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Oroville Council delays agreement on developer fees

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OROVILLE — The Oroville City Council postponed a decision election night on a settlement with Feather River Recreation and Park District for park development impact fees.

After a 5:30 p.m. closed session, it was apparent the council hadn't made a decision.

"Direction was given to continue working with the Feather River Recreation and Park District," said Mayor Steve Jernigan at the 7 p.m. open session.

The disagreement between the city and the park district over a mechanism to help the district collect impact fees has resulted in five lawsuits, which include some developers who have proposed housing developments in county areas the city has approved for annexation.

Jernigan and FRRPD Board Chairwoman Monique Gurr had recommended in a letter a couple of months ago that the council pass a resolution requiring developers to pay a park impact fee directly to the district before the city issued building permits.

Since the letter, attorneys for both agencies have been discussing an agreement.

At the regular meeting Tuesday, Matthew Francois, an attorney representing FRRPD from Cassidy, Shimko, Dawson and Kawakami, asked the city to resolve the issue that night.

"It's been going on too long, and we think it could

be resolved tonight," Francois said.

He said both agencies were spending a lot of money for attorneys.

However, City Attorney Dwight Moore said the city still hadn't come to a decision on the resolution for collecting a park impact fee for FRRPD.

Moore said the city had issues to resolve, but he didn't identify the issues.

"I don't want to discuss that in public now," Moore said.

He said the issue would come back to the council in closed session and at some future date in open session.

Vice Mayor Jamie Johansson said city councilors had agreed the park district should collect a regional park fee. However, now that other entities had been brought into the issue, the city had to ensure other lawsuits weren't brought against the city, he said.

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