

Silverhill council backs environmental plan

By John Underwood
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SILVERHILL - After failing to have a quorum at its Feb. 19 meeting, the Silverhill Town Council met with all council members present Monday night at the Silverhill Town Hall.

Mayor Frankie Kucera and council members John Ullrich and Shirley Stephens attended the Feb. 19 meeting and heard a presentation from David Yeager asking the council's support for stormwater runoff legislation.

Yeager, who represents Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, is petitioning local governments for support of legislation that would allow the formation of a volunteer coalition to consider options of dealing with stormwater runoff.

One of the possibilities is to establish a fee which could be charged for new development. Yeager said the fee could be used to fund five different areas:

- Stewardship or master planning.
- Development of consistent standards across the country.
- Regulatory compliance.
- Stream system management for large drainage projects.
- Begin local service participation.

"We are really just at the first step in the process," Yeager told those present at the Feb. 19 meeting. "We cannot do anything without legislative support so getting that support is the first step."

If legislation is passed, the council would be under no obligation to participate in any established program or fees.

Almost all of the municipalities in Baldwin County, along with the Baldwin County Commission, have agreed to support the legislation.

With only three present at the Feb. 19 meeting, no vote could be taken, but with council members Michael Allegri Jr., Steve Brooks and Tim Wilson also present at Monday's meeting, council members voted unanimously to support the legislation.

In other business, the council voted to contract with AlaTax for business license collection.

Town clerk Bonnie McNeil said the town already contracted with AlaTax for the town's tax collection and cross-referencing on business licenses.

The council also voted Monday to:

- Table action on cost of living raises for town employees until the town decides what to do about restructuring business license fees.
- Renewed the town's sign at the Robertsdale High School baseball field for two years at a cost of \$250.
- Appointed Tonie Norden as the town's building inspector.
- Voted to send the town's court clerk to a two-day seminar in Mobile at a cost of \$140.