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Portland impact fee changed

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At a recent Portland City Council the issue of an impact fee for new construction was revisited because the city didn't vote on it properly the first time.

"The last vote was not properly brought to the floor and it was challenged," said Mayor Ken Wilber.

"I had to agree and when I did that constituted a re-vote."

The revote brought about one change to the slate of impact fees.

A \$288 impact fee for public safety for industrial construction was voted down, even though the fee passed in March.

Other impact fees stayed the same.

The impact fee for a single family home less than 1,500 square feet is \$1,098 for parks and \$391 for public safety. A single-family home that is 1,501 square feet to 2,999 square feet for parks is \$1,228.00 and \$437.00 for public safety.

A 3,000-plus square-foot single-family home for parks is \$1,416.00 and \$522 for public safety.

For multi-family residential construction the impact fee for parks is \$907 and \$324 for public safety.

There is no impact fee for commercial construction.

Meanwhile, Alderman Tim Coker, the head of the finance committee, said that balancing the city's budget is going to be a challenge.

"Either we are going to have to raise revenue, which usually means a property tax (increase) or cut more...and it (the budget) has already been cut tremendously.

The deadline for the budget is June 30. State law states the city's budget must be balanced.

"The goal is to have the first reading of the budget at the June city council meeting and then the second reading at a special call meeting," Coker said.

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