

Business (Economic) Development Incentives

The list below identifies business development incentives established by City Council that pertain to commercial enterprises in the City. In addition, businesses located in the City are also eligible for County incentives, if they meet established criteria.

- Economic development tax rebate for certain new businesses and expansion of existing businesses via ordinance

At its May 2, 2012 meeting, City Council discussed the voter approved economic development tax exemption ordinance applicable for Charlotte County (including businesses within the City of Punta Gorda). Instead of developing an ordinance similar to the County and placing it on a referendum for voter approval, Council decided to handle any such requests for tax relief as a tax rebate on a case by case basis via ordinance and public hearing. A business within the City could request a rebate on its City property taxes up to 70% for a period of up to 10 years. The City would use the County criteria as a guide but not be limited to its contents. The County Commission considers the following factors:

- ✓ Number of current and projected employees of the business located in the County;
 - ✓ Average wage of employees of the business;
 - ✓ Amount of capital investment;
 - ✓ Innovative business;
 - ✓ Commitment to local procurement; and
 - ✓ Net positive contribution to the local economy.
- Economic development incentive using utility funds for qualifying development within the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) district

On August 29, 2012, City Council approved an ordinance establishing an economic development incentive using water and wastewater utility funds for qualifying development within the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) district. The business development must be identified as a targeted industry as identified by Enterprise Florida and the Governor's Office of Tourism, trade and Economic Development, or identified by resolution of the County Commission or City Council. Rather than the standard 25% up charge for users outside the city limits, eligible properties in ECAP will only be charged an additional 10%. Applicants are required to enter into a voluntary pre-annexation agreement with the City, committing to annex into the City at such time as the property becomes contiguous. The Cheney Brothers distribution center has notified the City that they will be requesting incentive relief once the project becomes eligible.

- Fair share impact fee revised methodology and fee schedule

On February 15, 2012, City Council approved an ordinance revising its fair share impact fee program by keeping in place suspension of fees for fire, police, general government and change of use. In addition, the City adopted a revised methodology and schedule for parks and roads that results in the following:

- ✓ 2,500 square foot single family home – impact fees reduction from \$1,813 to \$1,273 or savings of \$540.
- ✓ 3,000 square foot retail – impact fees reduction from \$7,890 to \$2,310 or savings of \$5,580.
- ✓ 1,500 square foot office – impact fees reduction from \$1,290 to \$495 or savings of \$795.
- ✓ 3,500 square foot restaurant – impact fees reduction from \$9,205 to \$2,695 or savings of \$6,510.

- Installment payment program for commercial development and affordable housing

On January 19 and April 20, 2011, City Council approved ordinances that provided for an installment payment program of 5 years for existing commercial development connecting to the City's utility system and extending the installment payment program for payment of fair share impact fees from 3 to 5 years for new commercial and affordable housing, respectively.

- Tax rebate for voluntary annexation of commercial properties

Over the past 5 years, City Council has offered a tax rebate program to property owners who voluntarily annex into the City. The program rebates 50% of the City-portion of the tax bill for a period of 2 years. To-date, Goodyear and the LOOP have qualified for such rebates.

- Business Development Reserves

City Council budgeted placed approximately \$25,000 in a business development reserve account 5 years ago. Funds have been spent on such projects as the Ripkin Feasibility Study, Brazilian Delegation and Punta Gorda Entrepreneurial Program. There is \$10,000 left in the account.