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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Steve Dush, AICP, Community Development Director
Date: February 27, 2012
Subject: **GIS Fees**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Staff recommends adopting GIS bulk data fees.

BACKGROUND

Over the past three years, the City has developed robust Geographic Information Systems (GIS) databases to support its operations and management. The Community Development Department maintains more than fifty GIS layers including aerial photos, parcels, street centerlines, hydrology, zoning, and storm water information. These geofiles are internally accessible to City staff and their use is being integrated into the City's business processes to improve the way we do business.

The City routinely shares GIS information with entities or organizations with which the City is doing business and has signed a GIS Data License Agreement. For example, we shared address files with ChatComm for 911 emergency dispatching and aerial imagery with Urban Collage for Master Plan renderings and visuals.

As part of the 2012 Budget, the City Council approved the financial resources to develop and implement an interactive mapping/web browser application for public access. Staff is finalizing the Request for Proposals to select a firm begin the process of creating the publically accessible, interactive mapping/data viewer which will allow citizens to access GIS data using a web browser and create custom maps for printing or download.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the user groups described above, private firms in search of bulk data also contact the City to request GIS data. These firms are most often seeking large amounts of GIS data to allow them to use and manipulate the data set to do their own research.

Because GIS data is considered proprietary intellectual property, it is afforded certain protections under state law. GIS data is one of the very few types of information that is not subject to the Open Records Act. Additionally, O.C.G.A. § 50-29-2 allows cities to be reasonably compensated for the records, information, or access provided. Additionally, it should be noted, that in accordance with O.C.G.A, the City has a data sharing agreement that must be signed by data users/purchasers that places limitations on the usage of the GIS data. From researching surrounding cities and counties with GIS databases, of those that choose to share datasets, they do charge GIS fees, as listed in the chart on the following page.



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Jurisdiction	City Boundary	Sub-divisions	Tax Parcels	Zoning	Street Center lines	Aerial	Topo-graphy	Storm-water
Sandy Springs	No Data for Sale							
Gwinnett County	\$600					\$100	\$100	\$100
DeKalb County	\$100	Not available	Not available in SHP format	\$830	\$100	\$100 /tile	\$100 /tile	Not available
Marietta	No Data for Sale							
Dunwoody (proposed)	\$600					\$100 /tile	\$25 /tile	\$100

Based on these existing fees, staff recommends adopting the fees listed in the bottom row for GIS bulk data in the City of Dunwoody. Council may increase or decrease these proposed fees.

Staff believes these suggested fees strike an appropriate balance between compensating the City for cost of providing staff time, labor, and other costs associated with compiling and transferring the data without being inappropriately high or out of line with neighboring jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDATION

If the Council desires to move forward with adopting GIS bulk data fees, staff recommends adopting GIS fees by Resolution.