CITY OF MONTELLO

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2024 BUDGET

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

6:30 PM

 Mayor Jim Houdek opened public hearing at 6:30 PM.

Members Present: Lucas Stelter, Bill Faulkner, Ken Streich, Ron Knutson, Dennis Schrimpf, Brian Schrimpf

Member excused: Venise Mugler

Others Present: Dawn Calnin, Marie Puterbaugh, Bobbi Richter, Fred Logemann, Mike Kohnke, Rodney Kratz, Heather Kratz, Matt Faltz, Karlene Utke

Houdek opened the public hearing:

Citizen comments:

Karlene Utke questioned the fairness of the employee raises. Feels that money should not be put in people’s pockets. Stated that it’s easy for Council members to spend tax payer’s money. Nothing to do with the employees; has to do with fairness. She feels the city giving businesses ARPA Grant money was a good idea.

Houdek stated that the current employees have skills and knowledge and right now if they left they could go to Brakebush and get paid more and better benefits.

Utke commented on how good the retirement is and did ask what percentage the employees paid. (every employee pays 6.9% every paycheck).

Mike Kohnke feels that there is a really good team of employees. City levy was lowered and the City will qualify for the expenditure incentive program. The cost of things nation wide has increased 30%. It would cost the city 7-10 thousand dollars to train new employees. Thanked the council for being so gracious with the raises.

Houdek gave a handout of showing the City’s levy from 2017 through present.

Lucas Stelter stated that the system isn’t made for these small communities. The council had the opportunity to look at employees. Agreed that all tax payers are impacted; but Council needed to ask themselves what to invest in. This year it’s employees; next year the numbers will be different and something else could need attention. Not many people out there are qualified; need to make an investment on current employees.

Marie Puterbaugh pointed out the fact that City council members are tax payers also. We are thankful that you appreciate us.

Bobbi Richter pointed out that the employees have an average of 10 years with the city and that’s because Council has been gracious.

* Mayor Houdek closed the budget hearing.

Motion by Streich/Faulkner to adjourn. Motion carried at 6:44 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Calnin