

Perry Implements Impact Fees



Written by Aundrea Cline-Thomas

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The cost of development in Perry is going up.

During a special called meeting, Perry's City Council unanimously approved implementing impact fees on new development. This one time charge is meant to ensure that the burden of expanding city services, to accommodate growth, does not solely fall on existing taxpayers.

Builders would have to pay an additional flat fee when receiving their permits. The impact fee on a single family home is less than \$1,000. For commercial buildings it is \$0.41 per square foot. For instance, a developer would have to pay more than \$6,500 dollars for a 16,000 square foot building.

"How does the city of Perry compete when all he had to do is move ten miles up the road to the city of Warner Robins and he would've saved \$6,500," explained Perry Chamber of Commerce President, Daniel Brown.

Perry developer Rob Cooper added that the fee would, "make lower and middle income housing less attainable for buyers. You could possibly stifle residential growth that is growing here in Perry."

However, City Council members say they have few alternatives.

Councilman Joe Kusar explains, "Perry does not receive any revenue from sales taxes. That goes to the County and state so we don't have a lot of options in the way we can raise money to pay for the improvements that are needed."

As a result of the economic slump, especially in the housing industry, the fee won't go into effect until July 1, 2009. Therefore it will not affect current construction.

The money generated will go towards half of the cost of building new fire stations and parks.

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