

Falls City Council Approves Budget

(KLZA)-- On a 5-1 vote Monday night the Falls City, City Council approved the 2014-15 Fiscal Year budget with a tax asking of \$671,060. The levy approved will be 45.12-cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, a decrease of not quite two-tenths of a cent from last years budget.

Due to a 5.6 percent increase in the valuation of property in the City, the levy will bring in an additional \$32,833 more than last year. The tax dollars coming in will be five percent more. The valuation increased by 7.86-million dollars.

City Administrator Gary Jorn said the budget includes a three percent increase in expenditures and noted a two point five percent wage increase for city employees.

No one from the public spoke on the budget proposal. Council members Angie Nolte and Mike Dougherty were absent from the meeting. Fourth Ward Council Person Crystal Davis voted against the budget proposal. She told MSC News following the meeting that she did not want to increase property taxes.

Jorn also outlined some of the factors that affected the Utility side of the budget. They include plans to start construction of a new water well and equipment replacement.

Another big expense anticipated in the next year is going to be infrastructure under Highway 73, which is Harlan Street in Falls City. The Board of Public Works is currently looking at repairing infrastructure under the Highway, prior to the State coming through and rehabbing the street, which is planned for 2016.

Prior to the budget hearing and adoption the Council approved a resolution to transfer \$320,000 from the Capital Improvement fund to the General Fund. Those monies are generated by the City sales tax and are used to balance the General Fund Budget if needed.

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