



Local News

Somerton council examines increase for impact fees

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SOMERTON — Building a house in Somerton may become more expensive in October.

The city council is considering whether to raise impact fees by 20 percent.

Officials are also deciding whether to add transportation and administration fees.

If approved, these fees would take effect in October.

The impact fees, which are used to improve city roads, the sewer and parks would be assessed when a building permit is granted, City Manager Cliff O'Neil said.

The fees are based on a 2003 study, O'Neil said, that suggested the impact fees should be increased.

When the study was conducted council members said that imposing 100 percent of the recommended fees would stunt growth. The council at that time only adopted fees that were 80 percent of what the study recommended.

Since the city continues to grow, O'Neil said he is now recommending that the city impose the full fee recommended by the study.

This would increase the impact fees on an \$80,000 house from \$4,271 to \$5,245.

A transportation fee, that would be assessed at the same time as the impact fee, of \$293 per home is being proposed. The city projects that a new traffic signal will be needed every five years. The money raised from the transportation fee will be used to purchase and install new traffic signals. The cost of a new traffic signal is \$220,000 and there is a projected growth of a 150 homes a year. To determine the new fee, city employees divided the cost of the traffic signal over five years (\$44,000 per year) and then divided that number by the estimated number of new homes built every year.

This issue will be discussed again at the July 5 council meeting. If approved, the new fees would take effect in October.

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