

Brunswick studies impact fees

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BRUNSWICK -- Impact fees would bring in anywhere from \$157,500 to \$288,750 a year to help defray the costs of residential development in Brunswick, according to a study by the city commissioned.

TischlerBise, a Rockville firm that studies the cost of growth for local governments, prepared the report presented at a public hearing on impact fees before Tuesday's regular council meeting.

Brunswick Crossing, a housing development in the first stages of construction, would add about 58 percent to Brunswick's population of 6,000, the report said.

The firm recommends the city collect impact fees for police protection, parks and recreation and municipal structures and equipment.

Fees for each new house built in Brunswick could be \$100 to \$150 for police services, \$500 to \$1,000 for parks and recreation services and \$300 to \$500 for use of municipal structures and equipment.

An average of 175 new units are expected each year.

"Impact fees are for new services and infrastructure, not existing services and infrastructure," City Manager David Dunn told the council Tuesday night.

The council will likely discuss the issue, and possibly vote on it, at its next regular meeting March 25, Dunn said.

Some residents voiced their supported for impact fees.

"There's not enough money to cover increased growth," Karin Tome said.

She estimated that if Brunswick adopted the medium impact fee recommended on each new housing unit, the town would bring in \$1.9 million to help cover the costs generated by Brunswick Crossing's planned 1,200 homes.

Dan Snyder, senior project manager for Brunswick Crossing, was less enthusiastic.

"We are all for paying our fair share," he said at the hearing. "Brunswick Crossing residents will pay more than their fair share of impact fees. We will present more detail at the next meeting."

The next meeting is at 7 p.m. March 25 at City Hall.



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