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## Council considers mayor's direction on impact fees

By MARY WESTON - Staff Writer  
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the final story in a three-part series that started Sunday.

OROVILLE — The City Council will mull over the mayor's direction to settle the impact fee dispute between the city and the Feather River Recreation and Park District in closed session tonight. Later, councilors will decide where they will go with that in open session, according to the agenda.

The closed session will start at 5:30 p.m. The regular meeting begins at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 1735 Montgomery St.

**Updated: October 15, 2008 10:12:20 PM PDT**

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The park district asked the city to help it collect its impact fee early this year.

Development impact fees are paid by applicants for new housing to offset the impact of new residents on infrastructure and facilities.

Park impact fees can be used for improvements in parks and new facilities to serve a increased population. The City Council declined implementing a mechanism to help the district collect a fee.

Some councilors said there could be some duplication of fees with two districts in the park business.

The issue continued between the two agencies without resolution, until the district filed lawsuits against the city and five developers.

Since the lawsuits, some developers have agreed to pay a fee directly to the park district.

About a month ago, Mayor Steve Jernigan and Monique Gurr, chairwoman of the park district board of directors, began meeting to discuss a solution.

Now Jernigan has sent a letter asking the council to end the dispute

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"that has gone on too long" and pass a resolution to help the district collect its impact fee.

The city has more than 20 acres of park facilities, including the Lott Home, Centennial Park, Hewitt Park and the historical museums such as the Chinese Temple. The park district has more than 200 acres of park lands and facilities, including Riverbend Park, Bedrock Park, Play Town USA, Palermo Park and the Nelson Sports Complex.

The district collects fees in the Butte County areas of the district.

The areas of dispute are inside the city limits and new areas the city proposes to annex. If the city annexes areas now in the county's jurisdiction, the park district would no longer have a mechanism to collect impact fees in those areas.

The impact fee issue comes at the end of what will probably be a long meeting. Other items include forming a city parks commission.

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