



## Council approves new impact fees

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**BENTONVILLE** — The City Council opted for a future for the city's parks, library and police — by approving new impact fees for all departments.

At its meeting last night, the council unanimously approved the new fees for the city's Parks and Police departments — and approved new fees for the city's library fund as well.

“Excellenté,” Parks Director Doug Glaysher said upon the vote. “Looking to the future, I don't see any other way” the parks department could fund construction for facilities, he said.

The new fees will go toward the development of property off Price Coffee Road that will become the city's largest park. “We're looking at a 150-plus-acre piece of property that needs to be developed,” Glaysher said. “The city's always been a good support of our parks, and I think it'll make the advisory board and the City Council go forward with the Parks Master Plan when it's released.”

Library Director Cindy Suter was also pleased with the vote. “I think it's a wonderful decision,” she said. “The council continues to support our library.” The funds could recover the \$ 2 million city contribution to the library expansion — if approved by the council when the city's annual budget is completed. In addition, the funds would add 3, 450 new items to the library's collection each year.

Bob McCaslin was the only dissenting vote against the library expansion. McCaslin prepared a statement for The Daily Record concerning his vote.

“I am opposed to establishing an impact fee that provides for repaying the city for its \$ 2 million contribution to our new library,” the statement read. “I am in favor of a lesser fee that would provide funds for the purchase of new collections.”

McCaslin wrote that he has discussed the matter with Library Foundation President Steve Trolinger, and “found no disagreement with my decision to vote against the ordinance as written.”

Police fees could expand the building space by 6, 000 square feet and add 15 vehicles to the department. Bentonville Police Chief James Allen was not present at the council meeting.

The fees will only affect new properties in Bentonville. New residential property owners will see the greatest increase — from \$ 373 to \$ 1, ® for attached developments, and from \$ 504 to \$ 1, 650 for detached single-family developments. Owners of new office

buildings and other nonresidential property will see decreases in the fees.

The council also approved the following items: •An ordinance accepting annexation of territory into the city; •A final plat for the Stone Meadow subdivision at the intersection of Glen Road and Featherston Road, requested by Palmco Properties LLC; •A rezoning from single-family residential (R-1 ) to central residential, high density (R-C 3 ) for 11 acres at 206 S. W. Second St., requested by Main Street Builders; •A lot split for the Cohiba subdivision at Southeast Walton Boulevard and C Street, requested by the Gild Corp.;

•A property-line adjustment for Comfort Suites on Southeast Walton Boulevard, requested by Kyle Naples;

•A public hearing and an ordinance for a drainage easement vacation for lots 3 and 5 of the Covington Center subdivision, requested by MMSL Realty, LLC;

•An award of a bid to Decco Contractors in the amount of \$ 351, 550. 48 for the 2006 overlay project;

•A budget adjustment in the amount of \$ 52, 724. 48 for the Street Department;

•A budget adjustment in the amount of \$ 13, 835. 25 for the Police Department's parking lot;

•Awarding a bid to Scruggs Equipment for a combination hydro-jet sewer-cleaner truck in the amount of \$ 212, 784;

•A resolution declaring certain property belonging to the city as surplus;

•A budget adjustment for the library in the amount of \$ 2, 565 because funds provided through the Bentonville Library Foundation will be used for door security at the library;

•An ordinance authorizing the city to enter an agreement for siren battery backup with Radiophone of Northwest Arkansas in the amount of \$ 150, 000, waiving the requirement of competitive bidding and declaring an emergency;

•A payment for the Jerry Cook case;

•A resolution authorizing the city to enter an agreement with C rafton Tull engineers for survey, design, bid preparation and easement documentation for certain drainage improvements to Bland Valley in an amount not to exceed \$ 35, 000;

•An ordinance authorizing the city to enter an agreement with Cherokee Builders for the Westside taxiway project for the Bentonville Municipal Airport in the amount of \$ 593, 210, waiving the requirement of competitive bidding and declaring an emergency; and

•The appointment of Ed Clifford, Kalene Griffith, Bob Haynes, Bob Workman and Terry Coberly to the Tax Increment Finance Committee.