

Civic center committee presents information sheet on proposal

3-29-72

The following information sheet prepared and paid for by the Civic Center Promotion Committee was presented to those attending the public forum Tuesday evening and is being distributed throughout the city. The committee titled the following report "Facts on the Financing of the Civic Center for Rapid City."

TAX REFORM

Your city government has taken the lead in providing tax reform for every person in Rapid City. If the civic center financial proposal is approved by the voters of Rapid City, all food and medicines will be excluded from the present cent of city sales tax. This clearly means that every family and every person in Rapid City will be given a large break in their grocery and medicine bills. This is important tax relief for every family in Rapid City.

Since the state government could not come up with positive tax reform to give assistance to all citizens to South Dakota, it was necessary for the city government of Rapid City to take the lead.

Your city government does not have any authority over the 4 per cent of state sales tax. But, your city government can make the necessary and overdue changes in the city sales tax.

To repeat, if the civic center proposal is approved by the voters of Rapid City, there will be no city sales tax on groceries and on prescription medicines in Rapid City. [see page 2](#)

cent of sales tax will end and the city will go back to the original one cent of city sales tax that we now have.

FAIRNESS OF PROPOSAL

Is the proposal fair for all taxpayers of Rapid City?

This is fair because it will place the burden of paying for the new civic center on those people who will utilize the facility and on those businesses which will stand to profit the most from the construction of the civic center.

This is fair because the new tax will end the minute that the civic center is completely paid for.

This is fair because of the important tax reform and tax relief that will be given on sales of groceries and medicines in Rapid City.

Retired citizens, poor families, and medium income families will realize great savings in their grocery bills and medicine bills.

This is a very important savings for these families.

WILL THERE BE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES?

Absolutely no! The mayor is completely opposed to an increase in property taxes to pay for the civic center. This financial proposal will not involve your property taxes whatsoever.

If you have questions about the civic center plan, please contact the Mayor of Rapid City, Don Barnett at City Hall, 22 Main St., or call him at 348-0100.

EXPLANATION OF PROPERTY TAXES IN CITY, 1972

The following is a list of the mill levy for all units of government within Rapid City.

17.93 mills for operation of city government
51.76 mills for operation of Rapid City Independent School District
11.35 mills for operation of county government

\$1.04 mills total

The following is a breakdown on how the property tax dollar is spent within Rapid City.

.14 for operation of county government
.64 for operation of schools
.22 for operation of city government

\$1.00 total

SOME OBSERVATIONS

1. This is a clear indication that the city government of Rapid City is responsible for collecting and spending 20 per cent of the total property taxes within Rapid City.

2. This is a further indication that although the city only spends about 20 per cent of the property taxes, the city government of Rapid City could greatly assist all citizens of our community, if the city could find new revenues, other than the property tax, to support the municipal government.

3. If the city could continue to give property tax relief in this important sector of taxation, it would be desirable for all citizens of Rapid City.

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FOR CIVIC CENTER?

The basic foundation upon which the entire civic center proposal is based is the fact that those people benefiting most from the civic center and those people who will utilize the facility most — these people will be asked to pay a major portion of the entire cost of the project. This is only fair and logical.

The 2 per cent city sales tax on motels, hotels and campgrounds will collect money from those people who will directly benefit from the civic center and from those people who will use the civic center.

The same is true on the 2 per cent city sales tax on the restaurants and the bars and bottle shops (liquor stores). These are luxury items that can stand a slight increase in the city sales tax.

It was the intent of the city council that if people can afford to go to restaurants, bars and liquor stores — these same people can easily afford to pay the slight increase in the city sales tax on these items which are purchased in Rapid City.

It is also the intent of the civic center proposal to have a $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent increase in the city sales tax. The new revenue to be realized from this tax will be used to pay off the civic center very rapidly. If the civic center can be paid for very rapidly, the taxpayers of Rapid City will save millions of dollars in interest payments.

The city council has pledged that the new $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of city sales tax will end the moment that the new civic center is completely paid for.

It will be up to the citizens of Rapid City to hold their elected officials to that sincere pledge. When the civic center is paid for (and these exact words are in the ordinance that created this civic center financial proposal), the new $\frac{1}{2}$ per