

- Replica Edition
- SECTIONS**
- Homepage
- Rogers Edition
- News
- Sports
- Opinion
- Business
- Accents
- Agriculture
- Education
- Gardening
- Religion
- On File
- Web Extras
- MORE**
- What's Up!
- MovieStyle
- Business Matters
- Northwest Outdoors
- Wal-Mart Coverage
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- Weddings, Engagements, Anniversaries
- Births
- Obituaries
- Tools & Information**
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THE BENTON COUNTY
DAILY RECORD

Council wants study completed soon

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BENTONVILLE -

Aldermen who approved an updated study on all city impact fees this year want to see the results of that study before the close of the year.

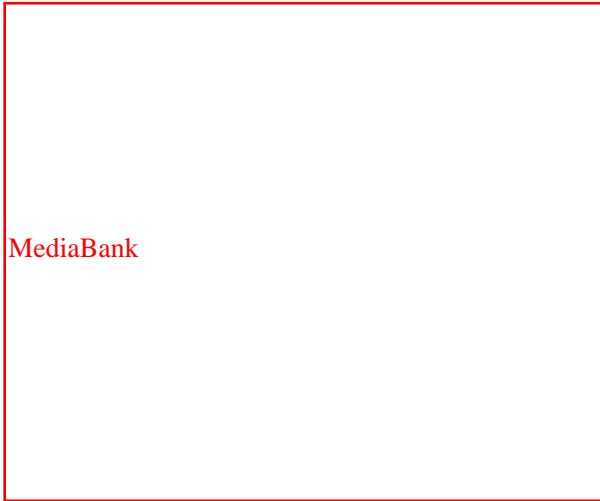
On Tuesday night, City Finance Director Denise Land told the council that there were some delays in completing the study. In September, the council approved the hire of Tischlerbise Inc. to conduct an update of the city's impact and capacity fees.

City Staff Attorney Camille Thompson said the study had been delayed because of scheduling conflicts among Tischlerbise and department heads that would be affected by impact fees.

Aldermen Jim Grider, Scott Comiskey and Ed Austin said they would like to see the study completed prior to the end of the year.

After the council meeting Tuesday, Austin said his concern was that one of the incoming aldermen - W. P. "Bill"Burckart - filed a lawsuit against the city over impact fees.

Representing the Northwest Arkansas Homebuilders Association, Burckart withdrew the impact suit the association lodged against the city over impact



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fees several years ago. On Nov. 4, Burckart won the seat of Ward 3 Position 2 Alderman incumbent Bryan Bennett.

"Mr. Burckart sued the city, and I don't think it's right that he has a vote on it," Austin said.

On Jan. 8, 2002, the Bentonville City Council enacted a city sewer-capacity-fee ordinance, a watercapacity-fee ordinance and a fire-impact-fee ordinance, all of which became effective July 1, 2002. In July 2006, the council approved additional fees for the city's parks, library and police.

The council approved the following items •A lot split for property on Northeast A Street, requested by Cindy Springs LLC •Appointment of Brad Crain to fill the vacant position on the Advertising and Promotion Commission previously held by Rod Sanders •A change order for the Downtown Square Enhancement project •Accept donated radio equipment from Cox Communications for the fire department •Approval of a resolution declaring one concession trailer as surplus to be sold at public auction; and •A waiver of a bid to HD Supply Waterworks LTD for water meters; and •The budget for the 2009 fiscal year.

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