Written by Nancy Spencer Tuesday, March 19, 2013 11:02 AM -

DELPHOS — Residents will see an increase in water and sewer rates on the next billing in May. Delphos City Council suspended the three-reading rule and approved the rate increases for both utilities on second reading.

An increase of 5 percent plus the current Consumer Price Index of 1.7 percent was approved on sewer for the billing periods of May 1 through April 30, 2014. However, industrial users of 500,000 cubic feet or more will be billed at 2 percent plus the CPI of 1.7 percent.

Councilman Mark Clement asked for information for the change to the largest users.

"We need to keep everyone at the lowest rate possible and show due diligence to our biggest users," Clement said. "We need to keep our biggest users here to protect their rates and our smallest users."

Water rates will also increase 2 percent plus the 1.7 percent CPI for the billing periods of May 1 through April 30, 2014 and 2 percent plus the 2013 CPI (yet to be determined) for the billing periods of May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015.

Council also approved on second reading the 2013 Budget including \$3,270,000 in spending in the General Fund.

The city is revising its Flood Damage Reduction and Flood Plain Management regulations. Council passed on third reading an ordinance repealing certain sections of the former legislation adopted in 1995 and reinforcing other sections.

New Flood Insurance Rate Maps will go into effect on May 2. Some parcels now included in a the city's flood plain may no longer be in the new flood plain and some who are not currently in a flood plain may be on the new map.

City council OKs water, sewer rate increases

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Safety Service Director Berquist also told council the city is required to pass the legislation to become eligible for certain government funds, including reimbursement for storm cleanup, etc.

The Cass Street water line project is moving forward with the second reading of an ordinance allowing the safety service director and/or mayor to enter into a contract with the successful bidder on the project. The project is estimated at \$44,000 and funds will be appropriated from the Water Improvement Fund. Bids will be opened on March 28.

Berquist said the project will get started as soon as possible.

A \$54,000 Gressel Drive waterline loop project will go out for bid. Berquist indicated the Community Improvement Corporation is taking possession of a parcel of land necessary for the infrastructure expansion, that action will significantly reduce the overall project expected cost from \$140,000 to \$80,000 as the city will only need to obtain an easement through the property owned by the CIC.