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# Impact fees divide Olympia City Council

**Spending: Proposed fee is \$659 per house, a drop of 84 percent from last year**

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OLYMPIA - Some Olympia City Council members expressed concern late Tuesday about proposed \$659 for single-family homes, an 84 percent drop from 2009.

Developers pay impact fees on new homes, and they're intended to offset the costs of growth in schools.

Councilwoman Rhenda Strub said the council should reject the "laughable" school impact fee proposal for District 1. She said that it does not account for growth foreseen in the district's own estimates. "This plan is not in our comprehensive plan," she said.

City Attorney Tom Morrill said the council cannot change the impact fee – only the school district can. In that case, no fees would be collected.

Councilman Steve Langer agreed the city should reject the plan. But Councilman Craig Ottavelli said the school district has to do what it wants to do.

The council made no decision. Mayor Doug Mah proposed that he and City Manager Steve Hall sit down with the president of the school board, then hold another study session.

The discussion centered on the city's proposed \$158.4 million capital facilities plan for 2011-2016. It's a replacement for the current six-year plan because of the economic downturn.

The capital facilities plan is a sort of master priority list for funding projects from 2011 to 2016. But it's not for six years, because the plan is limited by available funding, and changes can be made to the plan each year.

Among the public's concerns are that the plan would use part of the 3 percent private utility tax increase approved for Percival Landing.

The plan is not final; it's part of the overall 2011 city budget which is set to be passed Dec. 14. The council, which certainly has cuts, will be released at next week's council meeting, at 7 p.m. Monday in Council Chamber.