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Hearing on park fee rise delayed

Matt Batchelder

The Olympia City Council voted 4-3 Tuesday night to delay a hearing on a proposed increase in parks impact fees.

Councilman Joe Hyer said that the public hearing, which had been scheduled for tonight, was premature because the full council had not been briefed on the item.

"It was a bit confusing to me that it got on the agenda this way," he said.

But Councilwoman Karen Messmer said the item ought to be discussed and that this wasn't the last opportunity for the public to comment.

"I don't want to cut people off if they want to ask questions," she said.

Voting to pull the item were Hyer, Jeff Kingsbury, Mark Foutch and Doug Mah.

Voting against were TJ Johnson, Laura Ware and Karen Messmer.

They agreed to still hear comment from the public if they choose to speak, but not to have a formal hearing on the agenda. The item might be addressed in a public hearing on the overall budget in November.

A consultant hired by the city suggested the city more than triple park impact fees to \$6,359 per single-family house.

Money from the fee increase, the first since 1998, would go toward developing new parks to keep up with demand as the city's population increases.

Matt Batchelder covers the city of Olympia for The Olympian. He can be reached at 360-704-6869 or mbatchelder@theolympian.com.