our competitive interest to not do this," said Councilwoman Trudy Block at the last meeting.

The council also will discuss quotes for moving two fire hydrants on State Road 33 and making improvements on five others.

It also will discuss changing the future land use designation on two properties. One, 2.21 acres at State Road 33 and Citrus Grove Boulevard, could change to commercial property.

The second, a property at 649 Citrus Grove Blvd., could go from low-density residential to medium-density residential.

The City Council will be saving issues that might require longer discussions for an 8 a.m. workshop on Saturday. The workshop agenda is expected to include a proposed budget for the next fiscal year, city manager evaluation details and discussion on public comments at public meetings.

The meeting will be the first full meeting for newly appointed Councilman Keith Prestage.

Prestage was appointed by the council on June 17 by a 4-0 vote.

He fills the seat of former Councilwoman Kelly Downing, who resigned April 24 for health reasons.

"Members of City Council, they represent every student, every child, every single resident of this city," Prestage said during his interview. "This is a very demanding position."

A new city staff member also will be at the meeting. Sheandolen Dunn, assistant to the city manager and deputy clerk, was hired July 8.

[Miles Parks can be reached at 863-401-6971.]

Copyright © 2013 TheLedger.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.