**The Governing Body of the City of Liebenthal met for a budget hearing on Monday September 12, 2022, at the City Building at 6:00 p.m.** Presiding at the meeting was Mayor William Stark, council members Barb Matal, Darrell Warner, Kathy Herrman, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, City Clerk Beverly Stark, Maintenance Operator Jason Jordan, Water and Wastewater Operator Shelby Waterhouse. There were no citizens present. S. Schmidt-Koerner made a motion to approve the budget for 2023 as presented at the meeting on August 8, 2022, D. Warner seconded. The vote count was as follows: Barb Matal voted yes, Darrell Warner voted yes, Kathy Herrman voted yes, Stacie Schmidt-Koerner voted yes. The vote to approve the 2023 budget was unanimous for approval, motion passed. The budget hearing was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

**The Governing Body of the City of Liebenthal met in regular session on Monday September 12, 2022, at the City Building at 6:15 p.m.** The regular session was called to order at 6:15.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read. K. Herrman made a motion to approve the minutes as read, B. Matal seconded, vote unanimous, motion passed.

**Old Business:** S. Waterhouse has a list of supplies needed for the sewer lagoon fencing. Mayor Stark suggested the fencing supplies be purchased and the fence and gates erected as soon as possible. Mayor Stark reported that the tractor was repaired so the sewer lagoon and easement needed mowing. The removal of the old mower was discussed. W. Stark and J. Jordan met with Chad Foust (Rush County Highway Dept.) to discuss road work to repair 5th Street. J. Jordan will check with Mr. Foust for possible work dates. The annexation of the property at 98 Birch Street must be surveyed to begin the annexation process. W. Stark will engage surveyors. The City-wide cleanup cost $1100.00 for removal of 5 loads.

**City Clerk Notes**: The city’s snowplow needs to be moved to the City lot. J. Jordan requested we get a connection device to hook the plow to the city truck. It was suggested that this would be in the range of $1000 to $3000. Culligan has been contacted again re: the final RO units to be serviced.

**New Business:** B. Stark met with a representative of KS Rural Water to discuss whether the City’s fees cover the cost of water production. It was noted that fees for water use have not increased in ten years. W. Stark suggested the council consider implementing a sales tax for the city. He noted that Liebenthal has the lowest sales tax in Rush County with other cities having at least a 7.5% sales tax. Stark suggested leaving our water rates as is but increasing the sales tax to produce another source of income that will not burden residents on fixed incomes. It was noted that much of the sales tax will be paid by visitors to our town. The council was supportive of a proposed sales tax increase of 1%. W. Stark will investigate further to estimate how much income this will yield.

**City Utilities and Maintenance Updates:** S. Waterhouse reported that a water tower inspection is due. A previous inspection from MidCo cost $2873.00 with an EPA report costing $225.00, and a full written report costing $350.00. Waterhouse will schedule this inspection. J. Jordan had no updates to report.

**Calendar / City Events:** No events pending.

The list of bills was presented for approval. B. Matal moved to approve payment of the bills, S. Schmidt-Koerner seconded, vote unanimous, motion passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, S. Schmidt-Koerner moved to adjourn the meeting, K. Herrman seconded the motion, vote unanimous, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk