

CEGAR CITY REVIEW



Friday, October 19th, 2007

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Vol. 3 , No. 23 , October 18, 2007

Parowan Council Approves Impact Fee Amounts

By: Ashley Langston After passing impact fee ordinances Sept. 27, the Parowan City Council voted unanimously Oct. 11 to approve the current suggested amounts by resolution, increasing some impact fees and adding new ones.

In one motion, followed by a quick roll call vote on each resolution, the new fees were approved. City manager Joe Melling said the fee amounts were based on a study dated July 2007.

There was discussion as to when it was appropriate to put those impact fees into effect and the council voted on January 1, 2008. Mary Halterman said in a previous meeting someone had suggested waiting until the beginning of the fiscal year, July 2008.

Melling said if they waited that long the study would be a year old. Mayor Jim Robinson said it would also require the city to continue paying for growth for about nine months.

He suggested starting the new fee amounts Jan. 1 would allow enough time for those who were in the process, but would also keep the city from losing too much money.

Melling said they would need to be careful about "speculation" between the meeting and Jan. 1.

Impact fees have been on the agenda for several months, and after public hearings and council discussions, the councilors all agreed that current residents should not have to pay for growth. Passing the resolutions was the final thing to be done.

Previously, impact fee amounts were included in ordinances, and the city would have to change the entire ordinance to alter the fees, Melling said in a previous meeting. Now, there are impact fee ordinances, passed Sept. 27, and impact fee resolutions, passed Oct. 11, designating the actual amounts. These will be more easily updated and Melling said they will be examined yearly in the budget process.

There were eight impact fee resolutions, including culinary water, sewer, parks, electric, police, street, fire, and pressurized irrigation water.

The culinary water fee will now be \$4,789 for a single family home, which is about a 329 percent increase. Sewer will be \$2,274.67, a 3.3 percent increase. Electric impact fees are increasing the most, going up to \$5,110 for a 200 amp panel (the most common). That is a 477 percent jump.

The pressurized irrigation fee has gone down 5 percent, to \$556 on a quarter acre lot, Melling said.

The park, police, streets, and fire impact fees are new. Park is \$1,595, police is \$65, streets are \$472, and fire is \$81, he said.

Originally, the council was also discussing a storm water impact fee, but Melling said they are holding off on that ordinance until the city completes a storm and drainage master plan.

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During the work meeting, Councilor Mary Halterman reported on the Utah League of Cities & Towns Conference she, the mayor, and other councilors attended in September. Halterman said one thing that had stuck with her was a discussion on impact fees.

Examples had been given of cities that had raised impact fees gradually to avoid a big hike, instead of raising them up to the necessary level. They had lost a lot of money. Halterman said they had been advised to catch up and keep up.

She also said water conservation was an important issue at the convention, and she believes the city should try to educate the public about ways to conserve Southern Utah's precious resource.

Robinson said he agreed, and that the council should start looking at ways to promote water conservation in Parowan.

The council also appointed Zora Sorensen to the position of Justice Court clerk, and Kenneth H. Adams was reappointed as a Justice Court judge.

The next Parowan City Council meeting will take place Thursday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. at the Parowan library.

Other Articles from this issue:

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