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Bonita Springs plans criteria for impact fee refunds

Prepares for requests to get money back

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Bonita Springs city officials are worried developers who defer projects during the recession may ask for money back on impact fees they've already paid.

City Council is expected today to provide staff with answers on how to deal with potential requests.

Beverly Tew, the city's community development director, said Tuesday so far the city hasn't been asked for refunds.

But that doesn't mean requests won't be made.

Mayor Ben Nelson said he believes there are circumstances where developers should receive refunds.

Impact fees are fees placed on new residential, industrial or commercial development projects to compensate for the added costs of public services like road improvements.

"What we're seeing is that developers can't afford to build or even pay taxes," Nelson said.

According to preliminary plans, the city will provide a refund only if:

- There has been no new construction or work on a property since the permit was obtained.
- An extension on the building permit was granted.
- The person seeking the refund is the same person who paid the fee - and there are no liens or

foreclosure actions.

- The city has not spent money from the fee and money is available.

Additional Facts

IF YOU GO

- What: Bonita Springs City Council meeting

- When: 5:30 p.m. tonight

- Where: Bonita Springs City Hall, 9101 Bonita Beach Road.
