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El Paso Impact Fees Has Residents Worried

Daniel Novick-KFOX Morning News Reporter

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EL PASO, Texas -- El Paso City Council decided that they will form a committee to look at impact fees. No decisions were made about having or not having impact fees, but that didn't stop many El Pasoans from coming out to speak.

If you pay a monthly water bill, you help to pay for the impact that a new development has on the water and waste water system. With impact fees, that payment shifts from current bill payers to the new developments. Revealed Tuesday in city council, the impact fees can be used for water treatment plants, reservoirs (reservoirs) , and pump stations, among other infrastructures.

The fee for the average new home would run about \$3,000.

Those who question the impact fee worry that the extra \$3,000 on the price tag of a home would mean the difference for some in being able to get financing, but in Texas, some homes that are classified as affordable could be exempt from the impact fee.

"That's why we have the affordability credit provision. So that we can acknowledge the unique nature of El Paso, it's median household income, and the challenges that individuals face in home ownership," said Rick Giardina from Red Oak Consulting

If city council does pass what is in front of them Tuesday, that means that a committee would be created to decide the best way to implement impact fees, but that is only one piece of a very lengthy process before any of this becomes a reality.

If impact fees are put in place, they would not go into effect until at least March 1. 2010.

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