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Council addresses housing

Submitted by editor on Fri, 03/20/2009 - 18:32.

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By Tara DeRock Mahoney Senior Staff Writer

Madison City Council members met Tuesday evening in a called work session to talk about the current multi-family housing moratorium, a draft impact fee ordinance, and what topics might be on next month's joint meeting of council members and Morgan County commissioners.

Council member Whitey Hunt suggested a departure from former meetings with the commissioners in which the city and county laid out specific topics of discussion.

"Let's let David and Michael get together and talk over what we might get done at this meeting," said Hunt, referring to City Manager David Nunn and County Manager Michael Lamar.

"Let's look at how we can be helpful to each other...Let's just try to start working in a positive direction," said Hunt.

On the multi-family housing front, council members agreed that they would likely extend the current moratorium on multi-family housing at their second regular meeting of the month, in order to have time to gather one more time to give feedback on a draft ordinance prepared by staff.

"We have no one knocking down our doors right now to build multi-family," said Planning and Zoning Director Monica Callahan.

The council also heard from impact fee consultant Bill "the younger" Ross, who said that the city could begin holding public hearings on a draft impact fee ordinance. A public committee has been discussing whether or not the city should enact impact fees, in accordance with state law on the process. The council expects to hold the first public hearing on the draft ordinance at its

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March 23 meeting.



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