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Yreka's development impact fees under scrutiny

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YREKA – The Yreka City Council heard from the ad-hoc committee regarding the development impact fee ordinance at their regular meeting Thursday night.

The committee, which was formed at the Sept. 6 Yreka City Council meeting, met on Monday, Sept. 17 for a discussion, and will meet again this week to compare "wish lists," or alterations they would like to make to the ordinance.

Council members Jim Griffin and Grace Bennett, who serve as council representatives on the committee, will compile the lists and make suggestions before the council, who will then vote yes or no on the changes, Griffin said. Griffin stated he wasn't sure when the council would vote on the changes, but that it will likely happen within a month.

The council also discussed whether to authorize approval to seek short-term financing for cash flow requirements and capital grants.

According to documents provided by the council, the city is currently operating with the lowest level of cash they've had on hand within the past three years, due in part to the \$2.1 million the city paid the county to take over the former Yreka Landfill earlier this year. The documents stated that there has also been a delay in reimbursement from granting agencies, which has placed a cash flow constriction on the city.

Yreka is currently running over \$12 million in grant projects, much of which funds the various capital improvement projects being implemented in the city, the documents stated.

One such grant, the stormwater attenuation grant the city received in the amount of \$5 million, does not have a cash in advance drawdown provision. Therefore, the project has a lag time – which could amount to more than six months, Hogan said – between contractor payment and grant reimbursement.

The line of credit, Hogan said, would sustain the city during the construction period for this grant. The council approved the city manager to execute necessary documents to seek this authorization.

The council also discussed whether the city should increase the \$5 per day business license class fee pertaining to peddlers, solicitors, "traveling stores" (selling from vehicles) and transient businesses. Griffin said he'd like to see the fee raised, and City Attorney Mary



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photo/heather dodds
- At Yreka's city council meeting Thursday night, Yreka Mayor Rory McNeil, left, and Yreka City Council Member Grace Bennett, right, present Ellen Janson with an award for her work on Septemberfest. Janson helped organize the event, which saw a record 47 vendors participate on Saturday, Sept. 15.

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Frances McHugh added that the new fee would not apply to vendors at special city events. More information about this item will be presented at a future city council meeting.

Other items:

- The council approved a resolution restricting vehicle parking to two hours on the West side of North Broadway Street between Miner and North streets. The resolution applies from three feet north of the north side of the Third Street-Broadway Street alley to 57 feet north of the north side of the Third Street-Broadway Street alley. Signs will be posted to notify motorists;
- Council Member Griffin was authorized to work with the Yreka Volunteer Fire Department to develop a policy and plan to place a memorial plaque, "honoring firefighters who have served over 20 years and are no longer with us," Griffin said at the meeting; and
- The council discussed whether a city sales tax measure should be added to the June election ballot. This item will be examined in a future Daily News article.

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