



Revising impact fees a top goal

By [Rick Longley/Orland Press-Register](#)

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Reviewing and revising the city's impact fee charges and administrative fees are among the top goals as the Orland City Council moves forward.

City Manager Peter Carr brought a list of items before the council on Monday to see what their priorities were for the year.

Along with reviewing the fees, setting five-year financial and economic development goals were also on the list.

Resolving the development impact fee payments on Sapphire Plaza is something Carr said he is working with the complex's owners so businesses can move into the center.

Providing mobile computer services to the Police and Fire departments and infrastructure upgrades were on the list as well.

Issues of less importance but of interest included exploring inter-agency partnership opportunities similar to Orland sharing Librarian Jody Meza with the Willows Public Library, identifying a theme for Orland's branding program and providing more downtown parking, Carr said.

He said his lists included items the city has money and staff to complete this year rather than projects that have no funding.

Resolving flea market issues near downtown Orland and the railroad tracks, completing the downtown facade improvement program, upgrading Bihler Field facilities and lighting the Orland Arch were in the draft, too.

However, Carr said these were less important than some of the other proposals.

This review was the first of its type since Carr came on board and will be followed by more in the months to come, officials said.

Providing more downtown parking is a big item, Councilman Jim Paschall said, before suggesting it be moved to the upper part of the list.

"If the lighting of the arch is not more successful than the lighting of the water tower, I won't support it," he said.

Lights for the arch is the brainchild of Economic Development Commissioner Gary Campbell who wants to promote it as a tourist attraction at night with donated solar lighting.

Campbell also championed lighting the tower so motorists on Interstate 5 and Highway 32 could see Orland was here at night. The city spent \$2,000 on the tower project.

But Paschall complained he cannot see the tower's Orland sign at 10 p.m. because the lights the city installed are not bright enough.

Councilman Dennis Hoffman added upgrading the city's Internet website should be a high priority, and he also liked the idea of having a communication system where the police and fire departments could alert residents to emergencies via telephone.

Upgrading sports facilities and picnic areas is another priority, Councilman Bruce Roundy said is needed to attract visitors to town via tournaments and other functions.

Fixing sidewalks, building biking and pedestrian trails and expanding the Orland Recreation Center will require state or federal grants, Roundy said.

Indeed, the undergrounding of the Lateral 40 irrigation ditch at Papst Avenue is part of Community Development Block Grant application that should be awarded soon.

If that grant is approved, Orland can go a head with the project putting Papst Avenue through to Bryant Street. The grant also would provide money to study the city's water line needs, officials said.

"Attraction and retention of businesses to Orland ought to be higher on the list," Paschall said. "But I don't know how you are going to do it."

Carr responded "It is a major project of mine throughout the year."

Some businesses are still coming to town, city officials said, despite the slow economy.

Thrift shop owner Trish Saint-Evens also said a lot of new customers are coming into her store and saying they recently moved to Orland, so it appears people are coming there.

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