

May 26, 2015

The Red Lodge City Council met for a public hearing on May 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams. The meeting was called for the Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Changes. This meeting was posted at City Hall, the Red Lodge Post Office and in the legal ads of the Carbon County News.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS** Present: Mayor Williams, Aldermen Foisy, Mahan, Larson, Labrie, Schoenike, and Brown. Absent: None.

On April 28, 2015, at a Regular Council Meeting, the City Council passed Resolution 3384- a Resolution of Intent to Increase Water and Sewer Rates. Notice of the May 26, 2015 Public Hearing on the Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Changes was mailed to all customers, posted at City Hall and the Red Lodge Post Office on May 13, 2015. The same notice was posted in the Carbon County News Editions of May 7, May 14, and May 21, 2015.

**Public Hearing on the Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Changes** Chad Hanson of Great West Engineering gave a power point presentation to explain the current water and sewer rate situation, the projects within the 2015 Capital Improvements Plan for the water and sewer systems and the proposed water and sewer rates. The last water rate increase was in 2007 and the last sewer rate increase occurred in 2000.

**Public Comment Period:**

The following citizens made comment:

Matt Schrowe, 120 S. Platt- commented he is against the changes. He just spent over \$8,000 to replace his water line, which was connected to the old water line on Platt and had to connect it across the street on the new water main. He felt it was a big increase.

Bob Nickoloff, 6 S. Haggin- Asked if the City is looking at any major projects after the five years.

Jim Coons, 16 Jack Lackey Lane- was concerned if the projects in the Capital Improvements Plan were more wants than needs.

Linda Barbee, 423 S. Villard- Her concern was if the City had made any provisions for elderly people who are on fixed incomes.

Wanda Kennicott, 470 Bobcat Circle- wondered how the averaging of the winter months worked and wanted to know the cost of installing a meter for irrigating during the summer months.

**Council Comments:**

Schoenike explained the \$2.00 curb stop fee. He said the City will take on responsibility of water service lines from the curb stop to the main water line. This will give the City control of the quality of backfill and paving.

Mayor Williams addressed some of the questions. He said the projects are all needed. They started out with 100 projects and narrowed it down to 21 projects. Some of the projects are regulatory driven, meaning some are out of compliance or will be in the near future.

Jim Bushnell, Public Works Director, said the cost of a meter would be \$250 plus the cost of a plumber to install it. The meter would only measure the water being used for irrigating and would not be charged a sewer fee.

Foisy said the Council is discussing the issue of the elderly on fixed incomes.


Public Hearing was continued until June 9, 2015 City Council regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



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Mayor

ATTEST:



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City Clerk