

The Newell City Council met in special session on Monday April 6th, 2026, at 5:30pm in City Hall with Mayor Justin Lyman presiding. Council members present Larry Nielsen, Bill Henrich, Steve Taylor, Quinten Robinson & Dennis Ziegler. City employees, Chad Wilson, Jodi Rojas, Heather Copp & members of the public

Mayor Lyman called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Approval of Agenda Motion by Henrich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Taylor, all ayes.

Mayor Lyman Opened the Public Hearing at 5:30pm, for the Proposed Property Tax Levy FY 27. Michael Jensen – Resident asked how was the levy amount determined? And also, about health insurance costs and employee contributions? Response summarized:

City Clerk Copp addressed Mr. Jensen's questions explaining the tax levy as total dollars needed to operate city services (sheriff, fire, ambulance, library, parks, insurance (both property & employee), plus others).

Current city rate: 14; proposed rate: 16 due to higher insurance costs and hiring new personnel. Clarified difference between levy (total dollars) and rate (dollars divided by taxable value). She Explained that the city only gets a small share (~30%) of the property taxes and that the property assessed value is what is driving the cost. City currently pays 90% of employee's insurance costs. She stated that the policy is a high-deductible plan which saves the city money. She also informed the public that insurance is not only health but also property owned by the city. Mayor Lyman Closed Public Hearing at 5:44PM

Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm will be the next public hearing to adopt the FY27 budget. Mayor Lyman called for adjournment at 5:46pm, motioned by Nielsen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robinson, all ayes.

Heather Copp – City Clerk

Justin Lyman- Mayor