

## **Rotelli gets partial refund of parking impact fees in Lake Worth**

By Willie Howard, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

LAKE WORTH — The downtown restaurant Rotelli will receive an \$82,500 refund from the city for a portion of the parking impact fees the company paid in 2006.

City commissioners voted 3-2 Tuesday to give the restaurant company a partial refund of the \$105,000 it paid in parking impact fees.

The refund is based on changes in the amount the city charges downtown businesses for the “fee in lieu of parking,” which was reduced from \$15,000 per space to \$7,500 per space in 2007.

The refund also reflects the company’s claim that it was not given credit for the correct number of parking spaces when it leased 3,775 square feet in the building at 701 Lake Ave. The refund gives the company credit for 12 spaces.

Commissioners Suzanne Mulvehill and Christopher McVoy voted against the refund.

The city was planning to use the money to build a parking garage but had only \$150,000 in the downtown parking impact-fee fund. William Waters, director of the community sustainability department, said the city has not collected much in parking impact fees because there has not been much expansion downtown in recent years.

Randy Sauder, managing partner for Lake Worth RPP Inc., the company that operates the Lake Worth Rotelli, said he was blindsided by the impact fee after remodeling the inside of the building in 2006.

“We put a million dollars into the building, and the city called us and said, by the way, you owe us \$105,000,” Sauder told city commissioners.

Terms of the refund require the company to pay additional parking impact fees if Rotelli expands to occupy the remaining 2,093 square feet of the building.

