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# Cape votes to move forward on new fees

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Originally posted on January 18, 2006

Proposed public safety impact fees that add about \$900 to the cost of a new home in Cape Coral moved closer to adoption Monday.

Impact fees are charged to new homes and businesses to help pay for services required by growth.

City Council members voted 7-1 to have an ordinance prepared to implement the fire, police and advanced life support medical service fees. The ordinance will undergo public hearings and require a vote by the council before the fees can be collected. Councilman Jim Jeffers voted no.

The process takes about six months so people should have enough notice, Financial Services Director Mark Mason said.

The proposed fees total about \$1,230 for homes and about 32 cents per square foot for a business site, said consultant James C. Nicholas of the University of Florida.

Cape Coral already has a fire service impact fee of \$316. It would increase to at least \$575 and possibly \$591, according to Nicholas' report.

The proposal adds a \$596 fee for police services and \$56 for the medical service.

The medical service will help pay for the paramedics who ride on firetrucks, fire Chief Bill Van Helden said.

The city is not proposing a takeover of the ambulance service provided by Lee County, City Manager Terry Stewart said.

Increased costs for land, construction and fire trucks is the main reason the city needs the public safety impact fees, Nicholas said.

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