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## Gainesville to talk impact fees on Tuesday

GAINESVILLE — The City of Gainesville will hold a public hearing on the city's impact fee program tomorrow morning at the Georgia Mountains Center.

The hearing is the last scheduled item on tomorrow morning's council meeting agenda. It will include an update on the city's impact fee program, and will provide residents a chance to comment on the updated version of the city's program, which collects fees from local developers to cover the "impact" of their developments.

Gainesville collects impact fees all from contractors seeking building permits. Residential developers pay the fee for police and fire services as well as for parks and recreation.

Commercial developers only pay the police and fire fees.

The city is required to hold the public hearing because technically the report changes Gainesville's Comprehensive Plan, said City Manager Bryan Shuler.

"We're not changing ... anything about the impact fee program," said Shuler.

Shuler said there are not any substantive changes to the program, but the plan must be updated regularly because conditions can change as well as the city's needs and priorities.

Most of the changes that will be presented tomorrow are changes in the timing and costs of certain capital projects, Shuler said.

"It's basically just an accounting of the program and an update of the timing, nature and types of projects the program is designed to fund," said Shuler.

Gainesville installed the impact fee program in June 2006.

So far, the only purchase that has been made using fees from the program is the purchase of a home on Ivey Terrace for the parks and recreation department. The nearly \$165,000 purchase made more land available for the Rock Creek Greenway, said Shuler.

The city has not yet spent monies collected for its police and fire services from the program, but the city has collected less money for those services through impact fees than it has for the parks and recreation department, Shuler said.

"With only collecting a small amount (for those services), there hasn't been an opportunity to utilize those funds for a capital facility," said Shuler.

Shuler said it is unclear whether any of the money will be used for the relocation of the public safety facility.

The city has up to seven years to spend the fees it collects from each developer.

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