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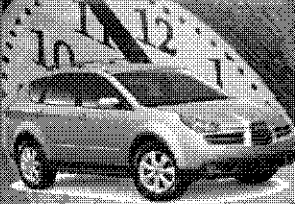
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Impact fees, pool work on city agenda

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Impact fees, a contract for work on the city pool and possible new fees for hooking up to city services are among items on the Twin Falls City Council's agenda tonight.

Council members approved the city's revised comprehensive plan last week, paving the way for impact fees to be discussed. Tonight, the second of two public hearings will focus on a proposed ordinance creating the fees, paid by builders before a building permit is issued as one way the city can pay for its growth.

According to a staff report, the proposed ordinance would set fees aside for police, fire, parks and street improvements, as well as detail the process of collecting fees and issuing refunds and exemptions.

Impact fees for a single-family home would cost \$1,606, retail space \$1.68 per square foot, industrial space 67 cents per square foot and so on. The suggested amounts are largely the result of a committee that studied a consultant's recommendation, which first came in at \$4,977 for a single-family home.

A "fee administrator" would oversee collecting the fees, preparing an annual report for the council and other duties. The report suggests adding that role to Finance Director Gary Evans' duties.

The council will also consider awarding a bid for re-plastering work on the city pool, a project officials budgeted \$110,000 for. The work would fully replace the plaster on the pool, which has only had minor patch work done as needed since the facility was built in 1989. A staff report puts the life expectancy of the type of plaster used at about 10 to 15 years, depending on maintenance and upkeep.

The city sent four requests for proposals to three Utah companies and one in Idaho, but did not receive any qualified bids by the due date, Dec. 1. Since that time, Custom Pools & Patio of Boise sent in a \$99,837 bid, the report states. Staff recommends the council approve that bid, legal under a section of Idaho Code.

The project would take three to four weeks to complete and is aimed for February.

The council will also hear an informational presentation from staff on possible fees the city could charge for connecting to its water and sewer systems.

Such facilities charges have been talked about since 2006, according to a staff report. But discussion was held off until impact fees were resolved.

New residential water accounts could be charged a one-time fee of \$3,450. The staff report suggests a wastewater fee of \$1,400 per residential account. The amounts are not an official proposal, and a small sewer fee of \$347 per account has been charged since about 1999, Evans said Sunday.

About \$300,000 in the current city budget is tabbed to come from the new fees, should they be approved, according to the report.

The council meets at 5 p.m. at 305 3rd Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

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