

*News
from
America's Real
Hometown*

*City of Cassville
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Question: Use Tax — Know the Facts

The April 5, 2022 election will see a use tax question on the ballot. Voters are asked to approve a use tax on purchases made on line. This is **NOT** a double tax, but would generate local revenue and fund community services.

What is a Local use Tax?

A use tax is a tax on the purchase of goods by Missouri residents from out-of-state vendors. Products exempt from the sales tax would be exempt from the use tax. The State of Missouri already has this in place, as do many counties in Southwest Missouri.

I already pay sales tax. Is this the same thing?

NO. If you already pay a local sales tax, you will **NOT** pay a use tax. You pay one or the other but **NEVER** both. The sales tax applies to purchases made at local retailers within Missouri, while the use tax applies to purchases made from out-of-state vendors. Purchases cannot fall into both groups and cannot be taxed twice.

How can a Use Tax benefit my community?

As internet purchases increase, local revenues decrease. Funds generated from the use tax can be used to pay for vital municipal services including: public safety, additional sidewalks and parks, and emergency equipment.

What is the rate of the Use Tax?

The local use tax rate is the same rate as the local sales tax rate. If the local sales tax is reduced or raised by voter approval, the local use tax shall also be reduced or raised by the same action.

- ◇ The current sales tax that you pay to a local business will **NOT** increase
- ◇ This will **NOT** add tax to any retail purchase you make out-of-state if you paid their tax at the point of purchase.
- ◇ Unless you shop online or purchase items out-of-state and bring back to Missouri for use, you will **NOT** be affected by the passage of a local use tax.
- ◇ A use tax would close a loophole that allows businesses who buy outside of Missouri to escape paying sales tax. Passage would require those businesses to pay the same tax as everyone else.
- ◇ Closing the loophole will not affect anyone who pays sales tax when buying goods.
- ◇ A use tax supports local business.
- ◇ The county has been collecting a use tax for over a year. If you have not paid a use tax to Barry County, you will not pay a use tax to the City of Cassville.

Please, if you have questions, contact the mayor or your alderman for more information.

Mayor Bill Shiveley bshiveley@cityofcassville.com **Alderman Jerry Marple** jmarple@cityofcassville.com
Alderman Jon Horner jhorner@cityofcassville.com **Alderman Mike Vining** mvinging@cityofcassville.com
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Please vote on April 5, 2022

Congratulations 2021 Employees of the Year

Each department selects an outstanding employee for the annual Employee Award. The chosen employee consistently assists and works with fellow employees without having to be asked, eagerly participates in group or team projects, exemplifies good communication skills and role modeling, and is willing to accomplish any task given. The employee exemplifies good morale, is courteous to the public and fellow employees, and has an overall positive presence. The Employee of the Year award is open to the entire city staff to select the employee who exemplifies the characteristics in innovation, teamwork, customer service and high integrity. This employee consistently demonstrates a positive attitude in every task and situation; and continually works well with the public and fellow employees.



The Public Works Employee of the year award went to Gus Robbins. Gus joined the City of Cassville's wastewater treatment plant December 10, 2021. Gus has already obtained his D Level Wastewater License and is working on his C License. Gus is willing to help any department that is in need, not just wastewater. He is a dedicated hard worker that can be depend on any time of day



The Police Department Employee of the year award went to Stuart Lombard. Stu joined the Cassville Police Department in 2018 as a Patrol Officer and Administrative Assistance. Stuart Lombard has shown dedication to his job, and is always willing to help his fellow officers and all employees of the City of Cassville. In 2020, after completing Crime Scene Investigator training, Stu was promoted to Detective.



Monzell Hagins joined the City of Cassville as the Accounting Clerk on April 12, 2021. She is a quick study and has already suggested some best practice process changes. Because she is consistently courteous and professional, her peers voted her Administrative Employee of the Year. In December she was promoted, taking on the responsibilities of Deputy City Clerk.



The overall Employee of the Year for 2021 is Officer Noah Whitehead. Having just joined the Cassville Police Department in July if 2021, Noah has acclimated quickly. Noah has shown an acute interest in community policing, and has expressed interest in the Shop With A Hero Program in December, 2022.

Big Changes to your Utility Bill

Let's face it, paying bills is not the most glamorous thing any of us do. So, the City is making changes to provide you an easier, more convenient way to deal with utilities. The City will be launching a new on-line bill payment platform in late March, 2022.

When implemented, you will be able to view bills on your smart phone, tablet or personal computer. You will be able to sign up for paperless, and receive your bill via email or text message. You will still be able to view your current bill through the City's website, if you choose (look for a new button at the top of the page.) You will be able to access your account history. Additionally, you can schedule payments to be made on a date of your choosing, up to and including the due date. And you will be able to receive email or text notification reminders. (It happens, sometime we forget.)

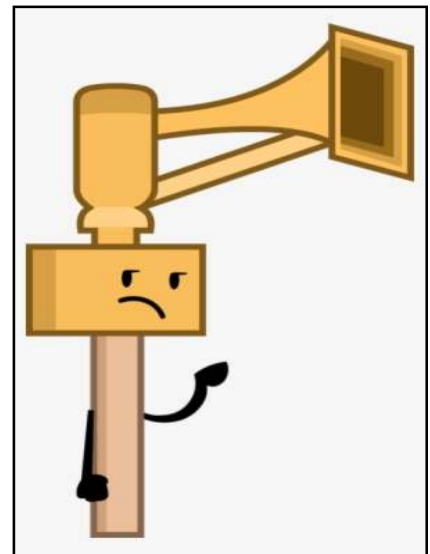
If you register you can take advantage of additional self-service options:

- You will be able to manage pay settings:
 - ◆ Single Payment
 - ◆ Recurring Payment (i.e.: always on the 14th)
- Review billing and payment history
- Change setting for Auto Pay/Paperless Billing/Pay by Text
- Link multiple accounts to your profile
- Save new payment methods *i.e., credit/debit cards, digital wallets like PayPal and Venmo and bank accounts for ACH

Changes to fees:

- Today there is a two percent fee for credit cards. In the future this will be a flat fee of \$3.50
- If you pay by E-Check/ACH there will be a \$1.95 fee
- If you sign up for Auto Pay, there will be **NO FEE**

Be Weather Ready



With springtime upon us, along with longer, warmer days we may experience spring storms. Some of these storms can be severe, and you may need to take precautions.

The City of Cassville does have outdoor storm sirens; but we want to remind you that they are designed to alert people who are outdoors when conditions for a tornado are elevated. Often people indoors do not hear these sirens, and should have other resources available to be alerted when storms are in our area. NOAA storm radios are an excellent resource, also, radio, television, and weather apps are good resources.

Remember that a storm watch means that weather is right for serious storms while storm warning are notices that serious storms are close, and you should take cover immediately.

Always have a plan and have an emergency pack that includes, but is not limited to, flashlights and extra batteries, medications, food, water, contact information and extra blankets and clothes.



