

By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

Grant City Council members took two big steps during their regular meeting last Tuesday evening when they adopted a nearly \$3.4 million budget and approved installation of a new water main—an item included in the 2009-10 figure.

The waterline upgrade to the city's infrastructure will be paid for with cash on hand, borrowing from within other utilities, which prevents the accumulation of any new debt, said City Superintendent Tyson McGreer.

"That's the main thing I'm proud of," he said, also mentioning the city's plans to pay down quite a bit of debt with reserves.

2009-10 Budget

The new fiscal year budget totals \$3,397,993 which is an increase over last year's budget of \$2,844,009.

The tax asking of \$180,000 remains the same as last year's budget.

An increase in valuation of \$3.3 million on property within the city limits of Grant results in a decrease in the tax levy from 45.6 cents per \$100 valuation to 42.07 cents per \$100 valuation for the new budget year.

The city's property valuation is \$42,781,649 compared to the previous year's valuation which was \$39,457,764.

Some portions of the budget increased, others decreased, and the council worked hard in keeping it down.

For instance, the electric utility's portion of the new budget is \$1,304,150. Last year the figure was slightly over \$1,330,000.

Street maintenance and repair has a budgeted amount of \$186,345. Nearly \$202,000 was the budgeted amount for last year.

The water, waste and sewer amounts in this year's budget are \$181,320, \$170,050, and \$83,165 respectively.

The police contract in the new budget is the same as last year of \$91,425.

Other city entities and their budgeted amounts include the Grant Cemetery, \$35,746 which is down; Hastings Memorial Library, \$87,965 which is up; and the Grant Municipal Airport, \$349,877 which is down from a year ago.

The Grant City Parks and Recreation Program has a new budget of \$130,000 which is an increase. This figure covers such expenses as wages, supplies, repairs, sports equipment and utilities, to name a few.