
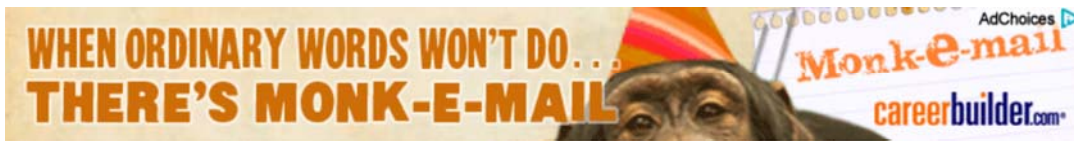


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FLATHEAD COUNTY COVERAGE

Kalispell looks at impact fees

Posted: Jan 18, 2012 6:30 AM by Laura Wilson (KAJ News)
 Updated: Jan 18, 2012 9:37 AM



KALISPELL- Kalispell City Council members are constantly looking for ways to stimulate economic growth in Kalispell and on Tuesday night they discussed one way of trying to bring more business back into Kalispell, although it could come at a cost to taxpayers.

Council members discussed whether they think the city's current transportation impacts fees are helping or hurting the local economy.

Impact fees are a one-time charge on new development to offset the cost of providing new transportation systems for that development and a 12% fee increase has been proposed to council, but some members suggested eliminating it altogether.

Cutting those fees would mean they'd become the responsibility of the city and its taxpayers, although one council member told us keeping the fee will affect their ability to create new jobs and growth in the Flathead.

"I just don't feel that the impact fee is the right direction for us to go in. It does affect roads, and it affects development. It could be a homebuilder that has to tax 6,743 onto the price of a home. It could be a big corporation like Lowe's or this new urban renewal area that we're creating," City Councilor Phillip Guifrida explained.

Council members took public comment Tuesday night from people who were both in favor of and against eliminating the fee and no final decision on the issue have been made.

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