

**CITY OF EVART  
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:00PM  
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Szeliga called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**Present Council Members:** Matt Hildebrand, Sandy Szeliga, Jim Schwab

**Absent Council Members:** Mayor Chris Emerick, Sean Duffy

**Present Staff:** City Manager Pepper Lockhart, Downtown Development Director (DDA) Todd Bruggema, Finance Director Jennie Duncan, Chief of Police John Beam, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

**Guests:** Ruth Ann Northon, Mr. Chown

**New Business:**

*Water/Sewer Rate Increases 23-24 Fiscal Year*

According to the rate study done in 2021, rate increases were proposed through the 2025-2026 fiscal year. It is being proposed to approve the rates for the next three fiscal years. This will help forecast the budgets and follow through with future projects for the city's infrastructure. Schwab is questioning why a rate increase was already budgeted for prior to coming before council for discussion. Schwab recommends bringing the proposed changes to council next year before the budget hearing. Hildebrand isn't opposed to the proposed three year rate structure, but agrees that it should still be brought to council for discussion each year before the budget hearing.

*Sergeant Job Description*

Chief took the job posting of prior patrol sergeant along with the paperwork he received from the Big Rapids Housing Commission and merged them together to create an appropriate job description for the sergeant position here. Chief is asking council to review the listing and provide any feedback they may have before moving forward.

*Well Pump Motor*

This item will be removed from tonight's agenda as quotes are still coming in.

*AT&T Tower*

After reviewing where T-Mobile has placed their equipment on the water tower, AT&T stated they would use the exact placement to put up their equipment. As an alternative, they propose a lease agreement for building their own tower next to the North water tower. This is just the first step in the negotiation process. Lockhart is asking if council would like to provide any changes to the agreement presented. Hildebrand's concern is the rental rate is too low and suggests using the previous rental rate.

*Department of Public Works Report/Comment*

Painted the yellow parking lines at the Depot using paint we had in storage. Painted new parking lines on S. Main St. PK was in town and painted the center lines on Oak, Cedar and Main St. An old tree location was dug up and new weed mat and stone were put down to improve appearance and maintenance. Removed old trail signs and replaced them with updated signage. Continuing to paint crosswalks, refurbish picnic tables, brush and leaf pick-ups, and stump grinding.

  
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Andrea Grupido, City Clerk