

August 9, 2023

Work Session Minutes

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

City Manager Pullium presented the council with a Water & Sewer rate study, rates will have to increase to cover the debt the city has. Standards and Poors Global advised the city to control the water loss and increase water & sewer rates to keep the present bond rating. The flat rate and rate per usage will increase and the different size meters will also increase. The city has not had an increase in rates in about 15 years and the city is behind in revenues to do necessary repairs and pay the current debt. The city did decrease the water loss from 50% to 15%. The city has already had to pay \$107,000 for 2 new pumps that were not in the FY 2024 budget. The city has not raised rates for approximately 15 years, this should have been a gradual process over the years.

City Manager Pullium presented a wage & salary study for Public Safety. This study is to get the police and fire department pay competitive with the surrounding area. The police department is currently down 5 officers, the officers all left due to pay. In order to get competitive pay there will have to be some major cuts in the budget. One of the proposed cuts would be closing the jail and dispatch. There are 3 dispatchers that can retire and move the one dispatcher who can't retire to another job within the city. The closing of the jail will save money on salaries, insurance and reduce the liability in the jail. City Manager Pullium advised the council if they want to keep the jail and increase wages, the council will have to raise taxes, no other way.

No Millage rate was discussed until the council decides if they need to go up on taxes.

The proposed changes to the code of ordinances were discussed. The changes to the code of ordinance are to include unsafe buildings, Blighted property, Residential & Commercial Building Maintenance and Residential Rental Dwelling Unit Inspection & Maintenance.

Other:

Councilmember Wilkins requested speed breakers on East Main Street.

Mayor Brening, crosswalks are going to be installed soon.