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JULY 31, 2007

## Madison impact fees inch closer

BY [TARA MAHONEY](#)

City officials moved to establish a local Impact Fee Committee with an eye toward setting up the development fees in Madison, perhaps within the next year or so.

“Our target is to have our [committee] kick-off meeting on August 13,” said City Planner JoAnna Hayes.

Staffers were still vetting applications from interested community members this week. The committee is expected to have a maximum of 10 people, at least five of whom, by Georgia law, must be involved in real estate or development.

Planners have suggested a composition for the committee of five people representing Madison neighborhoods or quality of life concerns, and one person representing each of the following fields: real estate, banking, contracting/building, residential development, and commercial development.

The city hired local impact fee guru Bill Ross earlier this year to explore the possibility of a city impact fee ordinance, a procedure heavily influenced by state law. The establishment of the committee, which has drawn applications or phone calls from a couple dozen citizens, is also governed by state statute.

“I think it’s commendable that so many people have shown an interest,” said Council member Michael Naples.

Council member Barry Lurey agreed, but said that such an influential group should be chosen with care.

All meetings of the Impact Fee Committee, once established, will be open to the public.

State impact fees allow for the collection of funds from developers in order to offset infrastructure costs in a community. The City of Madison has been considering the establishment of such fees for more than a year, and this spring moved the project forward by hiring a consultant familiar with the complex state laws to craft and present an ordinance.

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