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Spanish Fork OKs impact fees for fire stations

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Spanish Fork • In the future, new residents will have to pay for the fire protection they will require.

The City Council unanimously authorized the city Tuesday to collect a public-safety impact fee.

The fee would be used to pay for additional fire stations that would be built as the population grows.

“If our growth continues, we will need satellite stations on the east and west sides,” City Attorney Junior Baker told the council.

Baker said the additional stations will allow the city to maintain its fire-insurance rating. If the rating dropped, it would mean homeowners would have to pay more for insurance.

Impact fees are assessed against new homes and businesses to cover the cost of new utility lines or other services that will be required by a growing population. The city charges impact fees for parks and municipal power.

There was no public comment on the ordinance.

Councilman Steve Leifson described the ordinance as a “housekeeping” measure, by adding public safety to the other purposes for which the city can charge impact fees.

When the city first drafted its ordinance, it did not include public safety. But state law changed, allowing cities to assess a public-safety impact fee.

The Planning Commission recommended the council approve the change.

In a written report to the council, Community Development Director Dave Anderson said the stations would be located somewhere on 2550 East and the other on 900 South in the Leland section of the city.

The city’s next step is to calculate what the fees should be. The impact fee would be assessed against new homes as they are built in the city.

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