



## Committee forwards impact fee proposal to City Council

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The Fayetteville Water and Sewer Committee forwarded a proposal to the City Council on Tuesday to phase in water and wastewater impact fees over three years.

A study conducted by Duncan and Associates identified \$ 2, 954 as the maximum water impact fee for a single-family home in Fayetteville and \$ 2, 631 as the maximum wastewater impact fee. That translates to a maximum total fee of about \$ 5, 585 for each new single-family home. Fayetteville's current water and wastewater impact fees are \$ 1, 143 combined.

The proposal is to add \$ 700 to the current fees, with \$ 663 of it going toward the water system and \$ 37 going toward the sewer system.

For a single-family home, that translates to a total charge of \$ 1, 843 in the first year of the impact fee increase.

According to Gary Dumas, director of operations for the city, the maximum system impact fee for the water and wastewater systems would be met by 2011.

“ After that you could begin looking at the local portion, ” he said.

Under the proposal, the Water and Sewer Committee would revisit the fees each year.

In other business, the committee discussed a proposed policy for decentralized sewer systems.

David Jurgens, water and wastewater director, said Tim Conklin, former planning and management director, wrote a policy paper regarding the systems before he left his position at the end of May.

According to the policy paper, the city has invested and continues to invest in developing a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system as the preferred method of treating wastewater.

“ Allowing decentralized sewer systems is inconsistent with the suggested growth pattern adopted in the City Plan 2025 as well as the significant investment made for the centralized sewer system, ” the paper states.

The concern is that the use of the systems allows for urban densities in areas without adequate urban infrastructure to support it.

The recommendation to the city is that “ any proposal for a variance to construct a decentralized sewer system be carefully evaluated to determine if adequate infrastructure is available to serve the density and intensity of development associated with these types of systems. ”

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