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Ketchum faced with impact-fee dilemma

Decrease fees 4 percent or increase 26 percent?

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Ketchum consultant Randy Young gave city leaders two options for updating impact fees to pay for capital projects planned over the next five years: either decrease the fees by 4 percent for residences and 8 percent for the average commercial building or increase them by 26 and 12 percent, respectively.

How can the two options be such polar opposites?

Young said at Tuesday's city council meeting that the option to lower impact fees is calculated assuming that certain "potential funding" sources, such as federal grants, are received. The alternative to increase the fees by one-fourth assumes that none of these potential funding sources are awarded, forcing the city to pay for all of it out of their own pocket.

Impact fees are one-time charges that new development pays for its additional burden on city services, such as increased wear to streets or more demand on the water and sewer systems.

See the Friday print edition of the Mountain Express to learn more about the direction that the city council is leaning, and the projects that the city has planned.


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