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School impact fees passes final hurdle

DESOTO COUNTY -- The County Commission on Tuesday put its stamp of approval on a school impact fee ordinance that had passed muster with the DeSoto County School Board in March.

The commissioners unanimously voted to finalize the ordinance and an interlocal agreement with the School Board and city to implement the fees. These take effect May 1.

The fees will pay for some or all of the cost of constructing or acquiring public education facilities to accommodate new development in the county.

Following in the council's footsteps, the DeSoto County Commission at an earlier meeting issued a proclamation recognizing Superintendent Adrian Cline for his service and contributions to the educational programs of DeSoto's children and residents.

These proclamations by the city and county will be capped by the Arcadia Rotary Club's dinner tonight, at which Cline will be honored with the group's "Service Above Self" award.

Rotary Club member Budd Costner said, "Mr. Cline is very deserving of this honor, for he has given much to improve the lives of our children and families through offering many educational opportunities."

The county postponed a hearing on an amendment to the solid waste collection amendment. Chairman Jerry Hill said the commission needed more information before holding the hearing. They also postponed a hearing on an application for the Sonoma Preserve Community Development District.


The commissioners heard requests for seven rezonings. They unanimously approved a rezoning of a section on the west side of U.S. 17 west of Mockingbird Manor from general commercial to light industrial. They also unanimously approved two rezoning requests by Richard Burnham and Deborah Burnham, as well as one by Kathleen West.

The commissioners denied a request by Rachel and Robert Steven Griffin to rezone 9 acres to commercial neighborhood by a vote of 3-2 (Jerry Hill and Delma Allen dissenting). They also unanimously denied rezoning requests by Beatriz Williams and Antonio Polk to change agricultural acreage to light industrial.

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By Laura A. Schmid

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