



Agenda Item: Discussion

Title: 5th Penny General Purpose Tax Renewal

Recommended Council MOTION:

No action taken at a work session.

Administrative and/or Policy Goal:

E. Intergovernmental Collaboration

Milestone #3: Support Renewal Effort for 5th Cent General Purpose Tax in 2022.

Background:

City Council will meet with Albany County Board of Commissioners and Rock River City Council to decide how they would like to approach the 5th Penny for the future.

Previous meetings to discuss the 5th Penny were held on:

- March 2, 2022, 6:00 pm- Joint meeting with Albany County Board of Commissioners and Rock River Town Council
- April 4, 2022- Rock River Town Council took action on adopting a resolution regarding the 5th Penny
- April 5, 2022- City of Laramie Council postponed Resolution to April 19, 2022
- April 19, 2022 – City of Laramie Council postponed Resolution to May 3, 2022
- May 3, 2022 – City of Laramie Council postponed Resolution to June 7, 2022

The General Purpose Excise Tax, often referred to as the “5th Penny” sales tax, is a local option tax used to provide municipal services to Laramie residents since it was first approved by the voters in 1986. The 5th Penny tax supports 30-35% of basic governmental operations like:

- street, alley, and bridge repair;
- fire-fighting, policing, and emergency medical services;
- park, cemetery, and trail/greenbelts;
- fire truck, “jaws-of-life” extrication equipment, police vehicles, and ambulances;
- storm drain and ditch maintenance;
- access for disabled persons;
- animal control and animal sheltering.

The City has been very successful in pledging 5th Penny monies as matching funds to secure outside grants that stretch our fiscal resources as far as possible. In addition, through the City’s “pay-it-forward” Community Partner Program, millions of dollars of financial support has been allocated to local agencies that provide resident support services such as Interfaith-Good Samaritan, the Soup Kitchen, Downtown Clinic, Main Street Alliance, Cathedral Home, and the Chamber Business Alliance, to name a few.

Local Option Tax Type	Common Name	Amount of Tax	Last Approved by the Voters	Tax Expires	Renewal Election to be Held
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General Purpose					
Excise	5th Cent	1 ¢	2018	12/31/2022	November 2022

Legal/Statutory Authority: The City is a qualifying applicant and recipient of these funds. W.S. §39-15-204
