

**TRUTH IN TAXATION  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The "Truth in Taxation" City Council meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Councilperson Soltzak followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was done by Clerk Anderson. Members present: Councilpersons Soltzak, T. Troumbly, and Sertich. Councilperson Pollard and Mayor Nielsen were absent with notice.

Councilperson Soltzak explained that the numbers have been reviewed several times. The expenditure budget was reviewed line by line and revisions made for the rising costs that were known. It was noted that the biggest hit to the expenditure budget was in health insurance premiums for AFSCME represented employees. The Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) rates went up drastically which added a minimum of \$41,000 in expenses for 2023. Clerk Anderson indicated that she made the adjustments to the property and liabilities insurance lines as rates will go up five percent next year. She also indicated that she and the Public Works Supervisor were continuing to work on allocating the appropriate costs to the Public Utilities Fund which has brought down expenditures to the general fund. This is a work in progress. It was noted that the increase to health insurance premiums created the deficit.

A discussion was held regarding property taxes in general and what some of the other impacts were for taxpayers. There was much discussion among Council members regarding both the revenue and expenditure budget. It was noted again that there just wasn't anything seen that could be cut. It was stated that the rural benefit ratio will increase 10% for 2023 bringing the ratio to 65%. The final 10% increase bringing the ratio to 75% will be in 2024.

Two persons of public were present; one resident; one non-resident. The response was 'no' when asked if there were any questions.

The final discussion was with a 10% increase to the city's levy, there would still be a \$36,946 deficit between revenues and expenditures. If the levy were dropped to an 8% increase, could the city stomach it for one year hoping that additional revenue elsewhere would narrow the gap. The levy would then be \$934,099 (\$827,263 for the General fund; \$106,836 for the Library fund). The gap would increase by \$17,297, leaving a shortfall of \$54,243.

Councilperson T. Troumbly **motioned to approve an 8% increase in the levy bringing the total to be collected as \$934,099 (\$827,263 for the general fund -- \$106,836 for the public library) in 2023 and to approve the 2023 budget as presented with \$1,854,130 in expenses.** The motion was seconded by Councilperson Sertich. Roll Call: Ayes: Councilpersons T. Troumbly, Sertich, and Soltzak.

A **motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.** was made by Councilperson Soltzak with support from Sertich. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried; meeting adjourned.

  
Thomas Nielsen, Mayor

  
Brianá Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer