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(Neb.)-City Preparing For Vote On LB840 Sales Tax Continuation  [Listen](#)



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/29/2013 08:34 AM

(CHADRON)-The time is quickly approaching when Chadron residents will have another opportunity to exercise their right to vote in matters affecting the city. A special election will be taking place on April 30th at the Masonic Temple, and the issue is whether or not to virtually extend the city's current ½ cent sales tax, which expires in September 2014. The measure would be earmarked for improvements to the city's infrastructure as well as provide funds for economic development and community improvement projects.

The current LB 840 ½ cent sales tax initiative that residents voted into effect in 2004 has provided funds for community betterment and economic development, including helping to build the new Chadron Community Hospital. The new initiative, if passed, would begin in October 2014, so essentially one sales tax expires and another begins in its place the very next day.

The Chadron city council and city manager Wayne Anderson have agreed that they prefer a continuation of the ½ cent sales tax as opposed to burdening property owners with an increase in property taxes. They say the lion's share of the infrastructure funding, if passed, would be allotted to upgrading and renovating the city's stormwater drains on Main St. and First St. Anderson says the pipes are literally deteriorating with time and are too small to accommodate optimum drainage, especially if the state moves forward with its proposal to renovate Highway 20/Third St. through town from Spruce St. to Pine St. The state has promised to redo the street, gutters, and retaining walls from property line to property line along Highway 20, including installing new five-foot sidewalks and street lights. However, they will only put Chadron on their project list if the city agrees to the necessary stormwater upgrades that will tie into the new work.

Anderson says the city needs the upgrades badly, and he is eager to move forward with the public's approval.

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Anderson says every effort is being made to ensure that informed voters are heading to the polls on April 30th.

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Anderson says that several people have mentioned to him that the wording on the actual ballot is a little confusing. To help combat the confusion, he says voters can preview the questions on the city's Web site at www.chadron-nebraska.com and then click on the "LB 840 Ballot" tab. The same information can be found at www.chadrad.com, by clicking on the banner ad on the right hand side of any page.

Anderson has said he is more than willing to answer any questions residents might have leading up to the vote, all a person needs to do is call him.

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Anderson can be reached at 432-0501. City council members have also said they are available for questions or concerns that anyone may have.

Mayor Karin Fischer

Vice mayor Levi Grant

Bill Barth

Paris Fisher

John Gamby

(Questions? Comments? E-mail roxie@chadrad.com.)

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