

6.5% electrical rate hike closer to passage

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Wednesday, 29 December 2010 22:30 -

Increase due to rise in wholesale power rates.

During a 15-minute meeting four days before Christmas, Gothenburg City Council members gave second-round approval to a rise in electricity rates.

The proposed ordinance, which needs final passage to become law, represents a 6.5% increase to local customers.

Nebraska Public Power District, the city's wholesale power supplier, will enact a 10.5% rate increase Jan. 1, 2010.

City administrator Bruce Clymer has said the electrical fund is stable and can absorb the 3.5% raise in rates.

However if wholesale rates continue to climb, the city may have to ask for a larger increase from electrical customers.

In other action, the council accepted a \$25,919 bid from Pony Express Chevrolet in Gothenburg for a three-quarter ton extended-cab pickup for use in the electrical department.

Other vehicle bids were from Pony Express for a regular Chevy truck for \$23,444 and two from Platte Valley Auto in Lexington for Ford trucks.

The Ford bids were \$24,677 for a regular cab and \$26,765 for an extended cab.

Council members also chose a \$5,275 bid from MJ Trailers in Wisconsin for a tool box.

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Other companies who submitted toolbox bids were Knapheide, through Pony Express Chevrolet, for \$5,200 and Knapheide of Seward for \$6,351.

On another matter, the council passed an amendment for an employee health insurance pharmacy plan that

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