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Polk City Official to Work Out Impact Fee Payment Plan

Polk City owes Polk County at least \$539,055 in unpaid impact fees.

By [Kevin Bouffard](#)

THE LEDGER

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POLK CITY | City Manager Cory Carrier has agreed to work out a payment plan on at least \$539,055 in unpaid impact fees Polk City owes to Polk County.

Carrier spoke with County Manager Mike Herr on Monday about the impact fees that had not been paid through Sept. 30, 2008, Assistant County Administrator Lea Ann Thomas said Monday. The nonpayment of the fees was reported in the city's own independent audit report for its fiscal year 2007.

The county has not received its share of impact fees collected by the city since December 2006, Thomas told The Ledger last week.

On Monday, Carrier attributed the nonpayment to a previous finance director who commingled funds, Thomas said.

Carrier agreed to develop and submit a payment plan that, if county officials accept, will be submitted to the County Commission for approval, Thomas said.

The Polk City Council is scheduled to meet at 7:30 tonight but the city's financial problems, as detailed recently in The Ledger, are not on the agenda.

The agenda includes consideration of a petition by two Polk City landowners,

including Kermit Weeks, the owner of the Fantasy of Flight theme park in Auburndale, to de-annex almost 300 acres of property the city involuntarily annexed in 2004.

Their petition claims the annexation violated state law.

The council also will get an update on a proposal to divest its water and sewer utilities to the Florida Governmental Utilities Authority, a state agency that manages distressed utilities.

The meeting will be the last one for Mayor Donald Penton and for Council members Kristy Eilertsen and Paula Roddenberry, who did not seek re-election in the April municipal election.

Council member Joe LaCascia, appointed in September to fill one of two vacant council seats, was elected when nobody filed to run against him last month. Council member Nancy Adorno's term does not expire until 2012.

Also elected without opposition are new council members Michael Blethen, Trudy Block and Don Kimsey. All will be sworn in at the April 13 meeting.

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