

Golf course key driver as...

RATES GO UP 4.5PC

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THE City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was poised to approve a general rate increase of 4.5 per cent and a sewerage rate increase of 6.4 per cent with the price increases for electricity, gas and insurance to cost more than \$400,000.

The budget, with a combined operating and capital budget of \$90 million, was due to be agreed upon by councillors at the general council meeting last night.

The recommended general rate increase compares to the 3.5 per cent approved for the last financial year, 5.5 per cent rate in 2008-09, 4 per cent in 2007-2008 and 3 per cent in 2006-2007.

The council has budgeted to receive more than \$18.76m in rates an increase of more than a million received for the current financial year.

In his annual report, City Mayor Ron Yuryevich added the council had to factor increases in utility and insurance prices which accounted for \$436,000 or an equivalent rate increase of 2.5 per cent.

The newly constructed Kalgoorlie Golf Course is also expected to have an impact on the bottom line after the

council took control of the responsibility from the previous developers.

It is expected to have an operating shortfall of around \$500,000 for the first year of operation.

"History now shows in August last year the City had to take control of this project and complete construction," Mr Yuryevich said.

"The course is certainly a major drawcard for the City and is now open for business.

"There is an impact on the budget and it is anticipated there will be an operating shortfall for several years while it establishes itself.

"The City's next challenge is to locate a resort developer to complement the course."

Community groups are expected to receive more than \$1.2m with the big winners being the Kalgoorlie Cemetery Board (\$450,000), the Kalgoorlie Bowling Club (\$236,000) and the Kalgoorlie Visitors Centre (\$230,000).

Some of the big budget items includes:

- \$2.128m for the continuation of the Ray Finlayson Sporting Complex project
- \$1.5m for extensions to the City's administration building for a meeting and function room.
- \$1.25m to convert the dilapidated Lord Forrest Pool into a youth space.
- \$6m on road works and safety improvements.