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Additional information regarding Stormwater Agenda item

1 message

Suzanne Ludlow <suzannel@takomaparkmd.gov>

Wed, Apr 22, 2020 at 4:16 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

Daryl Braithwaite and I want to provide you with an additional option for consideration on the Stormwater Fee matter. Based on the Black and Veatch Study, if the City were to update the ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) to 2,116 sq ft (from the current 1,228 sq ft) and maintain the same rate system whereby single-family residential property owners pay a flat fee and commercial and institutional property owners pay a fee based on their impermeable surface square footage divided by the ERU, then the ERU flat fee rate would increase to \$108.47 (or \$108.50) from the current \$92.

This option would address the inequity issues that were raised when the more accurate information was compiled on square footage of impervious surfaces. Right now, commercial and institutional properties pay a disproportionate amount of the \$700,000 stormwater fee revenue each year. Currently they pay an aggregate total of \$380,000, but using the more accurate data, they should only pay \$253,000, which is \$126,000 less. As we look to help our businesses and reduce legal risk, this approach may be a good choice and would not require a City Code change.

It should be noted that I included \$50,000 in the General Fund in the Proposed FY21 budget to help phase in the costs of a new stormwater rating system. Those funds could be used to meet other needs, or could provide a credit of \$13.50 to the 3634 single-family residential properties, bringing the rate for them down from \$108.50 to \$95 for the next year.

Best,

Suzanne

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