

## Twin Falls council rejects impact fee hike

Times-News | Posted: Thursday, February 10, 2011 1:00 am

The Twin Falls City Council declined to raise impact fees on parts of Falls Avenue East and Eastland Drive, opting not to add hundreds of dollars to the cost of building a nearby single-family home.

The decision came during a late-running Monday meeting that didn't adjourn until nearly 10:40 p.m., according to council decisions released Wednesday.

The body also voted 7-0 to forward a question about signs in state-owned liquor stores to the state attorney general at the request of Twin Falls resident Scott Andrus. Andrus believes the street-facing signs violate an Idaho law that says the state liquor division "shall not attempt to stimulate" consumption of alcohol. He said his fight is against hypocrisy, not alcohol consumption.

The impact fees would have been used to help pay for a \$400,000 project on Falls between Blue Lakes Boulevard and Locust Street North and a \$17 million project on Eastland, though a city committee suggested only funding 50 percent of two lane-miles on Eastland.

Impact fees are charged on new residential and commercial construction to fund city infrastructure improvements related to growth.

The proposal would have increased the fees for a single-family home by \$230, or 14.2 percent, and by 64.7 percent for retail operations, or \$1.10 per square foot of retail space. Retail operations draw more traffic than single-family homes, thus the greater percent increase, according to a city staff report.

The retail impact fee increase would have increased fees for a 75,000-square-foot grocery from \$127,500 to \$210,000.