

Attention Chattanooga!

Over the past 90 days a group of business people appointed by the Chattanooga City Council, have been working on recommendations to address ways to meet regulatory needs of the City's storm water program.

They used the mission given to them by the City Council to develop recommendations that would be good for the environment, minimize impact to user fee payers and provide a clear direction for the future.

The group was comprised of business leaders with expertise in engineering, commercial real estate, government, environmental law, non-profit organizations and business. Together, they have amassed over 245 years of experience that they've called upon to develop recommendations for the City Council to consider.

Storm Water Fee Proposals by the Numbers:

Blue Ribbon Storm Water Quality Committee:

\$10 million program Cuts the proposed program in half Costs you less

Credits for water quality improvements to reduce fees placed on non-residential users at a maximum of 75% off the bill - indefinitely.

Encourages users to make long term investments that will promote positive changes for the overall storm water program.

Residential rate: \$115.20 this year Goes down to \$102 in subsequent years Costs you less

Nonresidential rate: \$60 per equivalent residential unit \$72 in subsequent years

Costs business less.

The City's Proposal: \$12 million program, fort year Goes up CO \$16.7 million in 5 years Coors you more

Credits for water quality improvements to reduce fees placed on non-residential users at 75% of for 1 year. Credit drops to 50% in subsequent years.

Less incentive to make long term changes.

Residential rate: \$115.20 each year

Costs you more Nonresidential rate: \$78 for first year, rising to \$115.20 in subsequent years.

Costs business more.

If the more costly proposal is successful, businesses will be tempted to move their businesses out of Chattanooga to places like Bradley, Catoosa, or Rhea Counties, which have NO storm water fee.

If the more costly proposal is successful, non-profit organizations who already are challenged during this Great Recession, will be forced to offer fewer services to those who are in need.

If the more costly proposal is successful, those considering ways to reduce their bill through credits may not want to take additional expensive steps, because the return on investment simply won't be there.

Bottom Line:

If the more costly proposal is successful, Chattanooga's storm water fees will be the highest in the entire Southeast.

Get Involved:

Call City Hall at: 757.5198 and ask your representative to support the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Come to tonight's meeting and next week's meeting at 6 pm at City Hall to show your concern and let your voice be heard.

Working together, we can find a way to meet current and future needs while protecting the special place we all call home. And that's not only good business sense. It's common sense.

Visit: www.ChattanoogaStormwater.com

Paid for by area business organizations, business owners, faith based organizations and non-profits.