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Impact fee passes second reading in Dorchester County


Posted: Sep 20, 2010 10:46 PM CDT

Updated: Sep 21, 2010 5:52 AM CDT

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SUMMERVILLE, SC (WCSC) - "I feel like a quarterback in the NFL, I've already been sacked, now this is piling on," Steve Vaughn said Monday night in front of the Dorchester County Council.



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That was the prevailing opinion by many of the people who spoke about a proposal in front of the council.

A potential impact fee passed its second reading by the council.

If a third reading is approved a fee would be charged for the new construction of buildings in the county.

Fees can range from \$1,300 for a new single family home up to \$34,000 per 1,000 square foot for the construction of a new fast food restaurant with a drive thru window.

Fees like that had opponents out in force.

"If your aim is to stop growth and development in Dorchester County this fee will accomplish your goal," said Robert Long.

They weren't the only ones speaking their mind.

A few people represented the minority opinion in the room saying yes to the fees.

"For them (developers) not to pay for these roads that they're getting the benefits from, they're actually getting a government handout," said Katherine Eastvold.

The second reading passed five to two in face of strong opposition in the crowd.

Some on the council say they're open to discussing alternatives the next time around.

Monday there were many people in the construction business who hope another alternative becomes the solution.

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