Residents to vote on raised recreation tax

Fund increase would go toward park renovations, lighted athletic fields and various city improvements

Grace Matte

City Recorder

Kirkville’s parks sales tax might increase a quarter of a percent in an effort to enhance local recreation.

“People keep asking for things and we don’t have any money, so we need to do something,” said City Recorder Grace Matte. “I think if we want good recreation, we need the money.”

City Councilman Ralph Cupelli agreed. “Nothing’s set in stone,” he said. “I would like to be very helpful for the city if such projects come up.”

The Council considered increasing the parks sales tax as proposed by city recreation tax manager Mari Macomber. If the sales tax increase was approved, it would raise the current rate of 8.475 percent to 8.725 percent. 

The current rate cannot happen.

Macomber said she also heard about a proposed skateboard park.

Yet without more money, Macomber said, these projects simply cannot happen.

She said one alternative to increasing the sales tax is to increase property taxes.

The City Council is waiting for the final report in a review of the current city revenue before making a decision.

“I think if we want good recreation, we need the money. We barely have enough for the basics like the airport, fire and police,” said Marty Rowe, mayor.

Macomber brought several statistics to the City Council meeting Monday night to demonstrate that the parks sales tax would not be higher than those of neighboring cities.

She said the City Council in Missouri has had this tax since 2000, and the average sales tax in neighboring cities is about 8.75 percent.

In addition to the Globetrotters’ display of basketball skills, Wollmering said they performed a variety of other acts.

She said the players interacted with fans, which included players throwing T-shirts into the crowd as well as giving them autographs.

In addition to the Globetrotters’ visit, parking would be charged for services resulting from the event.

The Globetrotters played in Cape Girardeau and West Plains. They stopped in Jefferson City and St. Louis before their stop in Kirksville.

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