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## City impact fees delayed

### Interim managers to be discussed

By CHERYL BRINKLEY-DN Staff Writer  
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RED BLUFF - Although the city council passed a resolution for the new development impact fees last month, the second reading of the ordinance was pulled from the March 7 agenda at the request of Mayor Andy Houghton.

"We want more study and analysis of the numbers in the final report," Houghton said Monday.

Neither Houghton nor city attorney Richard Crabtree would comment on whether these numbers had anything to do with City Manager Susan Price being placed on administrative leave late on March 2.

The resolution to update the development impact fee schedule was approved in a 4-1 vote on Feb. 21 with Councilman Wayne Brown voting no.

The ordinance amending Chapter 17 of the city municipal code was unanimously approved.

Houghton said Monday that it was after the first reading that the council decided to get further study and analysis of the numbers, but would not explain why.

There are always two readings of an ordinance before an issue becomes final.

The city council meets tonight in closed session to continue its discussion on Price's administrative leave and possibly to make a decision. Crabtree said the council may not make an appointment for an interim city manager tonight, but there will be a discussion of candidates.

"The League of California Cities has been contacted and, although I do not have a list yet, the League said it will provide a list of retired city managers so an interim city manager can be selected," Crabtree said. Price declined to comment Monday.

After placing Price on administrative leave, the council again met in closed session after its regular council meeting on March 7. The city council met for only 30 minutes before reopening the session at 9:30 p.m. to announce that no action was taken.

Price was originally placed on paid administrative leave about 11:30 p.m. on March 2 after a four and one-half hour closed session discussion by the city council. City council members and the city attorney declined to comment on the reasons for their decision.

Price was hired as Red Bluff City Manager on April 17, 2001 at \$65,000. A pay raise in 2002 took Price's salary up to \$77,100 and to \$85,326 in 2003. The council did not give her a raise in 2004, but extended her contract to 2011. At Price's evaluation in 2005, the city council gave Price a 6-percent pay raise taking her to \$90,445.

"You have to consider, too, that she was doing two jobs," Houghton said. "Not only was she the city manager,

but she continued her job as a grant writer for the city."

If the city council decides to terminate Price tonight, the city will have to come up with a lump sum for six months pay plus all accrued benefits, composite leave, holidays and compensatory time. The salary for six months totals \$45,222.50.

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