

Road fees topic of hearing

By Christina Fuoco, Independent Newspapers

The Apache Junction City Council will hold a public hearing about an increase in road development fees during its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in council chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

“We want to let people know that we’re thinking about raising them. The cost of maintaining roads is getting higher. We want to make sure the growth pays for itself as we get into this,” said John Petroff, development services manager.

“Putting in roads and infrastructure, the fees have to be high enough that they’ll pay for themselves. Sometimes development fees aren’t as much as what construction costs are today. Everything goes up.”

Mr. Petroff said road development fees are different for residential and commercial. The flat fee for a single family detached home is \$1,485. “Basically what an impact fee charge on new development is it pays for the construction or off-site capital improvements that are necessary and beneficial to the new development,” Mr. Petroff said.

The public will be able to make comments during the meeting, which also includes a presentation by the city’s consultant Duncan Associates of Austin, Texas.

“The presentation consists of what other cities around the state and country are doing and how they compare with ours,” Mr. Petroff said.

The fees were last raised in August 2002. Mr. Petroff said that Duncan Associates will recommend the amount of the increase. The item is set for discussion only. The City Council will take no action. At a future meeting, it will make a decision about an increase.

“They could go with whatever they recommend or they could go with a lesser amount,” Mr. Petroff said.

He explained that the city reviews its fees every couple years.

“You do go through every two to three years the fees just because of the cost of the materials,” he said.

Also on the agenda for Oct. 18 is:

1 Consideration of Second Extension of Professional Services Agreement with Team Performance, Inc. for consulting services for the project entitled “Organizational Development City of Apache Junction”

for a total amount of \$10,000;

1 Consideration of Award of Bid for PR-05-03, Landscape Maintenance, to United Right-of-Way for maintenance service for Renaissance Point, Arroyo Verde, Phelps Drive, Phase I & II, and Ironwood Cove in an amount not to exceed \$79,743.40;

1 Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with The Sonoran Institute for consultation services for technical planning assistance to guide staff on sustainable development standards in an amount not to exceed \$20,000;

1 Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with Clarion Associates for consultation services on a master planned community district overlay related to the State Land in an amount not to exceed \$35,000;

1 Presentation, overview and discussion of Proposition 400, Pinal County Transportation Excise (Sales) Tax by Pat Brenner, the city's public information officer;

1 A public hearing about an application by the Apache Junction Senior Center for a bingo license;

1 A public hearing about Community Development Block Grant Regional Account proposed projects for fiscal year 2006. City staff will ask the City Council to select project(s) to research for possible submission;

1 A request for reconsideration of ordinance No. 1248, a rezoning request by Aziz Helal, selection of date for reconsideration;

1 Direction to staff regarding professional services agreement for economic development with Apache Junction Main Street Program for fiscal year 2005-2006.

The City Council's next work session is 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, with a regular session to follow at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1.

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