

# LEAVENWORTH CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

## September 24, 2024

Mayor Carl Florea called the September 24, 2024 Study Session to order at 5:32 PM.

Council Present: Mayor Carl Florea, Sharon Waters, Anne Hessburg, Shane Thayer and Travis McMaster.

Council Absent: Clint Strand, Rhona Baron and Zeke Reister.

Staff Present: Matthew "Selby", Chantell Steiner, Maggie Boles, Andi Zontek-Backstrum and Andrea Fischer.

### 1. Utility Rate Study Update

Public Works Director Andi Zontek-Backstrum gave background information and an update on the utility rate study that is in progress and why it is important to consider how the rates are set so the City will be successful in the future.

She went over the City's Mission, Vision and Values to use as a framework for this discussion as how the Council sets the rates will affect every resident, business and visitor to our City. The larger goal of Reshaping our Community includes making capital investments, exemplifying stewardship and building community trust.

The scope of the utility rate study will include water, sewer, stormwater and solid waste. Director Zontek-Backstrum will give a high-level report this evening that focus mostly on water but will touch on the other services as well. Keven Lorentzen from HDR will be presenting at the Study Session on October 22, 2024 and he will provide a more in depth look at the rate study.

The goals of the utility rate study are to provide revenue stability in each of the enterprise funds (water, sewer, stormwater and garbage) as these need to pay for the infrastructure improvements for the various utilities. Other goals are to fund capital improvements as well as operations and maintenance and incentivize conservation.

She gave an example graph for residential water revenue requirements which showed the minimum capital scenario is around \$9 million which is the bare bones of needs that will keep our water system going and prevent catastrophic failure. The recommended capital scenario is around \$27 million which will pay for our needs and will allow the City to budget and get many of our infrastructure needs met. The difference between the two scenarios is a 3% increase every year for the minimum capital as opposed to the recommended scenario increasing rates 17% down to 2% over the course of the next eight years. She also showed example graphs for residential sewer requirements with the minimum needed \$2.8 million with yearly bumps ranging from 5% to 3% over the next eight years. The recommended scenario is around \$14 million with yearly increases of 12% down to 4% over the next eight years. Stormwater capital project needs a total of \$316,000 with a 2% increase over the next eight years. Solid waste was similar with a need of \$85,852 with 2% increase over the next eight years.

She went over the current water rate structure and the proposed rate structure. The proposed structure would make the base rate 4,000 gallons per month as opposed to the current 7,500. The base rate provides revenue for infrastructure improvements that the City can budget. Additional water usage would be charged in tiers based on amount of water used.

The Council asked questions and discussed the information that was presented.

## **2. Peddler Permit Discussion**

Community Development Director Maggie Boles discussed with the Council the possibility of changing Chapter 5 of the Leavenworth Municipal Code (LMC) to prohibit peddlers inside the City limits.

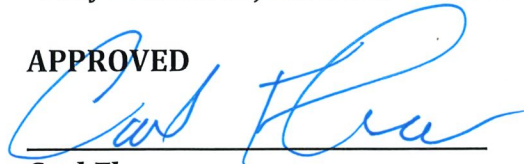
Currently, the peddling is only allowed in residential and multi-family zones inside the City limits. However, people are getting peddling permits and are peddling their wares in the downtown core, particularly during the Village of Lights festival. Under the current code, there are no consequences included so the peddlers can do what they want, and the City has no way to stop them. The peddlers learn what hours the City is enforcing, and they work around that. The City has received many complaints from businesses in the Downtown core as well as residents in the multi-family zones.

Director Boles provided potential code language that would institute a civil fine of \$250 per occurrence if peddlers are caught in the downtown core. The Chelan County Sheriff's office is willing to help with enforcement, however it will take time to develop a system to hand out citations immediately when they are caught. This portion will probably not be developed this season but will be in place for 2025.

The Council asked questions and discussed the information that was presented. The Council was supportive of this moving forward.

Study Session adjourned at 6:53 PM.

**APPROVED**



**Carl Florea**  
Mayor

**ATTEST**



**Andrea Fischer**  
City Clerk