

RIGGINS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP PART 2
June 26, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Riggins City Hall

Mayor McClure called this special meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting is to complete budget discussion and decisions for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024).

Roll Call: Bill Sampson, Roy Akins, and Brady Clay. Wilson was absent.

Staff: Dan Wash

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – 2023-24: Council reviewed the ***"long term plan for construction, repair, rehabilitation or purchase of capital assets having a life of more than 5 years"***. Clerk indicated this is a recommended tool for tracking descriptions, amount and funding source.

REVIEW BUDGET PREP PROGRESS: Council reviewed the status of the expenditure spreadsheet and notes; more information is needed for some areas before completion.

CONSIDERATION OF A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES: Council reviewed the last pay increase which was effective October 2022 – 10% for full-time employees, and 8.5% for part-time. After lengthy discussion, it was determined to increase all employees 3.5%.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AUDIT REPORT: Clerk reported the auditor will report on last fiscal year at the July 12th City Council meeting.

SEWER: Councilor Clay called the Council's attention to the IDEQ response to public comments for the State Revolving Fund (FY24) Letter of Interest for a planning grant that stated, *"DEQ reviewed the Riggins affordability information. The rates are currently at \$31 a month and the threshold is \$46.36, therefore, Riggins does not qualify for the affordability points. The total points remain the same. No action required."* In other words, if the City's sewer rate was increased to \$46.36, it's likely the city would receive grant funding for a facility plan update; cities should be proactive about increasing rates rather than not raise rates and expect grants to cover their expenses. The last sewer rate increase was October 2018 of \$2 per EU. Discussed increasing the current sewer rate of \$31 per EU to \$47 per EU. With expenses increasing – supplies, power, fuel, etc. – we must increase rates to be able to maintain services.

Proportional billing concept – Councilor Clay pointed out that if one residence uses 500 gallons of water and pays \$29, and another residence uses 16,000 gallons and only pays \$31.80, it's only \$2.80 for 15,500 gallons more.

Sewer billing based on amount of water used billing – some cities do base sewer billing based on water consumption. This may be something to consider in the future.

WATER RATES: the last water rate increase was October 2019 when the base was raised \$2 across the board. Reviewed the billing rate structure for residential. It was noted there are some residential customers that use an enormous amount of water; discussed structuring the rates to charge the high water users more than the average water user. Lengthy discussion on rates; decided to not increase Small and Large Commercial Rates. For residential, increase as follows:

0 – 5,000 gallons \$31 (Base)
5,000 – 10,000 gallons – plus .35 cents per each 1,000 gallons
10,000 – 15,000 gallons – plus .0025 cents PER GALLON
15,000 – 30,000 gallons – plus .0050 cents PER GALLON
30,000 – 50,000 gallons – plus .0075 cents PER GALLON
50,000 – 100,000 gallons – plus 1 cent PER GALLON
100,000 – 150,000 gallons – plus 1-1/2 cents PER GALLON
150,000 and over – plus 2 cents PER GALLON

FINANCE CHARGE – PAST DUE: current finance charge on past due utility billing is \$5, or interest on the past due balance of 1% per month, whichever is greater. Councilor Sampson brought up the monthly past due report the Council reviews, and that it seems to be the same people and businesses each month. Briefly discussed increasing the finance charge in an effort to persuade customers to pay their bill on time. No decision was made.

DIVE TEAM – YEAR-END BONUS: Councilor Akins requested that the \$1,250 that has been going into the Dive Team OP Fund be amended for a year-end bonus split amongst Dive Team volunteers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Tilley
City Clerk-Treasurer