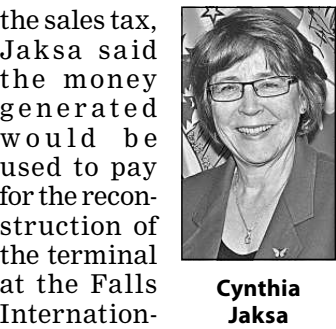


LOCALNEWS

Council to consider local sales tax
Proposal intended to fund airport, infrastructure projects

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls City Council Monday is expected to consider asking voters to decide whether to implement a local sales tax. The council meeting is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. in the council chambers at the Falls Municipal Building. The proposal to place the question of a local option sales tax on the ballot in the November election will be brought to the council by the city's Budget and Finance Committee, which is chaired by Councilor Cynthia Jaksa. In a draft letter expected to be sent Thursday to members of the International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Jaksa outlined the reasons for the proposal and funding options. "The council strives to make decisions which are the best for our residents and businesses," she wrote in the letter. "Our analysis indicates, indeed other city councils have reached the same conclusion, that a local sales tax is a better option than raising property taxes and fees. The local sales tax, in effect, expands our tax base and thereby reduces the burden on our citizens." Should the council approve placing the referendum on the ballot and should voters agree to implement



Cynthia Jaksa

the sales tax, Jaksa said the money generated would be used to pay for the reconstruction of the terminal at the Falls International Airport, which is jointly owned by the city and Koochiching County. The money would also be used to pay for water, sewer and street projects, said the letter. "We believe that if (city residents and voters) understand the cost of the alternatives and the shift of tax burden to all people who shop here, they will vote for the sales tax as so many other cities' residents have done," she wrote. In the draft of the letter, Jaksa said options to pay for the projects include: "Raise property taxes considerably on the residents and businesses who reside within the city limits and raise water and sewer rates; don't do the projects — not an option with the water tower repairs and crumbling sewer lines; deficit spend — which is not a solution but an erosion of the financial stability of your local city government and eventually results in tax hikes; bonding — which must

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Councilor

be paid back with a property tax increase; local sales tax." Jaksa said a local sale poses less of a burden on residential properties within the city limits and "in effect shares the burden with all the shoppers who come to the city." Bemidji and Duluth use a local sales tax to fund infrastructure and Grand Rapids is placing one on the ballot this fall, according to Jaksa. "The councils in these cities see that they are leveraging the attraction of their shopping centers to reduce the property tax burden of paying for infrastructure," she wrote. Jaksa cites Minnesota Department of Revenue statistics for 2012, which she said shows \$78 million in taxable sales generated within the city, of which \$75 million was non vehicle sales. "A 1 percent tax would raise something less than \$750,000 because sales

Filings period for councils, school boards open

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The filing period for positions on city councils and school districts opened Tuesday. The filing period closes Aug. 12. So far, Preston Hoy, Littlefork, has filed for a councilor position on the Littlefork City Council and incumbent Mike Fort has filed for the mayor position. Incumbents Keith Knaeble and Mike Imhof have filed for positions on the Littlefork-Big Falls School Board. International Falls City Council has also drawn filings. Harley M. Droba and Joe Schwartz have filed for Center Ward councilor; Brian Briggs for East Ward councilor; and Charles C. Lepper and incumbent Cynthia Jaksa for West Ward councilor. Cities and schools districts don't participate in the primary elections and races for positions on city councils and school boards will be decided in the Nov. 4 election. People may file for the following positions at city offices and school district offices: Ranier City Council Council positions are for four-year terms Council member, now held by Brenda Bauer Council member, now held by Ron Wilcox, who is finishing the term vacated

by Fred Woods. International Falls City Council Council positions are four-year terms East Ward councilor, now held by Paul Eklund Center Ward councilor, now held by Gail Rognerud West Ward councilor, now held by Cynthia Jaksa Littlefork City Council Council positions are four-year terms; mayor is a two-year term Councilor, now held by Brian Lindvall Councilor, now held by Kevin Sather Mayor, now held by Mike Fort Big Falls City Council Council positions are four-year terms; mayor is a two-year term Councilor, now held by Leslie Lepisto Councilor, now held by Shawn Pritchard Mayor, now held by Marta Lindemanis Falls School Board Three board member positions, each of which are four-year terms, are up for election. The positions are now held by Dena Wenberg, Willi Kostiuik, Darrell "Boxer" Wagner. Littlefork School Board Three board member positions, each of which are four-year terms, are up for election. The positions are now held by Keith Knaeble, Mike Imhof, Anita Gray.

SAMPLE BALLOT

A	KOOCHICHING COUNTY	B	STATE OF MINNESOTA	C	AUGUST 12, 2014
STATE PARTISAN PRIMARY BALLOT					
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: MINNESOTA ELECTION LAW PERMITS YOU TO VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES OF ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY IN A STATE PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION. To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●					
INDEPENDENCE PARTY		REPUBLICAN PARTY		DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTY	
FEDERAL OFFICES		FEDERAL OFFICES		FEDERAL OFFICES	
U.S. SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE		U.S. SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE		U.S. SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE	
○ STEVE CARLSON		○ DAVID CARLSON		○ SANDRA HENNINGSGARD	
○ KEVIN TERRELL		○ O. SAVIOR		○ AL FRANKEN	
○ JACK SHEPARD		○ JIM ABELER		STATE OFFICES	
○ STEPHEN WILLIAMS		○ MIKE MCFADDEN		GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR VOTE FOR ONE TEAM	
○ TOM BOOKS		○ PATRICK D. MUNRO		○ BILL DAHN AND JAMES VIGLIOTTI	
STATE OFFICES		STATE OFFICES		○ LESLIE DAVIS AND GREGORY K. SODERBERG	
GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR VOTE FOR ONE TEAM		GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR VOTE FOR ONE TEAM		○ MARK DAYTON AND TINA SMITH	
○ HANNAH NICOLLET AND TIM GIESEKE		○ MARTY SEIFERT AND PAM MYHRA		SECRETARY OF STATE VOTE FOR ONE	
○ BOB HELLAND		○ KURT ZELLERS AND DEAN SIMPSON		○ STEVE SIMON	
○ DAVID A. SINGLETON		○ MERRILL ANDERSON AND MARK ANDERSON		○ "DICK" FRANSON	
STATE AUDITOR VOTE FOR ONE		○ JEFF JOHNSON AND BILL KUISLE		○ GREGG A. IVERSON	
○ PATRICK DEAN		○ SCOTT HONOUR AND KARIN HOUSLEY		STATE AUDITOR VOTE FOR ONE	
ATTORNEY GENERAL VOTE FOR ONE		SECRETARY OF STATE VOTE FOR ONE		○ MATT ENTENZA	
○ BRANDAN BORGOS		○ DAN SEVERSON		○ REBECCA OTTO	
		STATE AUDITOR VOTE FOR ONE		ATTORNEY GENERAL VOTE FOR ONE	
		○ RANDY GILBERT		○ LORI SWANSON	
		ATTORNEY GENERAL VOTE FOR ONE			
		○ SCOTT NEWMAN			
		○ SHARON ANDERSON			

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