



Higher impact fees will pinch pocketbooks in Naples

By JENNA BUZZACCO

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Want to build a house in Naples, or remodel one of the homes for sale around town? Better start saving your pennies.

Naples City Council on Wednesday voted unanimously to approve changes to the city's impact fee structure.

Impact fees are used to pay for improvements to the city's parks and recreation system, and the police and fire departments. This is the first time in more than a decade the city has raised impact fees, city Finance Director Ann Marie Ricardi said.

In addition to general improvements, council decided earlier this month to allow impact fees to be collected, and used, to make improvements to the Gordon River Greenway, the city's linear parks and Fire Station 3 at Naples Municipal Airport.

But incorporating those projects into the impact fee study means residents will see fees increased by \$457, bringing the grand total for a single-family home to \$1,826, compared to the \$1,369 first projected.

Residents will pay about \$1,166 for parks and recreation, compared to the \$777 per single-family home the city first projected. The additional money generated will be used to improve the Gordon River Greenway and the city's linear parks, or small, narrow open spaces in a city.

The fire station expansion bumps the fire impact fee up to \$337 per single-family home, compared to the \$269 first projected.

Impact fees apply to new construction or when an existing building is remodeled to increase its footprint. The one-time payments are needed to accommodate growth.

According to a December report about impact fees, the city expects to generate more than \$1 million in impact fees over five years, or about \$202,000 a year.

The new fees go into effect May 29, according to the ordinance.

© Naples News