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Planners OK proposed fees; Impact fees proposal to go before council

By Chauna Aguilar, Okeechobee News

The City Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals had a full agenda at their meeting on Thursday, May 17.

Following procedure, the board found the city impact fees compatible with the comprehensive plan.

The impact fee ordinance will basically implement the concept that new development generates a need for infrastructure and that it should then contribute to the revenue via impact fees.

No changes were made to the ordinance itself during the board meeting, and the numbers remained the same.

Besides city fees, residents of the city will also have to pay school impact fees and a portion of the county impact fees for new construction in the city limits.

The city's impact fees are divided into several categories: residential; office; institutional, and recreational; industrial; and, commercial/retail.

The residential category includes four areas: single family (and mobile home on a single family lot); multi-family apartment; mobile home; and, hotel.

The proposed impact fee for a new single family home or mobile home on a single family lot is \$1,506 — which is composed of \$745 for public works, \$356 for law enforcement and \$405 for fire.

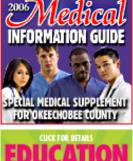
A multi-family apartment will be assessed a city impact fee of \$1,240 per unit — which is composed of \$812 for public works, \$112 for law enforcement and \$316 for law enforcement.

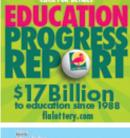
Mobile homes will be assessed \$1,086 per unit which is the total of \$677 for public works, \$114 for law enforcement and \$295 for fire.

Hotels, which are also in the residential category, will be assessed \$689 per room from which \$177 is for public works, \$180 is for law enforcement and \$332 is for fire.

The office, institutional and recreational category is separated into different categories depending on the type of occupancy, which









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Click here to get FREE custom coupons. determines the impact of the building.

A general, medical or dentist office will be assessed \$222 per 1,000 square feet. This total is comprised of \$125 for public works, \$30 for law enforcement and \$67 for fire.

In the industrial category — light industrial and manufacturing — the developer will be assessed \$265 per 1,000 square feet which is made up of \$177 for public works, \$18 for law enforcement and \$70 for fire.

General industrial, warehouse and mini-warehouse will be imposed fees of \$260 per 1,000 square feet. That total comes from \$177 for public works, \$18 for law enforcement and \$65 for fire.

Commercial/retail establishments include: restaurants; fast-food restaurants; convenience stores; pharmacy with drive thru; new car sales; and, retail shopping centers. These establishments will be assessed \$442 per 1,000 square feet. That total comes from \$177 for public works, \$121 for law enforcement and \$144 for fire.

This ordinance will go for the final public hearing for adoption on Tuesday, June 5, before the City Council.

In other business, the board postponed two applications for a small scale future land use map amendment and rezoning. Both were submitted by Vikki Aaron on behalf of property owner Sheri Lachapelle.

The applications seek to change the 1.31-acre property located at 813 Southwest Second St. from single family to multi-family. The matter was delayed because the board wanted additional information from the property owner on the proposed development.

The board expressed reservations changing this parcel of land to multifamily due to the pending changes and uncertainty of surrounding land from single family to multi-family.

In unrelated business, the board approved:

I a small scale future land use map amendment and rezoning application submitted by Muhammad Nooruddin to change the future land use from single family to commercial professional office for a .64-acre property at 608 Northeast Second Ave.

I a special exception to allow a crematory in association with a funeral home in a heavy commercial zoning district submitted by Vikki Aaron on behalf of applicants Family Heritage Funeral Services, LLC and property owner CBC Management, Inc. for the 1.54-acre property located at 1201 N. Parrott Ave.

I a special exception to allow a car wash in a heavy commercial zoning district submitted by Carl Ferrero on behalf of property owner CR Investment of Okeechobee, Inc. on .49-acre site north of the railroad tracks on U.S. 441 N.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar may be reached at <u>caguilar@newszap.com</u>.

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