

July 25, 2016

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Ordinance No. 6303 providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, of a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund improvements to fire facilities.

Motion to appoint pro/con committees for Ordinance No. 6303.

FISCAL IMPACT

If Ordinance is passed, the voters of the City of Bellevue will vote on the November 8, 2016 election on a 12.5 cent per \$1,000 assessed value property tax increase for the purpose of improving fire facilities. If passed by the voters in November, the impact to the median assessed value home in Bellevue at \$640,000 (per King County Assessor's Office) will be approximately \$80 annually. The new revenue generated to the City of Bellevue will be approximately \$5.5 million annually, generating an estimated \$120 million over 20 years.

STAFF CONTACTS

Toni Rezab, Interim Director 452-7863
Finance

Bob Hyde, Deputy City Attorney 452-2033
City Attorney's Office

Mark Risen, Fire Chief 452-6895
Fire Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330, the last day for the City to file a measure to be placed on the November 8, 2016 ballot is August 2, 2016.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071, the language for a ballot measure consists of three major components: (a) an identification of the enacting legislative body and a statement of the subject matter; (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question. The statement of the subject of a measure must be sufficiently broad to reflect the subject of the measure, sufficiently precise to give notice of the measure's subject matter, yet may not exceed ten words. RCW 29A.72.050. The concise description of the measure is what informs the voters of the primary substance of the proposition before them, and is limited to 75 words. RCW 29A.36.071. For a property tax levy, the question must be phrased in terms of the maximum allowable property tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value for years of the levy term. RCW 29A.36.210.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280, the Council must formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval of the measure (the "pro committee") and also formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure (the "con committee"). The Council must appoint "persons known to favor the measure" to serve on the pro committee and "whenever possible, appoint persons known to oppose the measure" to serve on the con committee. Each committee can have a maximum of three members, but the committee may seek the advice of any number of people. If the Council fails to timely appoint the pro/con committees, the King County Auditor is empowered to make the appointments.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

 X Action

BACKGROUND

Since May, Council has been in a sustained review of the CIP long range financial plan. Starting with the May 16 meeting, staff provided an update on the long range financial CIP planning work, community and Council priorities, and gaps between those priorities and projected revenues. Conclusions reached include:

- The update to the long range CIP financial plan funding available to address discrete projects (i.e., projects other than debt and ongoing maintenance) remains at approximately \$400 million. The potential projects for the City remain well in excess of that.
- Compilation of themes from historical and recent citizen and business surveys (in no particular order) include traffic congestion/growth, public transportation, public safety, open space/parks, and affordable housing. All of these priorities have existing initiatives that are currently underway, but in some cases, implementation of those initiatives may be at a pace that does not meet community expectations for improvement and investment in the near term.

On May 23, Council was briefed on both the 2014 Fire Facilities plan and on example projects that would be addressed in the area of Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity. Council gave staff direction to include neighborhood congestion in the community outreach, in addition to the neighborhood safety, sidewalk and trail maintenance, new sidewalks/trails, new ITS safety and traffic management projects and new bike facilities. In response, staff did include neighborhood congestion in the public outreach and reducing neighborhood congestion ranked highly in the public feedback.

On June 6, the Fire Department returned to provide revised recommendations that reduced the overall scope and cost of the 2014 consultant plan yet still maintained the goals and needs to be achieved in regard to improved deployment of resources and needed seismic upgrades. Separately, staff also briefed Council on the progress of obtaining a TIFIA loan.

Following the several study sessions in May and June, Council directed staff to take the next steps to pursue a TIFIA loan to address the mobility in BelRed and to pursue community feedback about potential ballot measure(s) approving additional property taxes to accelerate capital investments for both the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity and the Fire Long Range Facilities areas.

At the July 5 meeting, Council received a high-level summary of the feedback developed through that public engagement including (see July 11 Council packet for detailed information):

- Interim results from the online survey,
- Open house feedback, and
- Transportation Commission feedback.

At the July 11 meeting, Council directed staff to return with two draft ballot measures for Council consideration:

1. A 12.5 cent per \$1,000 of assessed value, 20 year Fire Facilities draft ballot ordinance which will include construction of station 10 (downtown fire station), seismic upgrades to all stations, rebuild of station 6 and station 4, and warehouse needs; and
2. A 15.0 cent per \$1,000 of assessed value, 20 year Transportation Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity ballot ordinance which will include:
 - Neighborhood Safety to improve safety for all neighborhood transportation users by more rapidly implementing speed/traffic mitigation projects in neighborhoods and around schools; adding mid-block and lighted crossings; and supplementing the Collision Reduction Program.
 - Reducing neighborhood congestion through projects that provide relief for identified problem areas and where improvement could be accomplished through changes within the existing right-of-way. Funding in this program will improve traffic safety and flow by funding the engineering and design of projects that will ease congestion in and out of neighborhoods.
 - New sidewalks and trails to improve walkability by connecting neighborhoods to gathering places, recreational opportunities and other neighborhoods.
 - Enhanced technology for traffic management in order to position the City to take advantage of new technologies to increase network efficiency and improve traffic flow. Funding for this program will improve the city's capability to respond to emerging technologies that improve safety and traffic flow.
 - Sidewalk and trail maintenance to repair and improve existing facilities.
 - New bike facilities to create a safe and connected bike network for commuting, recreation and family activities.

On July 18, Council reviewed a draft Fire Facilities ordinance, and the attached ordinance reflects the Council's suggested changes.

Since July 6, staff has been collecting the names of volunteers to serve on the pro and con committees through a series of media releases and social media blasts. Additional information on the volunteers is in the desk packet materials.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Ordinance becomes effective on August 4, 2016.

OPTIONS

1. Approve providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, of a proposition authorizing the City to

increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund improvements to fire facilities.

2. Appoint the following individuals to the pro/con committees:
 - Pro committee – [*name(s) to be provided at the meeting*]
 - Con committee – [*name(s) to be provided at the meeting*]
3. Approve Ordinance, but take alternate action on the pro/con committees.
4. Do not approve Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

MOTIONS

Move to approve Ordinance No. 6303 providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, of a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund improvements to fire facilities.

Move to appoint [*name(s) to be provided at the meeting*] to serve as the pro committee to write the voter's pamphlet statement in favor of the fire facilities levy.

Move to appoint [*name(s) to be provided at the meeting*] to serve as the con committee to write the voter's pamphlet statement against the fire facilities levy.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Ordinance No. 6303