

City Councilman Urges Cut In Property Taxes

A need to reduce real property taxes in Jamestown was cited by Fourth Ward Councilman Richard A. Kimball Jr., the council's lone Republican member, at Monday night's council session.

He said he feels if some of his ideas on alternative forms of taxation are adopted, council has an opportunity to reduce property taxes without cutting essential services.

Kimball has suggested a reduction of exemptions through review of "gray areas" in which there is some doubt as to whether the exemption is justified. He also has proposed a sewer usage tax, along with the possible need to reduce city services or personnel.

The councilman commended recent action in approving a bus fare increase and called for further consideration of a garbage tax, elimination of duplication of services, and zero based budgeting.

Kimball also advocated an expanded tax base, possibly through industrial expansion that also would provide additional jobs. He expressed concern about the possible effect of the Warren Mall on commercial activity in Jamestown and called for cooperation from all quarters to minimize its impact locally.

The GOP councilman said the city needs an updated comprehensive plan realistically confronting such problems as decreasing population and housing, commercial and industrial expansion. He concluded, "We need to look to the future and design a plan which will coordinate our community activities, thus insuring further prosperity and continued quality of life for our citizens for years to come."