

**CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM:

Council Bill 2021-002 submitting to the electors of the City of Joplin, at a Special Election on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, the question of whether the City may extend the Sales Tax of one-quarter of 1% for stormwater control and local parks improvements.

MEETING DATE:

May 17, 2021

ORIGINATING DEPT:

LEGAL

ATTACHMENTS:

CB2021-002

REVIEWED BY:

Dept. Head: City Attorney Peter Edwards; Leslie Haase, Finance Director; David Hertzberg, Public Works Director; Paul Bloomberg, Parks & Recreation Director; Barbara Gollhofer, City Clerk; City Manager Nick Edwards.

SUMMARY:

This Council Bill calls an election on August 3, 2021 for the purpose of determining whether the City shall extend the Sales Tax of one-quarter (¼) of One Percent (1%) for a period of ten (10) years for stormwater control and local parks improvements.

BACKGROUND:

On November 6, 2001, the electors of the City of Joplin passed a Sales Tax of one-quarter (1/4) of one percent (1%) to run for a period of ten (10) years, which commenced on April 1, 2002, for the purpose of funding stormwater control and local parks improvements. The tax was to sunset on March 31, 2012. The tax was split 68.5% for stormwater control and 31.5% for local parks improvements.

On April 18, 2011, the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, passed Ordinance No. 2011-050 to authorize submission to the electors of the City of Joplin at a Special Election held on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, a question of whether the City should extend a Sales Tax of one-quarter (1/4) of one percent (1%) for an additional period of ten (10) years for the purpose of funding stormwater control and local parks improvements, and at that Special Election on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, electors of the City of Joplin passed a Sales Tax of one-quarter (1/4) of one percent (1%) to run for a period of ten (10) years to commence April 1, 2012. This tax is set to sunset on March 31, 2022. The tax is split 59% for stormwater control and 41% for local parks improvements.

In 2020, the City conducted and completed a Master Plan for stormwater, as well as a Master Plan for the Parks Department. Both Master Plans detailed the needed improvements in stormwater and

parks for the next ten years. The plans were developed through several public meetings and various citizen surveys.

In February 2021, the Council appointed a Citizens Task Force to determine the final ten-year project list for the renewal of the one-quarter (1/4) of one percent (1%) Sales Tax for stormwater control and local parks improvements. The Citizens Task Force reviewed all of the projects in detail and explored different options for the projects. The Citizens Task Force utilized a “matrix” to rank the parks projects from most important to least important.

Next, the Citizens Task Force utilized the ranked project list to determine the final ten-year list for local parks improvements. Additionally, the ranked stormwater project list was utilized to determine the final ten-year list for stormwater control improvements. In order to achieve the approved ten-year project lists, the Citizens Task Force also recommended a split of the tax, if renewed, of 45% for stormwater control and 55% for local parks improvements and maintenance.

The Council met in a Work Session on May 10, 2021 and determined to proceed with the submission to the voters a request to extend the one-quarter cent parks and stormwater sales tax to fund the projects as approved by the Citizens Task Force for a period of ten (10) years. If approved by the voters, this tax will raise approximately \$41 million during the life of the tax. The approved final project lists are included for your reference.

If the Council wishes to proceed with this issue, the question must be submitted to the respective County Clerks by no later than May 25, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of this Council Bill on an Emergency basis.

PCE:ab
attachment