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First reading for new, higher Franklin road fees approved

Written by

Kevin Walters
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FRANKLIN - The first hurdle to creating new, steeper fees that developers must pay the city as part of building new construction projects has cleared.

City aldermen voted 6-0 on the first of two readings to adopt a new city road impact fee schedule that would raise developers' road impact fees for the first time in years.

Created using a formula based in part on projected use of new roads by drivers, the impact fees are going up because of rising construction and land costs.

Fees vary based on which types of projects that developers want to build. For example, the current fee for a single family residential home is \$2,191, which would increase to \$4,227 though the increases will be staggered across intervening years.

One new factor in the city's higher cost, too, is that Franklin wants to add the cost of buying right-of-way land. The city has not done that with earlier impact fees.

Alderman Ann Petersen sought to not increase the new fees as much, proposing to remove the additional costs for right-of-way purchases by an amendment to the city's plan. While Alderman Pearl Bransford supported Petersen's idea, the proposal had no traction with other aldermen and was voted down 4-2.

Aldermen will take a second vote on the fees at their April 26 meeting.

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