



Property tax increase

From Danell S <

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To Public Comment <publiccomment@southwebercity.gov>

I cannot attend the meeting on Aug 11 but have strong feelings about the tax increase. We have additional homes all over south weber and the addition of new businesses. Makes absolutely no sense why you would put this on the residents. Let another business in to help. We already have too many homes and they still keep building. What about General RV? What have they provided to the community? They are big enough this should have helped.

Thanks for listening.

Danell Schmidt

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Amy Mitchell

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South Weber

Good evening.

I'm here tonight because I'm concerned that we continue to look for ways to increase tax revenue instead of first asking a much simpler question: **Where can we reduce spending?**

Families in South Weber have to live within a budget. When our expenses increase, we don't automatically get to increase our income. We prioritize. We postpone things we would like to have. We cut back. I believe our city should be expected to do the same before asking residents to pay more.

For years, residents have been told that commercial development would strengthen our tax base. We brought in the RV center, and now we are adding a development like QuikTrip and even more on South Weber Drive with the townhouse development. If this commercial growth is generating the additional revenue we were promised, when do residents actually get to see the benefit?

At the same time, we continue to spend. We've seen an approximately 11% raise for our city manager, another raise for our city planner, a roughly \$9 million public works complex, and money spent installing towers for the city's water-meter reading system.

Maybe there is a justification for each one of these expenditures. But at some point we have to stop looking at them individually and look at the bigger picture.

Do we need all of this right now?

There is a difference between what a city needs to function well and what would simply be nice to have. South Weber is a small community. We don't need to fund every dream, every new project, or every idea simply because someone believes it would improve the city.

And I think we need to remember something else: **City staff work for the residents of South Weber. The residents do not work for the city.**

Our elected officials should be setting priorities based on what the people who live here need and can afford—not feeling pressured into continually expanding budgets, projects, facilities, salaries, or programs because staff recommends them.

Before raising property taxes, I would like to see the city go through its budget line by line and tell residents what has been cut, what has been postponed, what projects have been scaled back, and what expenses have been determined to be unnecessary.

I would also like transparency about any tax incentives or financial concessions being offered to encourage businesses or developers to build here. If we're giving away future tax revenue to attract development while simultaneously asking existing residents to pay more, taxpayers deserve to understand that equation.

A Truth in Taxation hearing shouldn't only be about explaining why the city needs more money. It should also be about demonstrating that the city has made every reasonable effort to **need less money.**

Residents are already paying more for groceries, insurance, utilities, housing, and nearly everything else. We don't get to raise our income by 5%, 10%, or 11% simply because our expenses increased. We have to make choices and live within our means.

I'm asking the city to do the same.

Focus on essential services. Take care of what we already have. Use the commercial tax base we were promised. Be willing to say no to projects that can wait. And most importantly, remember who ultimately pays the bill.

The first solution to a budget problem should not always be more revenue. Sometimes the responsible solution is less spending.

Thank you.

- ask for comparison to other cities our same size