

City of Wood River Council approved raising water tap fees for new homes and businesses being built in Wood River.

During Monday night's pre-council meeting, the Wood River City Council debated the issue of raising water-tap fees for new homes and businesses in Wood River.

Residential properties require at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipeline and usually do not exceed 1 inch in diameter. Steve Palen, Wood River's Public Services Director proposed raising the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter water line tap fee to \$1,500 within the city limits and \$3,000 outside the city limits, which will affect new commercial property.

Mayor Fred Ufert's initial reaction was that the proposed increases were just too high. "We are trying to encourage development and raising water fees will hinder this progress", said Ufert. The issue was discussed among City Council members and their final conclusion was that Palen's proposal was unrealistic.

To resolve the issue, the mayor suggested the cost for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter water pipes within the city limits to start at \$750 and increase \$500 with every $\frac{1}{2}$ inch increase in size. The costs for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipelines outside city limits will begin at \$1500 and graduate \$500 every $\frac{1}{2}$ inch increase in pipe size. The council unanimously agreed to the mayors' proposal and Palen agreed that these figures were fair.

The council discussed the new property along Lakin Boulevard. Concerned citizens have called to complain that there was not enough lighting on the street. The council decided to install lighting, but debated between decorative or cobra style lighting.

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After conversing about the costs of either lighting systems, the council discussed which style put out the most light and which was most cost effective.

Mayor Ufert requested for Palen to report back with the measurements of the amount of light output from both the decorative and cobra style lights. Ufert asked that the figures to be researched before the new lighting systems are installed.

City Councilman, Sharon Kadell described her experience riding along with the Wood River City Police Department last week. She spent an entire day riding with a uniformed police officer. After thanking Police Chief Weber for the experience and opportunity, Kadell said, “The residents of Wood River have to be proud of our police department because we have dedicated and brave men.” She said the experience really opened her eyes and made her grateful to the Wood River Police Department.

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