

Red Bluff Daily News

Citizens group forces city to take closer look at fees

By CHERYL BRINKLEY-DN Staff Writer

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RED BLUFF Although several items were cut from the city's development impact fee needs list Wednesday night, citizens want more.

No other decisions were made during the special council meeting regarding the proposed fee increases.

A citizens group made up of several businessmen will meet with city staff before producing their own proposed revised list. After comparing the citizen's list and the city's list, the council will then make a decision. City Manager Susan Price will return to the council Tuesday with a prospective meeting schedule.

The citizen's group is comprised of Dr. Ron Clark, Ken Robison, Steve Judson, Charlie Wright and Bill Moule as the only Chamber of Commerce representative.

"I agree that there are things our city needs," Clark said. "I also agree that some raise in fees should help with improvements that are needed. But some business sense, some common sense must be behind these projects. You, the council, are the people's eyes and ears. You are our voice.

"You do not have to accept what Taussig and some city officials say is needed or is the proper methodology," Clark continued. "Moreover, you cannot accept it. Your duty is to read, analyze and ask questions. Please ask the questions you need to understand this report. It is the only way your vote, our voice, can be justified."

Cuts in the police department list include the indoor shooting range. The current shooting range will be remodeled instead. The new patrol cars needed as the department grows were listed at new prices.

"We currently buy used from Salt Lake, but can be guaranteed that will always be available," said Capt. Paul Nanfito.

The crime scene van was cut as was an animal control unit. The SWAT van was left on the list because "they were donated by the Air Force and are at the end of their road," Nanfito said.

Council member Larry Stevens said keeping an animal control unit is important because the pet population can grow bigger than the human population.

The fire department cut two suggested fire stations until the time comes when and if they may be needed. A ladder truck and water tender were also cut from the list.

"Fire department services are dependent on two things," said Division Chief Gerry Grey. "Population density and response time. We know that traffic has increased, which slows response time. We are no longer in compliance with the 4-minute response time because of the great influx of traffic. Placing stations in key locations is what it's all about."

Other cuts were made to Parks and Recreation. This needs list and the transportation needs list is still under dispute.

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