

Tax rates continue to decrease in Mount Washington

BY STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

MOUNT WASHINGTON — A growing city means more revenue for the overall and less taxes for the individuals.

City attorney Scott Wantland presented the first reading of an ordinance establishing Mount Washington’s ad valorem real and personal property tax rates for 2026.

The new rate was set at 8.6 cents per \$100 of property, meaning a house appraised at \$100,000 would result in \$86 of tax money.

The city’s rate was slightly lowered from the 8.7 rate of 2025 and has decreased each of the last three years from a 9.0 rate.

Mayor Stuart Owen said the rate continued to lower due to city growth, along with a change in the compensating rate that allowed the city to collect the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year.

The 2026 real property assessments for the city totaled \$1,968,835,592, including new property assessments around \$45 million. The 2026 rate of 8.6 cents will allow the city to collect a revenue total of approximately \$1,667,000. Personal property revenue was anticipated at \$45,206.

The city could adopt a rate anywhere between the 8.6 compensating rate and 8.9, the maximum 4% increase allowed per state law. However, any rate over the 8.6 was subject to a public hearing.

Tax bills are due as of Dec. 31, with customers receiving a 2% discount if bills are paid prior to Nov. 30. Delinquent bills after Dec. 31 are subject to a 10% penalty and bear interest at a rate of 12% per annum.

A second reading and a vote to accept or reject the new rate is scheduled to take place at the city council’s next meeting.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

All roads in question are no longer in question for the city.

The council approved four of five resolutions prepared that allow the city to take over sections of roadways in which the ownership, and therefore the maintenance, was previously in question.

City representatives met with Bullitt County officials to determine who actually owned the small stretches of roadway in question. The resolutions state that the sections would now be under the city’s jurisdiction.

Owen mentioned that one of the five portions, from Highway 44 East to approximately 518

Lloyd Lane, was found to be already within the city’s limits per a 1997 ordinance listed on the Kentucky Secretary of State’s website. Therefore, that resolution was nixed.

The other sections included .11 miles of Fisher Lane from Highway 44 East, Gentry Lane from Bethel Church Road to the western corner of 578 Gentry Crossing, Hubbard Lane from Highway 44 East to Keeneland Drive, and Lentz Lane from Misty Brook Drive to Gentry Lane.

Each resolution passed by a 5-0 vote, with council member Troy Barr absent. The resolutions allow the city’s Public Works department to maintain the roadway sections without worry of who is responsible.

The council approved the de-annexation of 83.86 acres located along Stringer Lane near S.Bardstown Road owned by Timothy and Denise Allen.

Once annexed with plans to develop the property, the homeowners have decided to add just two residences, leading to the de-annexation request.

Owen announced that the Green Tree Sewer Project was nearing completion.

Public Works director Mike Hightchew said all customers were now connected to the new sewer system, with the remainder of the project consisting of clean-up and grass planting.

The mayor thanked all of the affected residents for their patience during the lengthy project which will now benefit the area.

The first two phases of the Lloyd House improvement plans have been completed.

The Mount Washington Historical Society is partnering with the city to make the necessary improvements, with plans to reopen the house as a museum and office space, along with the ability to host special events.

Owen said those initial phases involved exterior work to the house, including roof, framing and siding work. With exterior work completed, Owen said all of the interior projects could now be tackled.

“We’re really happy with what they’ve done so far,” he said. “It looks very nice.”

The mayor added that Phase 3 of the project would soon be discussed with the council.

According to Owen,

the recent visit by the Vietnam Wall and Cost of Freedom Tributes, provided by American Veterans Traveling Tribute, were a success. The city hosted the exhibit in association with Warrior Rounds, a non-profit that provides a music therapy program for veterans.

Owen thanked everyone who participated

with the event, including the many volunteers. He credited the Bullitt East High School Choir, North Bullitt JROTC Program, Bullitt County Area Tech Center for providing benches, and the Bullitt East Culinary Department for providing desserts.

“This was an excellent to honor and appreciate

the veterans,” Owen said.

“If it satisfied one person, it was worth it,” said council member Layne Abell.

Council members reminded of further upcoming city events, including the annual Harvest Homecoming scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17.

Also, the annual chili cook-off, presented by the Mount Washington

Lioness Club, will take place Saturday, Oct. 24. And the annual Trunk or Treat event takes place Friday, Oct. 30, at the Mount Washington Sports Complex.

The next Mount Washington City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 12, 6:30 pm, at Fick Hall. The public is invited to attend.

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