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Georgetown County moves toward lowering controversial fees

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Georgetown County is moving toward lowering its controversial development impact fees by as much as \$2,000.

An ordinance revising the year-old impact fees was given second reading by the council last night.

The fees are designed to help pay for capital improvement projects because new development increases the burden on public services.

Local developers and builders opposed the fees when they came before council in February, saying it would slow development and put undue burden on an industry already suffering in the tough economic climate.

But the Georgetown County Council isn't folding under the weigh of public opinion: the lowering of the fee is due to a formula change.

Sal Hemingway, the county administrator, said the process for implementing impact fees is strictly regulated by the state, and part of that regulation is to have a yearly review of the projects that will be paid for with impact fee revenue.

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