

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor TJ Gilmore
Mayor Pro Tem William Meridith
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Kelly
Council Member Bob Troyer
Council Member Ronni Cade
Council Member Brandon Jones
Council Member Kristin Green

FROM: Thomas Harris III, City Secretary
David Erb, Director of Finance

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of an Ordinance Calling a General Municipal Election to Elect At-large a Mayor and a City Council Member Place 2; Consideration of an Ordinance Calling a Bond Election for Voters to vote FOR or AGAINST issuing general obligation bonds for City Fire Fighting Facilities; Expansion of the City's Animal Shelter/Adoption Center; Park, Open Space and Recreation Improvements and Facilities; and Street and Roadway Improvements.

BACKGROUND

This agenda item accomplishes two goals. (1) It recommends adoption of an ordinance calling for the general municipal election to elect Mayor and Council Member for Place 2; and (2) It recommends adoption of an ordinance calling a bond election for voters to vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of general obligation bonds for City Fire Fighting Facilities; expansion of the City's Animal Shelter/Adoption Center; Park, Open Space and Recreation Improvements and Facilities; and Street and Roadway Improvements.

ANALYSIS

Ordinance Calling General Election:

The first proposed ordinance calls for the general election to be held on May 4, 2024, in accordance with the Texas Election Code and the City's Charter. The general election will be held for the purpose of electing at-large a Mayor and City Council Member Place No. 2 to a full three-year term. In accordance with Section 271.002 of the Texas Election Code, the City election will be conducted jointly with other political subdivisions in Denton and Dallas Counties.

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Should a runoff election be required following the canvass of the May 4, 2024 election, the proposed ordinance also calls for the runoff election to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, as set by the Texas Secretary of State. The polling places for both early voting and Election Day for the runoff election shall be determined at the time a runoff election is called by the City Council.

Ordinance Calling a Bond Election:

The second proposed ordinance calls for a bond election for which multiple propositions will be submitted to the voters. In November 2015, Lewisville voters approved a \$135 million bond package that included street, park, and public safety projects. A breakdown of the 2015 Bond Package included \$71.6 million for streets and drainage projects; \$39.9 million for parks and trails, including a new recreation center; \$10.5 million for public safety facilities; and \$13 million for an indoor aquatic facility. The bond projects were presented as a 10-year plan. By 2023, bond authority from the 2015 bond election has been exhausted requiring the City to pursue additional bonding authority to continue funding capital improvement projects.

A Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee was appointed by the City Council in 2022 to evaluate potential projects and make a recommendation to the council. The committee reviewed more than 60 projects prepared by City staff, received public input on those projects through surveys and public meetings, and has selected those projects that it believes are most important to meet Lewisville's infrastructure needs. The final committee recommendation was presented to the City Council for consideration at their December 4, 2023 meeting. After reviewing the public art master plan update on December 18, 2023, Council also asked staff to include funding in the proposed capital projects for public art.

The final recommendation includes street, park, animal services, and public safety projects totaling \$263.4 million. Primary funding for the 24 recommended projects will come from the issuance of General Obligation (GO) bonds, pending voter approval. Four ballot propositions will be considered as part of the bond election. Proposition A is for the issuance of \$6.7M of GO Bonds for City Firefighting Facilities. Proposition B is for the issuance of \$9.9M of GO Bonds for the Expansion of the City's Animal Shelter/Adoption Center. Proposition C is for the issuance of \$47.7M of GO Bonds for Park, Open Space, and Recreation Improvements and Facilities. Proposition D is for the issuance of \$198.9M of GO Bonds for Street and Roadway Improvements.

If approved, bonds are anticipated to be issued over a ten-year period. Additional funding in support of the projects will come from 4B sales taxes, TIRZ incremental taxes and utility cash and bonds.

Election Details:

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City staff will obtain contracts for election services with both Denton and Dallas Counties. These contracts will address polling locations for both early voting and Election Day. Dates and times for early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at following locations:

Denton County Early Voting:

Locations: Denton County Administration Building 701 Kimberly Drive, Denton Texas
Fredrick P. Herring Recreation Center 191 Civic Circle, Lewisville, Texas

Early Voting: April 22-26: 8am-5pm
April 27: 8am-5pm
April 29-30: 7am-7pm

Dallas County Voting:

Locations: Dallas County Elections Department, 1520 Round Table Drive, Dallas, Texas
Coppell Town Center Atrium, 255 Parkway Blvd., Coppell, Texas

Early Voting: April 22-26: 8am-5pm
April 27: 8am-5pm
April 29-30: 7am-7pm

Polling locations, established by the joint election services contracts, will be open on Election Day, Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. State law requires that canvassing of the election be held between the 3rd and 11th day following an election.

CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the ordinances as set forth in the caption above.