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## City Impact Fees Add \$5,000 To New Home

Impact fees adopted by the Bartow city commission will add about \$5,000 to the price of a new home, Gene Boles, the city's impact fee consultant from the University of Florida, told the city commission.

On Tuesday night, the commission adopted two more impact fees to pay for roads and for public buildings. A few weeks ago, the commission adopted a fee to pay for recreational facilities.

For years the city has had water and sewer impact fees.

Impact fees are imposed on new construction to help pay for new public facilities that are made necessary by growth.

Boles told the commission that Bartow's impact fees are comparable with those imposed by other cities in Polk County.

The city's new impact fee for roads is in addition to the one imposed by the county commission for county roads, he said. The city's fee will be used only for city streets.

The public facilities fee will be collected to pay for land and for facilities like city hall and police and fire stations.

Both of the new fees were adopted by unanimous vote of the city commission and without comment from the public at a public hearing.

At the request of the Polk County Builders Assn., the city delayed the effective date of the new impact fees until Nov. 1.

The commission also adopted a budget of \$54,315,632 (before inter-fund transfers) for the fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1. It maintains the present ad valorem property tax levy of 4.5 mills. That equates to \$4.50 per \$1,000 of taxable property value.

Gerald Cochran, speaking at a public hearing, was critical of the budget, and said the commission should adopt the "roll-back rate" for property taxes, the rate that would produce the same amount of revenue as last year.

Cochran also announced his annual "evaluations" of city officials: minus-10 for the city manager, plus-5 for the city auditor and city attorney, and plus-8 for the city clerk. Cochran said next year he will give evaluations to the commissioners, too.

The commission also:

€ Noted City Mgr. Joseph J. DeLegge's report that the city is meeting with engineers to design the secondary entrance road to Bartow Regional Medical

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Center, and will solve drainage problems on Park Avenue at the same time. His report came in response to urging from Al Snapp that the city move forward with the hospital road, which will be an extension of Wilson Avenue.

€ Accepted the Community Redevelopment Agency budget of \$852,000.

€ Accepted a school board site selection committee's recommendation that a new elementary school be built between U.S. Highway 98 and E.F. Griffin Road, a little south of Catfish Country restaurant.

€ Passed on final reading an ordinance authorizing the city to borrow up to \$3 million to build the new Carver Recreation Center gymnasium and to purchase and renovate a former manufacturing complex next to Bartow Municipal Airport for use by the utilities department.

€ Adopted a policy authorizing payment of overtime to exempt city employees during a declared "state of emergency."

€ Passed on first reading ordinances to vacate two unopened streets: Nottingham Drive East, north of Clower Street, and Boulevard Street west of Hobart Avenue. Commissioner Andy Laurent asked why the city didn't sell the land to adjacent property owners, but joined in the vote to approve the two closings.

€ Expanded the boundaries of Bartow's Community Redevelopment Agency to take in 26 blocks of East Bartow.

€ Adopted a new schedule of higher and additional development application fees and charges. The commission directed that the \$150 fee for appealing a decision of the city's planning director or building official be refunded if the decision is reversed by the appeal board.

€ Adopted proclamations designating Sept. 17 to 23 as Constitution Week, and September as Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Postponed action on:

€ A pay raise for themselves.

€ A zoning board recommendation that the city sell a parcel of land on South Broadway to Curtis Schley, the adjacent property owner.

€ Appointment of a voting delegate to the National League of Cities convention.

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