The Business Journal of Jacksonville - August 23, 2005 http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2005/08/22/daily9.html

# Business Journal

#### LATEST NEWS

The Business Journal of Jacksonville - 9:42 AM EDT Tuesday

## St. Johns development group wants to study taxes, fees

A St. Johns County economic development group plans to ask county commissioners Tuesday to allow county staff to aid them in doing an independent study of taxes and fees.

County Commissioners increased impact fees in March, taking those costs from \$2,630 to \$6,685 for a new single-family house up to 1,800 square feet. Those fees took effect May 2.

The fee increase was based on a county-paid study done by James Nicholas, a University of Florida professor.

The Economic Development Council of the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce plans to hire another expert to "focus on the whole structure," said Victoria Owens, an Economic Development Council administrator. "It's not supposed to be an impact fee study."

Owens could not say how much time the staff would need to devote to the project.

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