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## Brawley council postpones development impact fee increases

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**BRAWLEY** — Following an intense discussion between the City Council, the city decided to ultimately postpone a development impact-fee hike and move forward with an increase of water and wastewater capacity fees for new development.

The council voted 3-2 on each action at Tuesday's meeting.

Mayor Sam Couchman and council members George Nava and Miguel Miranda voted to delay the scheduled 33 percent fee increase in development impact fees for new development, suggesting it was too great an increase.

"I think certainly we need to raise them periodically every year, but not necessarily to 33 percent," Couchman said during the meeting.

However, moving forward with a 15 percent increase in water and wastewater capacity fees for new development in the city, Couchman and council members Donald Wharton and Don Campbell motioned to approve that scheduled resolution, noting the importance of sticking to approved schedules.

"The more we kick that can down the road ... that decision is still going to be facing us, so I much rather see an incremental increase out of need and I think as a council there are many other methods we can do to assist our developers in accommodating them," Wharton said during the discussion.

Established in 2011, the approved water and wastewater capacity fee is a one-time fee charged to applicants for a new service connection.

Prior to the schedule, an initial study noted that the city had not raised development impact fees or water and wastewater capacity fees for new development in many years and compared to surrounding cities it had the lowest fees, according to the staff report.

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