

## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bellevue, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 8, 2022, of a proposition authorizing the City to lift the levy limit in Chap. 84.55 RCW for parks, open space and related purposes to pay and/or finance costs to acquire, improve and develop open space, neighborhood, community and recreation facilities and parks, and to pay costs of maintaining and operating open spaces, neighborhood, community and recreation facilities, and parks; setting forth the text of the ballot proposition; directing proper City officials to take necessary actions; and providing for other related matters.

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*Parks & Community Services*

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*Finance & Asset Management*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As directed by Council on July 18, staff is returning with an Ordinance for Council approval providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at the election to be held on November 8, 2022, a proposition authorizing the City to lift the regular property tax levy limit to fund Park capital improvements and maintenance and operations.

## RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6671

## BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

From March to July 2022 (Attachment A), Council has progressively reviewed and discussed plans to advance a Parks long term funding strategy (City Council Priority No. 9) to address community needs and park system gaps identified in the Parks and Open Space System Plan (POSSP). At the July 11 meeting, Council approved the \$85 million 2022 proposed Parks package for voter consideration which reflects a balanced list of capital project categories; and \$4 million of annual maintenance and operating costs to be funded by a 9-year regular levy lid lift for voter consideration in the November 2022 General Election. On July 18, Council confirmed the language in the draft Ordinance with an amendment to Exhibit A of the Ordinance to add cricket and pickleball as examples to the Emerging Sports category; and directed staff to prepare the Ordinance for Council consideration for final action on July 25. Council action is required tonight in order to meet the August 2 filing deadline for inclusion of a ballot measure on the November 8, 2022 General Election.

The Ordinance authorizes a proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters of the City to lift the levy limit and contains the following major provisions:

- Projects: Purpose is to pay and/or finance costs to acquire, improve and develop open space neighborhood, community and recreation facilities and parks; and to pay costs of maintaining

and operating open space, neighborhood, community and recreation facilities and parks within the City.

- **Flexibility:** Authorizes City Council to determine, or provide the determination of, the scope, timing, order and manner of funding of the Projects. Further, the City Council may alter, make substitutions to and amend the description of any of the Projects as it determines is in the best interest of City and consistent with the general open space, neighborhood, community, recreation, and park purposes.
- **Tax rate:** Proposition to increase the City's regular levy for a period of nine years by approximately \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed value (AV), to pay and finance costs of acquiring, improving and developing Open Space and Park Facilities and by approximately \$0.05 per \$1,000 AV to pay costs of maintaining and operating (M&O) open space and park facilities including neighborhood, community and recreation facilities within the City.
- **Exemption:** Qualifying senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities shall be exempt from the tax increase.
- **Calling of Election:** Directs the submission of the proposition to voters at the November 8, 2022, election. If approved, this Ordinance will become effective on August 2, 2022. A separate agenda item to appoint pro and con committees, who will prepare statements in favor of and in opposition to the ballot measure, is included in tonight's agenda.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

Pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330(3), the last day for the City to file a resolution (or ordinance) with the County calling for a City ballot proposition to be placed on the November 8, 2022 ballot is no later than the date of August 2, 2022 primary.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071(1) if the local governmental unit is a city or a town, the ballot title's concise statement describing the measure must be prepared by the city or town attorney.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280, for each measure the City Council must formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure. The Council shall appoint persons known to favor the measure to serve on the committee advocating approval and shall, whenever possible, appoint persons known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating rejection. Each committee shall have not more than three members, however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons. If Council fails to make such appointments by the prescribed deadline, the county auditor shall whenever possible make the appointments.

### **Fiscal Impact**

If the Ordinance is adopted and if the proposition passes at the November 2022 General Election, the impact to a homeowner with \$1 million assessed value would be approximately \$200 annually or \$17 a month. It will generate an estimated new revenue of \$16 million annually beginning 2023 or \$144 million over nine years ending in 2031 to fund Park's long range plan and maintenance.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bellevue, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 8, 2022, of a proposition authorizing the City to lift the levy limit in Chap. 84.55 RCW for parks, open space and related purposes to pay and/or finance costs to acquire, improve and develop open space, neighborhood, community and recreation facilities and parks, and to pay costs of maintaining and operating open spaces, neighborhood, community and recreation facilities, and parks; setting forth the text of the ballot proposition; directing proper City officials to take necessary actions; and providing for other related matters.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Parks Potential Voter-Approved Funding Options Timeline  
Proposed Ordinance No. 6671

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A