

Members present at the Budget Workshop held September 9, 2023, were Mayor Tony McKnight, Councilmembers Billie Petty, Eva Alexander, Gordon Cole, Kayla White, and Robert Kalka.

Employees: Melanie Pounds and Chief Harold Rapsilver

Visitors: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Councilmember Gordon Cole led the Invocation.

This budget workshop was called to receive the 2023-2024 General & Water Sewer operation budget for the City of Wells.

The Voter Approved Tax Rate is the tax rate necessary to bring in last year's tax revenue at this year's net taxable value for all properties that exist in both years. Using the certified values, effective rate, and rollback rate, the Council can estimate the need for property tax revenue during the budgeting process. This helps determine the proposed property tax rate for 2023. The tax rates for this year are:

- Voter Approved Tax Rate: \$044324 per \$100 – This rate was selected by the council.
- No-New Revenue Tax Rate: \$0.42738 per \$100

The budget and the property tax rate will be adopted at the regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Adjourn for lunch at 11:20 am; The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am.

The Council approved a 2-year contract extension for Chief Rapsilver and a \$5.00 per hour pay raise. No other pay raises were approved this budget year.

The council approved two updates to the employee handbook.

1. City employees that are also a roster member of the fire department volunteers will be compensated for missed payroll time if the employee is called to assist the fire department the city will pay the missed hours, but the employee must sign a liability waiver for any accidents during the volunteer hours.
2. Gratuity and tips will not be covered by the City of Wells during education trips made by the city employees or EMS members.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon Cole and a second by Councilmember Kayla White to increase the water base rate charge from \$25.81 to \$39.46 to cover expenses in the water department effective November 1, 2023, for the October water usage. This is effectively a 53% base rate increase. Voting "AYE" Councilmember Gordon Cole, Kayla White, and Eva Alexander. Voting "NAY" Councilmember Billie Petty and Robert Kalka. Motion Carried.

Effective October 1, 2023, trash rates will increase from \$16.19 trash & \$1.25 tax = \$17.44 to \$17.11 trash & \$1.33 tax = \$18.44.

A motion was made by Councilmember Robert Kalka and second by Councilmember Kayla White to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Mayor

City Secretary