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Effingham Council Raises Gas & Electric Franchise Fees

(KAIR) -- A slight increase will come on Effingham residents' gas and electric bills.

This comes after the City Council voted to raise gas and electric franchise fees to four percent each Wednesday evening.

That is a one percent increase for electric and two percent for gas.

City Clerk Pat Strine says residents won't notice the increase on their electric bills until the end of 2013 and mid-2014 for their gas bills.

The council also met with county Emergency Management Director Wes Lanter, acting on behalf of the County Commission,, who requested written agreements for the merger of Rural Fire District Two and Effingham fire departments before the Commissioners would act on it.

The council also learned that the broadband internet service from Haug Communications may come at the end of the month.

Haug said they plan to work jointly with Rainbow Communications, who is ending their service in the city, in order to see a smooth transition.

The council, looking forward to the summer swimming season, had decided that they would allow lifeguards with YMCA training to be hired at the municipal pool.. Previously, the city only allowed lifeguards with American Red Cross lifeguard training.

Meanwhile, the city pool is in the process of being sandblasted and repainted in time for a Memorial Day opening

Many Signals Communications