

Homeowners Pay More Annually Under Mayor Keeble

There was a property tax increase voted on by every member of the city council in 2007 including BOTH candidates for mayor. This was the first time in almost 30 years for an increase in the property tax rate. In an effort to balance the amount of revenue coming from city residents, Mayor Parsons reduced in city water rates for customers to an amount that almost offset the amount of money residents were paying out annually to the city. **This in effect created a very minimum increase in the amount each resident paid.**

In 2013 Mayor Keeble increased the water rates by 4 cents for each 4,000 gallons of water usage above 2,000 gallons then in 2015 Mayor Keeble authorized a 20 cent increase resulting in total a 24 cent increase in water rates for the next 4,000 gallons above the minimum used. In 2015, Mayor Keeble also doubled garbage rate pickup by \$7 per household a month resulting in a **\$84.00 annual tax increase** to city residents per year. No reductions in service fees have been made by Mayor Keeble. Below is a chart indicating which Mayor cost himself and you more money.

Rate Changes - Mayor Parsons

	Annual Property Tax	Annual Water Rate
2006	\$240.00	\$279.60
2008	\$302.50	\$231.84
Diff.	\$62.50	-\$47.76

Annual Increase per Property: + \$14.74

Rate Changes - Mayor Keeble

	Annual Garbage Pickup	Annual Water Rate
2010	\$84.00	\$231.84
2016	\$168.00	\$234.72
Diff.	\$84.00	\$2.88

Annual Increase per Property: + \$86.88

*BASED ON HOME VALUE OF \$100,000. WATER USAGE BASED ON 4,000 GALLON A MONTH

Town of Mountain City

Mayor Election

November 8, 2016



Mayor Keeble has voted to increase the amount of money that each household in the city pays annually by a total of \$101.62* while serving on city council.

Keeble Extends Term of Office Almost 2 Years

Mayor Keeble passed an ordinance extending his term in office an additional 20 months past the 4 year term the city voters elected him to in 2011. This act deprived voters from their exercise to the right of choice for which they reserved to themselves. When the election was held in March of 2011, voters cast their ballot for Mayor as they were authorized to do by the Town of Mountain City Charter. When a term of office has been fixed by Town Charter and the office has been filled accordingly, **an act to extend the terms of the incumbent should be unconstitutional per Article XI, Section 17 of the Tennessee Constitution.** The reason for extending the term was to have the election on the same day as the presidential election. It will cost the town less money and it will involve more citizens in the election process which is needed, however, this was not the proper way to change it. Violating the rights of each voter in such a dishonorable way is not only unconstitutional but unethical in nature as well. This proved to be the most shameless abuse of power by any sitting Mayor in the town's history. The only way to change the date of the town election would have been to make the change effective after the next regular election or to present it to the voters to decide just as many neighboring cities have done which protects the rights of both elected officials and each voter.



Rainy Day Fund Shrinks

Mayor Keeble has depleted the town's unappropriated emergency reserve or "Rainy Day" fund by over a half of a million dollars in just one term as Mayor. The Mayor is responsible for submitting a balanced budget at the beginning of each fiscal year. As expenditures have exceeded revenues, Mayor Keeble has used money from the rainy day fund in order to "balance" the budget. This emergency account should never be used to balance a budget or pay excessive budget amendments throughout the year. Mayor Keeble has spent over half of the 1.3 million dollars that was available at the beginning of his term whereas Mayor Parsons during his one term increased this fund over \$400,000. Mayor Parsons was a good steward of your tax dollars. Under Mayor Keeble's leadership, or lack thereof, the rainy day bank continues to get broken into for non-emergency purchases. **In order to balance the current fiscal year budget, this emergency fund was again used and reduced by \$45,929.00.** That is not the

fiscally responsible leadership our town needs. We need responsible and accountable leadership now more than ever.

Budget Spending

In an independent audit report, at least one budget prepared by Mayor Keeble contained **audit findings that show a deficiency in his ability to prepare a budget.** This audited financial statement is submitted to the state comptroller's office as required by law and available online at the link listed below:
http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/RA_MA_Financial/Report.asp

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT FINDINGS 12-1 Significant Deficiency - Budget Condition: Actual expenditures exceeded the amounts appropriated in the General and Solid Waste Management funds. Criteria: State statutes require all expenditures of the general fund and special revenue funds to be authorized by the governing body. Effect: When expenditures exceed the budget, unapproved expenditures are being made. Recommendation: The Town should compare budget to actual expenditures to ensure that all expenditures, including grant expenditures and purchases using reserved cash, are properly authorized.

AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST.

BEN FRANKLIN



Kevin Parsons served as Mayor from March 2007 until March 2011

Compare Then Decide

You have a rare opportunity as you decide who you want to lead Mountain City over the next 4 years. Put all politics aside as you know what each candidate says and what they have done as both have served as your Mayor. The cliché of black and white could never be more accurate as one candidate has grown up here, started and operates his own business here, raises his family here and is progressive and proactive while the other candidate does not possess these traits. Information contained herein is public record and can be documented from official city council minutes as well as information obtained online at www.tennessee.gov.



Town of Mountain City "Realty"

Citizens of the town should not be in the real estate business. Mayor Keeble should have exercised the town's option to condemn the Ramsey building requiring

Elect Kevin Parsons Mayor

496 Acorn Street

Mountain City, Tennessee 37683

kevinparsons.com

the owner to clear the property rather than spend taxpayer dollars for the same result. **At a cost nearing \$100,000** not only did Mayor Keeble waste money but it is important to note that the annual revenue from the property tax was also removed from the books as the town is exempt from paying property taxes.

Improvements

Mayor Kevin Parsons was frugal in watching after the town's money while investing in the town's future. During **Mayor Parsons term 11.2 miles of city streets were paved and money to the emergency reserve fund was increased. Mayor Keeble has only paved .5 miles and spent over a half million dollars from the reserve fund.** While Mayor, Parsons saw that a nationally recognized disc golf course was constructed at Ralph Stout Park **at no cost to the town.** New playground equipment and a skate park was installed along with a movie screen for showing a "Movie Under the Stars" during the summer months which was widely attended and all at little cost. (The movie screen was removed within a few months after Mayor Keeble took office). The Goose Creek trail grant, although altered from the original design, was applied for and awarded during the end of Parsons term as was the Main Street Roadscapes grant. Other than more costs from delay and rate increases what can Mayor Keeble attribute to his credit?



Above: Slide that would have been installed at the Mountain City Pool were it not for Mr. Keeble.

Indoor Swimming Pool

Mayor Parsons improved city parks and wanted to see our swimming pool open year around. Knowing an increase in attendance would be necessary if that was to be, he was able to negotiate a price for a covered slide (actual slide in the photo) along with needed life guard chairs from another municipality in Ohio for less than \$3,600.00. Alderman Keeble was adamantly against it stating that the money for the items could wait and shamed a majority of city council votes to defeat the purchase. There is no doubt that the slide would have increased admissions. The ultimate goal in mind was to apply for a grant to enclose the pool for year-round usage. **Money to match such a grant would have likely been less than the cost of the Ramsey property.** Less than two years later Mayor Keeble purchased life guard chairs and a diving board for \$6,400. (More than double what the items plus the slide would have cost). These purchases did nothing in the way of gaining more interest in admissions. In fact, **pool admissions have decreased from an annual high of 15,289 in 2009 to 8,914 last year.** A rate almost equal to the depletion of the town's unappropriated reserve fund. If we allow this rate of spending to continue the town will not be able to react in the very realistic chance that we encounter an emergency situation. We need leadership that saves money to our emergency fund and spends wisely. We don't need the current leadership that waits until something happens and then reacts, which if allowed to continue will be too little, too late.

IT DOES MATTER WHO GOVERNS