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## Front Page November 17, 2005

### City Impact fees pass By Melissa Burnsed

After nearly a year of work, the city council of Macclenny voted unanimously in a special meeting to pass a new \$3,000 impact fee ordinance on new construction within the city limits. All that remains for the new levies to take effect is the final passage of the legislation at the next city meeting in December.

The fees are nearly identical to what was recommended by the city engineer. Frank Darabi and his associates had completed an in depth study of the city's future infrastructure needs and broken the costs down into new construction assessments per dwelling.

The total cost includes \$880 for transportation, \$704 for law enforcement, \$1,215 for fire service/emergency management, \$215 for recreation services and an administration fee of \$59. They apply to residential and mobile homes and will be collected when building permits, or move on permits are pulled.

For multi-units and commercial buildings, such as motels, hospitals, nursing homes, apartments and any other commercial operation that has local impact the costs are: Impact per room \$588.20, Impact per bed \$735.25 and Impact per square foot \$1.18.

There are provisions within the ordinance which offer some relief for low cost affordable housing developers. Developers can also alleviate some of the capital costs through the donation of land for public areas like parkland. The new levies will automatically be adjusted each year at an annual inflation rate tied to the Consumer Price Index.

In other business, the council decided to apply for a \$10,000 non-competitive Department of Community Affairs grant to develop a con-currency management plan. The plans help local municipalities manage growth through preplanning infrastructure requirements before developments are approved. County Manager Jason Griffis, who was present at the meeting informed the council that Baker County has applied for a similar grant for the same purpose.

The councilmen also agree to an architectural contract with Clemons, Rutherford and Associates for the renovation of the Burnsed Block House. The firm was the only bidder on the difficult project that will have to meet exacting state preservation standards. Macclenny sought and was awarded a grant to fund the project on behalf of Heritage Park.

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