

[Click to Print](#)

Mar, 10, 2011

Fee deferral an option for Ferndale home builders

ZOE FRALEY / THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

FERNDALE - Developers in Ferndale will have the chance to defer paying some fees to the city starting April 1.

During its meeting Monday, March 7, Ferndale City Council unanimously approved a proposal that would allow developers the option to defer some impact and connection fees for residential projects.

The deferral ordinance allows developers to pay 50 percent of impact fees when the lot is created and 50 percent at final inspection. Connection fees also could be paid at 50 percent when the building permit is issued and the final inspection.

The other option is paying all impact fees at lot creation and all connection fees at building permit issuance.

Impact fees help pay for new construction's impact on streets, parks and transportation. Connection fees cover new buildings to water, sewer and stormwater systems.

The deferral option will be effective April 1 and is only available for residential projects, not commercial development.

City staff will monitor how the deferrals are used and if they add any new construction. Staff will report back to council in 2012, and council will then vote on making the deferral option permanent.

Developers had requested that the city consider impact fee rebates to spur development. The deferral is not a way to reduce upfront development costs by spreading out when fees are due during the building process.

Reach ZOE FRALEY at zoe.fraley@bellinghamherald.com or call 756-2803.