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Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Approved

An ordinance imposing a parks and recreation fee on new homes and motel rooms built in Bartow was passed on first reading by the city commission on Monday.

Unlike most impact fees, which are collected to pay for new acilities made necessary by growth - in this case, parks and playgrounds and such - Bartow's impact fee is called a "recoupment fee."

That is because the city's present parks and recreation facilities already meet the city's master plan through the year 2025, City Mgr. Joseph J. DeLegge told the commission. As a result, the city will be able to use the recoupment fees "in any lawful manner as deemed appropriate by the city commission."

The amount of the fee will range from \$908 for homes of less than 800 square feet to \$1,616 for homes of 3,600 square feet or larger. Most homes will be assessed \$1,067, the fee for homes from 801 to 1,399 square feet.

Mayor Leo Longworth noted that the city will charge \$694 per motel room. He also raised the issue of waiving the fee for "affordable housing" projects, but joined in a unanimous vote to adopt the new fee.

The impact fee ordinance will come up for a public hearing and final passage at the commission's Aug. 15 meeting.

The commission also:

€ Established the city's tentative ad valorem tax millage at 4.5 mills, the same level as the past year. That millage represents \$4.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value. The millage, and the proposed city budget, will come up for a public hearing on Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m. At that meeting, the commission may lower, but not raise, the millage rate. Gerald Cochran told the commission that the budget "is a disgrace," and said the city "has too many employees."

€ Noted DeLegge's report that he is waiting to hear from a bankruptcy trustee about disposing of property of the Oaks School, which was located in the old civic center, a city-owned building. The school filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in July, and its assets will be liquidated. DeLegge has told the commission he intends to remodel the old building as a city hall annex.

€ Referred to DeLegge a complaint from John Dilworth, who owns property at 410 Second Ave., about drainage problems.

€ Passed on first reading an ordinance amending the way the city collects fees for extending water and sewer lines to new developments. The ordinance will allow developers to recoup the fees paid as additional customers are connected to the system.

Community

[FMHS Class Of '75 Meeting](#)

[Fort Meade's Jamboree
Planned August 13](#)

Forward Together

[Polk's Three Hurricanes Make
Disaster History](#)

[Main Street Redesign Focuses
on Pedestrians](#)

[BRMC Reduces ER Visit Time
by Two-Thirds](#)

[Business Not 'As Usual' After
Hurricanes](#)

[Fort Meade Looking Toward A
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[Library Cooperative Offers
Bargain In Services To County
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[Retailers Feeling The Pinch Of
Construction And Street
Closures](#)

[Museum, Volunteers
Overcome Damage to Building,
Society](#)

[Bartow Woman's Club
Tradition of Giving Continues
Three Years After Disbanding](#)

€ Appointed Gordon Polk and reappointed Vendarae Lewis to the citizens advisory committee.

€ Proclaimed Aug. 2 as "National Night Out" and Aug. 15 to 19 as "Florida Water and Wastewater Systems Operators Week."

€ Approved an agreement with the county for removal of hurricane debris.