

Posted on Fri, Feb. 11, 2005

Summerville council gives OK for construction moratorium

The Associated Press

SUMMERVILLE - Town Council has given final approval to an ordinance that would allow the town to declare a building moratorium.

Wednesday's approval came without discussion.

There is no indication when a moratorium might be declared. It won't be long before the town budget can't afford to provide fire and police protection and other services to the residents of new neighborhoods without more help from builders, Mayor Pro Tem Jan Waring-Woods said.

A suit by the Charleston Trident Homebuilders Association prevents the town from spending more than \$1 million in impact fees collected from builders in the past two years.

"It was council's intent to pay for that [new services] with impact fees, without an additional tax burden for residents," Town Administrator Dennis Pieper said.

State law allows towns to collect impact fees to pay for services required by growth as long as the town demonstrates the fees are necessary and will be used only in the immediate growth areas.

In its suit, the Homebuilders Association says the town has demonstrated neither.