

ROCK FALLS NEWS

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Council Finalizes Sewer Plan



On December 3 the City Council met for a final work session to formulate a strategic plan for the sewer system. Dennis White with PeopleService, Inc. presented the overview of a 5-year plan that covered residential lift stations, standards for the grinder pumps, the collection system, and the treatment system.

Mr. White followed with a discussion of a sewer rate study to finance the proposed improvements to the system.

In order to keep the system viable for many years into the future, a number of improvements and upgrades will be necessary. The two areas with the greatest expense include the replacement of aging grinder pumps, the heart of the system, and the expected repairs to the lagoon system that includes new rip rap and dike improvements.

The expected improvements to the system over a 5-year period have been budgeted to be \$103,378. This ex-



pense is in addition to the normal operating costs of maintaining the system. The total amount for capital improvements and operating costs will amount to \$259,616 for the five-year period.

Such an expense cannot be covered within the present residential rate of \$27 per month. Therefore, the council has proposed a gradual

rate increase over the five-year period. The council will also be using sales tax revenues to offset a considerable portion of the financial burden.

A public hearing has been scheduled for the regular City Council meeting on January 14, 2008, to accept questions and concerns from citizens. The council will be proposing to increase the sewer rate to \$30 per month for the first year of the five-year plan. The rate would probably be increased by one dollar per month in each of the successive years. For example, year 2008 would be \$30 per month, 2009 would be \$31 per month, 2010 would be \$32 per month, etc. However, the council would re-evaluate the financial condition of the sewer fund at the beginning of each year before making a final decision for that year.

The inclusion of sales tax revenues into the sewer fund has kept the rate increase very modest. Without the sales tax relief, the rates would easily exceed \$50 per month.

A public hearing is scheduled for the January 14 City Council meeting regarding sewer rates

Landfill Expands

The Rock Falls city council has been informed that the North Iowa Landfill will be undertaking considerable capital improvements in the near future. This will require an increase in landfill fees. Such fees will most likely be reflected in an increase in the trash collection fees to citizens in North Iowa. The City Council will keep the community informed of this development.

Sewer light blinking?
 Phone:

1-888-861-1921

Pancake Breakfast

All You Can Eat
 Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs,
 Coffee, Juice

Sunday January 6



8-11 AM

Free Will Donation

Community Center

Looking for your Caucus?

Rock Falls/Falls Township precinct political caucus :

Democrat: Roosevelt Middle School , Mason City

Republican: John Adams Middle School, Mason City