



## City officials in Siloam Springs take a look at impact fees

By Jeff Della Rosa Staff Writer // [jeffd@nwanews.com](mailto:jeffd@nwanews.com)

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**SILOAM SPRINGS** — City officials faced a costly decision when the Siloam Springs Board of Directors recently voted to approve an impact fee study for Siloam Springs. "I better be ready to vote to approve this fee because if not, it's a waste of \$72,000," Mayor M. L. "Moose" Van Poucke said.

The \$72,300 study that should be completed by Sept. 30 likely will conclude with a public hearing on the study's findings, said Paul Calloway, assistant city administrator and treasurer. The study will be completed by TischlerBise Inc. of Bethesda, Md.

The consulting company will study the impacts of the city on fire, police, parks, water and sewer. "We'll be discovering the costs associated with the city that have been occurring to us," Director Mark Long said.

City Administrator David Cameron said Bentonville used this company to look at impact fees. The study does not include solid waste, streets and electric service. "The idea of this is to make this as fair and equitable as possible," he said. "This is not an approval of impact fees."

The board also authorized Cameron to seek brokers who specialize in hospital sales.

Directors also approved the following:

- A \$20,000 contract for Global Positioning System approach coordinates for the Siloam Springs Airport so pilots can land safely during inclement weather at either end of the runway;
- The purchase of \$72,987 in fencing for the airport;
- An \$8,420 taxiway repairing and striping project for the airport;
- \$7,500 for a study to determine the addition of a traffic light and turn lanes at Dawn Hill Road and Arkansas Highway 43, with directors voting this item to be added to the agenda;
- A final-plat-development permit in the 2200 block of South Carl Street for the Deer Lodge subdivision, with 19 homes on 4.67 acres;
- A significant-development permit for 2 B's Auto Sales in the 2100 block of U.S. Highway 412 for a 4,816-square-foot expansion;
- A rezone-development permit at 505 W. Harvard St. from medium residential (R-2) to

two-family residential (R-3);

- A code amendment to restrict the locations and types of above-ground storage tanks in the city;
- A revised employee handbook;
- The purchase of a \$14,994 security system for checking in and checking out books at the Siloam Springs Public Library;
- The purchase of a \$7,000 mosquito fogger for the Street Department;
- Street and parking-space closings for the Heritage Festival on June 17;
- The second reading of a code amendment to allow the reduction of required parking spaces by up to 30 percent for commercial and industrial uses; and
- The first reading of a rezone development permit at 1600 E. Main St. for Ace Hardware from multifamily residential (R-4) to roadway commercial (C-2).

Directors tabled a water contract with West Siloam Springs, Okla., for up to 500,000 gallons of water a day at \$1.55 per 1,000 gallons. The previous limit was set at 250,000 gallons of water per day at the same cost. The issue will be picked up again after further study, officials said.

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Contact: [webmaster@nwanews.com](mailto:webmaster@nwanews.com)