

KETTLE FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 24, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jesse Garrett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Dale Drake, John Ridlington, Jesse Garrett and Chris Shurrum.
Michael Weatherman was absent.

Council Member Dale Drake made a motion to excuse Council Member Michael Weatherman from the meeting. Council Member John Ridlington seconded the motion. Motion carried by all. Council Member Chris Shurrum - yes, Council Member John Ridlington - yes and Council Member Dale Drake - yes.

STAFF

Staff - Raena Hallam, Dave Willey and Larry Kulesza.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MAIL RECEIVED

As there were no Announcements and Mail Received, City Council moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As there was no Public Comment, City Council moved on to the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

As there was no Consent Agenda, City Council moved on to Committee Reports.

STAFF REPORTS

As there were no Staff Reports, City Council moved on to New Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

As there were no Committee Reports, City Council moved on to Staff Reports

NEW BUSINESS

2024 POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Council Member Dale Drake stated the officers are required to be in their vehicles during their shifts of eight to twelve hours at a time. He explained the officers are expected to be in good physical condition, so each officer should be offered a gym membership to the gym.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the city already offers a gym membership to all employees and it is traded for three hours of sick time based on wage.

Council Member Dale Drake asked Police Officer Brandon Hoover if he was aware of this offer. Officer Brandon Hoover stated he was not aware of this.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he doesn't want to see the Police Department lose sick time and would rather have it as a benefit.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked if this benefit offer would be a union negotiation issue. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated yes.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the union is not going to negotiate a benefit, however if the city was taking something away there would be a problem.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she does not think there will be an issue, it would just need to be added to the contract.

Mayor Jesse Garrett clarified if Council Member Dale Drake wants to include a paid gym membership for the Police Department. Council Member Dale Drake stated yes.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the Police Officers are the only ones required to sit for a long length of time and need to be in good shape.

Council Member Dale Drake asked what was the percentage increase that the Police Department was asking for. Officer Brandon Hoover stated five percent.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he would like to see a 3.2% for all departments, which would be the same percentage that the federal government is giving this year.

Council Member John Ridlington asked if there was an official CPI index. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated it is the CPI handout.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she added the CPI percentages from June 2022 through May 2023 and divided it by twelve, which comes up to 6.8%.

Council Member Dale Drake stated you are in 2022 and those are extremely high percentages and if you look at 2023 the highest one is a 6.4%. He explained you are including in a 9.1%, 8.5%, 8.3%, 8.2%, 7.7%, 7.1% and 6.5% percent all from last year, so it will be extremely high with this calculation.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated that is how the new resolution is written, June to May. Council Member Dale Drake stated then it needs to be changed.

Council Member Dale Drake stated if the 2023 CPI percentage were divided by nine, he is sure the numbers wouldn't be close to 6.8% and like he said the federal government just came out with a 3.2% for social security.

Council Member John Ridlington stated he thought these terms were set by the agreement with the employees, right? Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the City Council recently adopted a resolution.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the resolution says the City Council Members are not required to give the COLA amount. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated that is correct.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he thinks 3.2% is a good compromise, the city can't keep giving this kind of raise and continue to sustain things.

Council Member John Ridlington stated the Council Members want to treat the employees fairly across the board. He explained there is a lot of inflation going on and the bottom line is the Council Members want to be competitive. Council Member Dale Drake stated he thinks the Council Members are.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated to remember the way the resolution is worded. He explained the Council Members must make the up most effort to provide the maximum COLA. However, if for some reason the budget can't sustain the CPI percentage, then Council Members will look at reducing it by 75%, 50% and 25% then there must be a detailed reason why the COLA is being reduced to that level.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the Council must realize Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam is the one doing the budget and it is her paycheck, which is being increased as well. He explained it is not ethical to have an individual giving themselves raises because it is human nature for that person to try and get as much as they can. He stated he probably would be doing the same thing if he was in Raena's spot.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated she finds that to be personally a real insult. She explained she has been working with the city for twenty-five years and has never ever done that. She stated to Dale, you vote on my salary every December and vote no on my salary every December. She stated that is extremely unfair to say and another thing is it doesn't matter who the mayor is, she drafts a budget based on what the mayor would like to see. Furthermore, she stated the mayor and herself sit down in the mayor's office to go through the budget, which there is nothing hidden, but to accuse her of something like that, maybe Council Member Dale Drake should do the budget.

Council Member Dale Drake stated sense this has been brought up, last year or the year before the budget had an astronomical raise in there and the Mayor kept saying the city has a balanced budget and so it was passed, but he voted no against it. He explained when the final draft budget came out you took out around one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) because you were not comfortable with the way the budget was coming out, but nothing of that included the raises. He understood sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000) of it was for a building. He stated it looks a little suspicious to him, because they are told there is a balanced budget, however, when it came down to the final budget to vote there was another one hundred thousand dollars needed to be taken out.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the systems run live, so when the Budget Workshops are in November and December there are funds close, so it is hard to tell. She explained when Council

Members adopt a budget on the first of December those numbers change all the way through January 20th. Furthermore, there are adjustments within the funds, but the budget based on the ordinance City Council adopted those funds equals out to the ordinance adopted. However, it is the numbers in between, so there are lots of times where she tells the mayor and staff to slow down on spending in this fund. She explained there are also other situations like when well #2 broke down and it affected the budget, because it needed to be fixed.

Council Member Dale Drake stated that is his point being, the City Council keeps giving these large increases, but doesn't have any reserves on anything. He explained the employees are still getting these large raises, however, the things needing to be replaced or repaired are getting cut.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the City Council has been made aware of those big-ticket items.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he said his two cents. He apologized to Raena if she took offense to what he stated, but it is the umbrella she is under. He explained to Raena, you are the one that does ninety-five percent (95%) of the budget and the only one as far as he knows, which really understands where and what is going on in the budget. He stated he has tried and tried to get the whole budget process laid out to where it's reasonable for people to understand. He explained one year it got a little bit where everyone could understand it and now it is right back to the big spreadsheets.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated this is the same format Dale, you specifically requested, which none of us like this format. She explained the department heads can't explain anything with it and to us it is confusing. Furthermore, it doesn't give anyone an actual picture of the budget, but this is what Dale, you have requested, so this is what we do.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if it is healthy to have one individual that only really understands what's going on here. He explained if this was a corporation this would never happen.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated what she really takes offense to is how long Council Member Dale Drake has been on council and never once asked to go through the budget with her. She explained Council Member Dale Drake has had budget meetings

at City Hall, but she was not part of those. Council Member Dale Drake questioned he had budget meetings.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the Council Members need to remember anything that is presented for the budget, is still voted by the members of the Council. He explained even if Raena does show herself with a raise, it is because everyone else is getting one, which is only fair and wages are presented to the Council as a group, not as individuals. Furthermore, he has never seen any instance where he would ever think about Raena showing favoritism to any portion to the salaries. He stated the salaries and benefits are important to the employees and they are important to the city. He explained there was a time when the city was having difficulties keeping Police Officers, because their wages were kept back, and they were limited to advancements. He stated the city has a good crew. Furthermore, the Bible says a labor is worthy of its hire and if Council Members value the employees and their work, then they need to be paid a fair wage. He stated it is the Council Members responsibility to do so. He explained the COLA is based as a average on a twelve-month cycle and his understanding is in the last few years inflation has taken a big portion of our raises to the percentages that is being discussed. However, years before the percentages were only 1.9% or 2.0% so there weren't big raises. He explained the Council Members are not giving raises because they want to, they are giving raises because they must maintain the cost of living and want to maintain a quality employee. He stated if the City Council decided by resolution that the city cannot afford the CPI of 6.8%, then City Council will need to look at modifying the resolution. However, there will need to be an explanation as of why the City Council had to lower the COLA, so the employees will have an understanding as of why this decision was made and there was a valid reason, so hopefully the employees will want to continue to work for the city. He explained if the city must cut back it will be towards everything not just salaries, because if the city wants to maintain quality employees, then they need to be paid a quality employee price. That is my standard!

Council Member John Ridlington stated the bottom line is the Council Members agreed to this process and should follow through to the best of their ability because that is the agreement.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the City Council went through steps to bring the wages for the Police Department and all the

employees up to the same thing as Colville and all the surrounding areas wages. He explained he would really be interested to see how Kettle Falls wages compared to those same city/towns. He doubts they have been getting the increases that Kettle Falls employees have been getting. Furthermore, he stated an employee told him that the City of Kettle Falls pays good.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated if he isn't mistaken when reviewing the budget last time, the Sheriff's Department wages, Colville Police Department wages and Kettle Falls were compared with each other, and they were right in line.

Council Member Dale Drake stated you can't really compare the Sheriff's Department, even though he knows we compete with them and Colville, but we should be competing with Chewelah, a city our size. Colville has three to four times the population that Kettle Falls has.

Council Member John Ridlington stated if we don't pay the same as the Sheriff's Department or are competitive then Kettle Falls is nothing, but a training ground and training is expensive. He explained the time someone goes through the academy the city loses a year by the time they can function. He stated then they can go straight to the Sheriff's Department and make more money.

Council Member Dale Drake stated if they want to go to the Sheriff's Department then they will move on whether they are getting paid the same or not.

Council Member John Ridlington stated it costs the city to train them and any other employee that works for the city. He explained if the city is not going to pay their employees a competitive wage, then they will leave.

Council Member Dale Drake stated this job at the Kettle Falls Police Department is boring as heck. They drive around this little town their whole shift and they see the same thing repeatedly. He explained these young officers come in all full of adrenaline and vinegar. He explained they want to see action and that is why they are moving on because they don't want to be restricted to this little area here. He stated when an officer that has been on the force for ten, fifteen or twenty years he's seen that action and had his thrills. He explained that type of officers might not mind coming in here and driving around here in Kettle Falls.

Council Member John Ridlington stated Council Member Dale Drake isn't going to change, everyone has heard what he has to say. He explained his time is precious, he'd like to move on. Council Member Dale Drake stated he is all for that.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated after the last City Council Meeting, he spoke with Police Officer Brandon Hoover if he has considered adjusting the line item for inflation, because that is what the city is doing with the water rate study. He stated what he is realizing with the water rate study is if you don't adjust the rates of the billing periodically, things fall behind. He suggested the Police Department and the Fire Department do the same. He explained the water funds used to roll over sometimes and we found out it is not a good busy practice. Furthermore, the Police Department and Fire Department budget being submitted has the same numbers as last year.

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated the budget he has submitted is basically a replica of the 2023 budget.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza stated that was his impression so since we are doing the same thing on the water side and realizing when the numbers are all figured out the rates will have to be adjusted the same way Sunshine Disposal has adjusted their rates due to inflation.

Mayor Jesse Garret asked if the Civil Service Commission is part of the Police Department budget.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated yes, it is included in the Police Department. She explained RCW states the city must budget five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for Civil Service and it is only used if the city is doing any testing.

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated he did increase the Civil Service line item a little due to the testing.

Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated the Police Department Secretary mentioned that the Police Department office needs a new copier/printer/fax and at this time the cost is either one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) or one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) a month. However, with a new unit it would be a hundred dollars (\$100.00) more per month, so it would cost twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) per year. His understanding

is there will be no upfront cost for the new unit, however it is not on the budget as he just learned of it today.

Mayor Jesse Garret asked if Police Officer Brandon Hoover was requesting another twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) for his supplies line item on the Police Department budget.

Council Member John Ridlington asked if that cost included service. Police Officer Brandon Hoover stated he believes so.

GREY EAGLE TANK

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the grey eagle tank cracks are being sealed and it is already in the budget. However, what is not in the budget is the repair of the lid on top of the tank as it was not determined to be an issue at the time. He explained the water went through the tank when it rained which is an issue, so to seal the tank properly with the top being repaired also they are looking at an additional thirty-nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$39,200.00). He stated the budget that was approved to repair the tank had almost enough to cover the additional unexpected cost for the lid. However, there needs to be an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) include in the 2024 budget. He explained that because of temperature restrictions the lid can't be repaired until 2024.

Council Member Dale Drake asked how they are planning to do this repair. He asked if they would be replacing the lid. Mayor Jesse Garrett stated they will be repairing the existing lid.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated he was thinking the top was an access top. Public Works Superintendent stated no it is ninety feet across and has pillars in it to support the top.

Council Member Dale Drake asked where the water is getting into the tank. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated throughout the whole lid.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated when they were sandblasting inside on the last major rainstorm, he took a video of water leaking everywhere from the lid.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he was under the impression there was a manhole up there.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he is concerned about the contamination with the water being able to leak through and getting into the water system.

2024 WATER CAPITAL OUTLAY

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the additional cost of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to repair the tank is not added to the water capital outlay line item as the issue came about after the fact. Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the additional cost will be carried over.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked if the list was prioritized. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated no, but he can prioritize it for the next meeting.

2024 SEWER CAPITAL OUTLAY

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated replacing the work deck at 8th Street and Juniper lift station is priority number one.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked if anyone saw anything with the sewer capital outlay that would be an issue.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated on the deck replacement line item the twenty thousand carry over the Forest Service was going to help on cost but recently called and backed out because the company want forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) just to set two pumps in.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if the Forest Service would pay the twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated no, so instead of twenty thousand he will have to change that amount to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00). He explained they have all the parts, so there is someone else going to come and give a bid, however he has not scheduled a time yet.

Council Member Dale Drake asked when there would be an actual cost on it. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he will try and have one next week or after.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked about the escape liners for aeration pond are those an EPA requirement. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated no, it is for safety. He explained he is looking to see what can be placed on the liner and then what can

be used to keep it in place, so if something falls in the pond they can get out.

Council Member John Ridlington asked about astroturf. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he thinks should be something like a chain link fence.

Council Member Chris Shurrum asked what the crew was working on two weeks ago. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated they were hooking up the sewer line in for the forest service. He explained they pulled out a root in the line on the forest service side.

2024 STREET CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked when will the city hear back on the TIB grant. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated probably after the first of the year.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked if the new paint system is for the painting of the stripes on the streets.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if the signage needs to be replaced. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated those have already been replaced.

2024 PARK CAPITAL OUTLAY

Council Member John Ridlington stated in front of the pool house there are some flood lights. He asked if there is a chance, they can be motion censored, so if the Police Officer drives by he will know someone is in there.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the parks budget is minimal and feels if there will be expenses for the pool there needs to be a pool budget. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated there already is a pool budget.

Council Member John Ridlington stated they also talked about needing a light outside in case the pump quit working. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he thought they were supposed to do that.

Council Member John Ridlington stated he wasn't sure but can make sure it gets done, because right now he doesn't see any lights there at this time.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if a retired person would be capable of doing the parks position. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated, yes.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if Dave has put a notice up over at the Senior Citizen Hall. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated no, the city advertises the position through the Statesman Examiner.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked which fence needs to be replaced by the playground. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the fence at Happy Dell Park.

Council Member Chris Shurrum asked if the park's position can be replaced with better equipment. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the department could still use a parks person as the swales are time-consuming because of how they are designed.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey has thought about concreting or asphaltting them and getting rid of the sprinklers.

Council Member John Ridlington stated the swales were put in by the highway/3rd Ave. to drain water off the road and they would still need maintenance.

2024 MULTI-DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the machine shed is a carryover from last year.

Council Member John Ridlington asked if the heat for bay 5 and 6 will be an overhead gas furnace in the shop. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated, yes.

Council Member John Ridlington asked if it will be insulated. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the sides will be.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated there is a business that allows employees to use a portion of their sick leave to purchase heart flight at fifty dollars (\$50.00) a year.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he believes the cost is seventy-six dollars (\$76.00) a year.

Council Member John Ridlington stated there is a group rate, however under his regular medical insurance it would be covered if it is necessary. He suggested reviewing the city's medical insurance coverage before jumping into making any decisions, because heart flight might already be covered.

Council Member Chris Shurrum asked if the readers are still on the budget even though the city can't get radio reads. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated yes, because the current readers are out of date and two of the handhelds are not working that great. She explained the crew members must come to City Hall quite frequently to upload each route individually so there is less risk of losing a day's worth of work. Furthermore, there are two different handhelds the city can choose from that will work with our current software. She stated depending on the brand of meter the city can go to radio reads but Dave and herself will have to coordinate this, but it limits options of meters. She explained the current handhelds were purchased back in 2013.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if the city would be better off purchasing a cheaper brand or model knowing in two years the software and the handhelds will have to be replaced.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated when she spoke with the company the city could get readers compatible with radio reads in the future and it might be a little cheaper but mainly these are the readers that fit with the software.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if the city was making any money on the solar panels now that the trees have been cut down.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he has not had time to check but can give a report in a week. He explained the issue over the last several years has been L & M Electrical not monitoring the panels as they are supposed to and come to find out one of the converters stopped working for months before it was repaired.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if there is anyone who can monitor them on a regular basis as the city has a large investment with these solar panels and should make sure they are working properly. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated the crew is shorthanded and would not know who would be available to do so at this time.

Council Member John Ridlington asked if Avista puts out a report. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated on the Avista invoices it shows usage and he monitors it that way, but it doesn't show if a convert has been flipped. Furthermore, having to do the building inspections takes up a lot of his time.

Council Member Dale Drake asked if one of the office staff could monitor the Avista invoice and if there is an issue then it could be reviewed further. Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated he isn't sure if they would know if there was an issue at this point.

Council Member Chris Shurrum stated Avista doesn't show switches or anything.

Council Member Dale Drake stated if the invoice shows there is x amount of kilowatt going through and suddenly it is cut in half, then something is wrong.

Public Works Superintendent stated something can be figured out. He explained to Dale, you have good ideas; however, it is difficult when being short staffed.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated that goes for the Police Department, Public Works and here at City Hall. She explained no one considers what the employees devote to the city.

Council Member John Ridlington stated it goes back to priorities; must, wants and needs. Clerk Treasurer Raena Hallam agreed and stated the employees all work for the mayor. She explained she knows the current mayor and the previous mayor understands the work staff does every day.

Council Member Dale Drake stated the situation is the Council is on one side of the fence and the employees are on the other side.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Willey stated yes, and he hears Council Member Dale Drake, but he doesn't think Council Member Dale Drake hears him.

2024 LIBRARY BUDGET

As there was no discussion of any changes needed to the 2024 Library Budget, the City Council moved on to the 2024 Fire Department Budget.

2024 FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked if Fire Chief Phil Adams asked for something additional at the last meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated it is at the bottom under gear and equipment.

Council Member Dale Drake asked where on the budget does it show where the reserve fund is and what is going into it.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated it does not show on the budget what is going into the reserve fund this is the request.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he would like to see that there is still money going into the reserve. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated there is. Council Member Dale Drake asked what the amount is.

Council Member John Ridlington stated the reserve fund shows on the bottom of the page next to where it says 2024 Budget, so what is the gear and equipment. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the ten thousand is what they want to spend on those items.

Mayor Jesse Garrett stated the ten-thousand-dollar (\$10,000.00) amount, then is not included in the twenty-four thousand seven hundred and fifteen cents (\$24,700.15).

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated it is a different fund.

Council Member John Ridlington asked if there is a truck replacement reserve. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated yes.

Council Member Dale Drake stated to follow-up on that same question is this fund keeping pace or should the amount of money going into the reserve be increased.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated, no it is not keeping pace for a new fire truck. She explained to purchase a fire truck the city would have to apply for a grant. She stated there is a transfer of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) a year to the Fire Department reserve and at the end of the year whatever is left in the joint budget that also gets transferred into the reserve.

Council Member Dale Drake asked what the reserve amount is at this time.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam estimated the city with about thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) and then there is another one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00), which is the joint budget. She stated these amounts cannot be shared. She explained at the end of the year there is roughly between eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000.00) to thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.00) transferred over.

Council Member John Ridlington stated that money is generally used for uniforms, air packs and hoses. He explained there are some big purchases, however only a few things can be purchased at a time. Furthermore, the Fire Department hopes to get twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) years out of a truck and this fire truck was purchased in 2010.

Council Member Dale Drake stated it sounds like the city is not being able to keep up with inflation on new vehicles.

Council Member John Ridlington stated, no and that is why the city applies for grants.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated there were times when nothing was put in the reserve.

Council Member Dale Drake stated he would like to see the amount being transferred to the reserve be increased.

Planning Assistant Larry Kulesza suggested increasing the rollover amount of twenty-four thousand seven hundred dollars and fifteen cents (\$24,700.15) by 3.2% for inflation purposes.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated when she does a budget, she goes line by line and she looks at history, inflation, projects the mayor supports and then she moves that money where she feels it is accordingly. She explained the money can be moved around within the year if the bottom line doesn't change, because the City Council adopted the ordinance. She stated when things come up that need to be repaired the money must be transferred because the city needs to be able to function.

Council Member John Ridlington stated that is why the utility rates need to be adjusted accordingly each year.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the sewer rates really need to be increased.

Council Member John Ridlington suggested basing the sewer increase on the prices of materials and then having an index.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated yes, there can be an index, but the problem is there was a time when the sewer was decreased instead of increased and now it is way behind.

Council Member Chris Shurrum asked about the ARPA Funds. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated the resolution will need to be updated at the end of the year. She explained the remaining amount will need to be spent by June of 2024, so when the Mayor presents his draft budget some of the projects that have been discussed might be an ARPA Fund option.

Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated Kettle Falls True Value asked if they could set up a food stand during the Trunk or Treat event along the sidewalk next to the pool. She explained they needed to contact Nicole Fandrey as she oversaw this event. She stated Nichole Fandrey has asked for part of the street to be blocked off during the event.

Council Member John Ridlington stated he will be at the pool for an open house from three to five.

Mayor Jesse Garrett asked Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam if there would be another Budget Workshop next week. Clerk/Treasurer Raena Hallam stated next Tuesday is Halloween, so the next Budget Workshop will be November 17, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

As there was no Old Business, City Council moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As there was no Public Comment, City Council moved on to Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jesse Garrett adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Approved:

Jesse Garrett, Mayor

Attest: _____
Raena Hallam, Clerk/Treasurer