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## Council takes step toward storm water utility fee

*David Young*  
Daily Record Staff Writer

The Cañon City Council took the initial step Monday night in implementing a storm water utility fee, by unanimously approving the first reading of Ordinance 15.

## Opinion

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The ordinance calls for the creation of a storm water utility enterprise and fund. The base rate for the fee would be \$0.0017 per square foot of impervious surface area, defined as compacted or covered surface area that is resistant to infiltration to water such as a roof or driveway.

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The base rate will be calculated by dividing the revenue requirements for storm water management pro-grams of the city for the applicable fiscal year by the aggregate of impervious surface area on developed property within the city's existing impenetrable surface area at the time the base rate is calculated, and dividing the amount by twelve.

City Attorney John Havens estimated the average price for a home from 1,000 to 2,000 square feet would be \$40 to \$50 a year. The payments for the fee will be billed either monthly or quarterly based on water bills for the property, Havens said.

## Entertainment

- Entertainment News

The fee is necessary because of Ordinance 22, which established a storm water enterprise which requires management fees that Ordinance 15 would address.

## Photos

- Photo Gallery

"There is a large need to adopt this ordinance this calendar year," Havens said.

## Kids

- Homework Help
- Kid Links

City Engineer Adam Lancaster said phase two of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act requires the city to comply with their standards. The city is in the fourth of what is a five-year plan for phase two and will need to show progress or face stiff fines.

## Customer Service

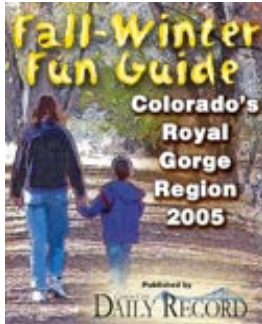
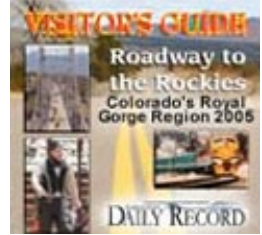
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"This is a huge step in doing this," Lancaster said in regards to being able to fund programs needed for phase two such as training and outreach efforts.

Square footage of impervious surface area on developed property is determined by a global positioning satellite that can fly over Cañon and calculate the impervious surface area on properties.

There is a correction, or modification, process in place with the ordinance. If anyone feels that their prop-erty has been miscalculated, then the city will come out and assess impervious surface area. Undeveloped property, defined as property without any impervious surface area, will not be subject to fees. Publicly owned streets and city park areas also are classified as undeveloped property.

If the storm water fee does go into effect, it will begin on Dec. 1. The council agreed that they will address a possible price scale depending on the property at a later date.



In addition, the council unanimously approved the fire district impact fee's second reading. The fee, which was passed on the Nov. 1 ballot, will help the fire station fund future growth, including new stations and apparatuses but not staff.

One of the first fees that will be collected is \$20,000 from Home Depot, Havens said.

In a public hearing to address a special review use application for an animal clinic at 2403 North 9th St., the council unanimously approved Ordinance 14 with the amendment that no animals are allowed over-night on the property for boarding purposes, only hospitalized or injured animals. A small, sanitary room must be provided for the animals.

Applicant Lisa Eskridge assured the council that the clinic was intended for small animals, such as dogs and cats, and that the maximum number of animals that would be in the clinic at any given time would be four.

In other business, the council:

— Unanimously approved the second reading of Ordinance No. 11 for a multidwelling in the central business zone on Macon Avenue.

— Unanimously approved the second reading amending the municipal code regarding permits in city parks.

— Unanimously approved a resolution initiating public improvement district for Forge and Valley roads in regards to curb, gutter and sidewalk.

— City Administrator Steve Rabe had the final public hearing in a series of three regarding the proposed 2006 budget. Rabe covered the special revenue funds, including the park improvement fund, conservation trust fund and quality of life fund.



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