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SPORTS, 1B

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

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County commission plans hearing on a possible jail construction tax

Charles Dunlap
Columbia Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Boone County Jail is housing more and more offenders, prompting Boone County Sheriff Dwayne Carey to seek an adjustment to a county sales tax to raise revenue for a new jail building.

The Boone County Commission will hold a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. May 19 in the commission chambers at the Boone County Government Center at 801 E. Walnut St. in Columbia on the request to place a 3/8-cent Proposition L sales tax enhancement question on Aug. 4 ballot.

The Boone County Jail has capacity to hold 190 offenders and its current roster, as of May 5, was 392 — meaning many individuals are being held at 12

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In 2020, 20.1% of households earning between $60,000 and $100,000 reported experiencing problems affording their energy. In 2024, 32.1% of those households did – a 12 percentage point increase. GETTY IMAGES

Data: 1 in 3 households struggles to pay energy bills

Diana Hernández
Columbia University
THE CONVERSATION

Americans' concerns about being able to afford electricity and home heating fuel have been elevated since the beginning of the Iran war. But recently released nationwide data shows that even before the war began, these concerns were widespread, long-standing and getting worse faster than the data can reflect.

The information is from preliminary reports based on the Residential Energy Consumption Survey, a representative

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Seniors have historically been among the most protected from high energy bills, partly by programs to assist with energy costs and partly because wealth usually peaks in later life. Even so, the share of older Americans experiencing energy insecurity climbed to 1 in 4 in 2024 from roughly 1 in 5 in 2020. GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

Council meetings will cover utility rates, airline deal

Charles Dunlap
Columbia Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Columbia City Council in a work session Monday will start to look at rate changes for various city utilities.

Presentations will focus on solid waste and sewer rate recommendations based on a cost-of-service study, while the council also will review any updates on electric and water rates, as well.

Proposed solid waste rate changes are in preparation for building a new Materials Recovery Facility for recycling to replace the one destroyed in the April 20, 2025, tornado. Other rate changes are meant to ensure utility cash reserves are maintained. A sewer rate change could bring down the base rate fee, but have changes to volumetric usage fee.

Typical yearly increases for water and electric also are planned.

During the regular meeting Monday the council also will revisit a bill related to a public safety sales tax ballot measure, which was tabled at the May 4 meeting. If approved, a 1% sales tax question for the purposes of funding public safety in Columbia will go on the Aug. 4 ballot for Columbia voters.

The council also will consider issuing an administrative delay on approving or processing permits for data centers allowing more time for city staff to establishing zoning and permitting rules on their construction.

An air services agreement with Allegiant Air to provide a direct flight from Columbia Regional Airport, which includes a revenue guarantee of $82,000 from transportation sales tax funding, also is on the agenda. The conservative Goldwater Institute recently warned the city that a previous agreement with American Airlines violates the state constitution, though the city has said it is following all applicable laws with regard to revenue guarantees in the air service agreements.

A 2026 budget amendment will open up funds for the construction costs for North Village Park at 210 Orr St. The council will vote on the amendment.

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