

James Rabe ([00:00](#)):

Revenue enhancement is on the list. (Shaun Says "yes"). Is that just a name for taxes.

Shaun Palmer ([00:05](#)):

Sure. You can go with that. We were calling it revenue enhancements. There's two ideas out there right now that we're looking at. One of them is lighting surcharge. And in one of the advantages of doing that is that all properties pay it. Right now, tax exempt players don't pay property taxes and the other one would be a natural gas franchise fee. That's a fee that we get for them using our right away. Well, it's charged to the gas company and they charge it to the customer. And so lighting, I think we had raised about \$1.4 million. There was about 10,000 streetlights in Rochester. And I think we'd raise a bout \$3 million in revenue on, on the gas one.

James Rabe ([00:45](#)):

So with the street lights, are, are we deficient in street lights or is it just that there are now so many that we have trouble keeping up with the cost.

Shaun Palmer ([00:52](#)):

It's just another enhancement for revenue that, that you're just changing where the dollars should come from. There's one argument that, you know, if you're charging this amount for taxes and you charge this much more for streetlights, then lower my taxes. And that would be a great idea. Right? Don't think that that's one of the ideas that it's going to make pass, though.

James Rabe ([01:09](#)):

It'd be a good idea.

Shaun Palmer ([01:11](#)):

It would be wonderful. I would be for that. I think that that makes sense.

James Rabe ([01:14](#)):

Has anyone reached out to you to complain about these two things?

Shaun Palmer ([01:18](#)):

We've had a couple of people and this is not a new idea. This is something that's been, you know, up the flagpole before and, and, and didn't really quite make it to the end. We're going to look at probably a 4 to 6% tax increase from the city of Rochester. We had none last year. So, you know, if we had two last year and two of this year there's some revenue, you know, just expenses. We had a lot of expenses last year that, that, you know, we didn't get covered in and we didn't want to jump on board with everybody.

Luke Lonien ([01:43](#)):

You mentioned that, you know, a tax cuts possibly could be one idea you didn't think would pass. What do you think would the council be interested in using these tax enhancements for?

Shaun Palmer ([01:52](#)):

Just for the general bottom line, just to help out, to keep the tax rate down, you know, that would be the rationale or provide another service for people. I don't know. We have never, you know, it's a whole new console, right? So you don't know where everybody's going to come from and in it. And that's the reason we have committee the whole meetings and they're called study sessions now, but it's, it's an opportunity for us to listen and ask questions and, and we don't vote, but, but we'll come back with a, Hey, we heard this or we heard that, or we can tweak this. And, you know, in any one of these, there's some different types, ways that you can do it.

James Rabe ([02:21](#)):

So they're back to study sessions. That's not going to make everyone happy. So but seriously so the lighting fund, it wouldn't just be for lights. It would go to the general fund and re-disbursed.

Shaun Palmer ([02:33](#)):

That's correct., yes.

James Rabe ([02:35](#)):

I'm surprised people wouldn't want to dedicate it to the lights thinking, well, I'm paying it for the lights, so why not have it go to the lights? Well,

Shaun Palmer ([02:41](#)):

It's just an accounting trick. I mean, I could say it's going for lights and that's what it's going to cost. And, you know, right now it comes out of the taxpayer money. So, you know, it's just an accounting thing (James responds "ok").