



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of July 29, 2014
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of August 12, 2014

DATE: July 14, 2014
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
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Ordering a Special Election – November 4, 2014

CAPTION:

Ordinance ordering a special election to be held on November 4, 2014, in the City of Corpus Christi, on the questions of authorizing bond issuances of the City supported by ad valorem taxes and the sale of city park land; providing for the procedures for holding such an election; providing for notice of election and publication thereof; providing for the establishment of branch early polling places; designating polling place locations; authorizing a joint election with Nueces County; enacting provisions incident and relating to the subject and purpose of this ordinance.

PURPOSE:

This item will allow for a special election to be held on November 4, 2014 to consider the questions of two (2) Bond Propositions for street and street-related improvements and one (1) Proposition for the sale of city park land. (Actual ballot wording is listed in the ordinance)

Proposition 1, Street Projects (16 Projects)	\$ 55,000,000
Proposition 2, Street Safety, Revitalization, and Capacity Improvement Projects (12 Projects)	\$ 44,200,000
Proposition 3, Sale of City Park Land (20 Parks)	

Additionally, approval of the ordinance will authorize the City to enter into a joint election with Nueces County (see attached Joint Election Agreement).

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Propositions 1 and 2

The street projects proposed for the November 4, 2014 special election are divided into two propositions. Proposition 1, valued at \$55 million, represents streets in the greatest need of reconstruction. Proposition 2, valued at \$44.2 million, consists of street and street-related projects that promote economic revitalization, increase street capacity and enhance safety improvements. In January 2014, design contracts were issued for the projects listed in Proposition 1 so the projects would be close to "shovel-ready" if they were approved by city-voters in a November 2014 Bond election. As required by the City Charter, the Planning

Commission reviewed the proposed bond program on July 2, 2014 and approved it as presented. Staff also presented the proposed Bond 2014 program on July 15, 2014 for Council direction.

Proposition 3

During the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process conducted in 2011-2012, the Master Plan identified 27 parks that should be repurposed. "Repurpose" was defined as leased, transferred to another government entity or decommissioned and sold. To date, six of the parks to be repurposed have been leased / adopted and are maintained by a community organization. Additionally, one will be used in the new Harbor Bridge alignment. Therefore, 20 parks are being proposed for decommissioning. State regulations require a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the sale and all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land from the sale has been made. The City Council held a public hearing on June 24, 2014 to receive public comments regarding the decommissioning. The City Council passed a resolution in favor of decommissioning the parks, reserving the option to amend the list of proposed parks when approving the election ordinance.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose not to call for the special election.
The Council could choose to amend the proposition(s).
The Council could choose to reduce the number of propositions.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The City Council will also consider an ordinance calling for a general election to elect the mayor and eight council members on November 4, 2014. Council will consider that ordinance in a separate agenda item.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

This ordinance complies with the requirements of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Election Code, and the City Charter.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-emergency.

DEPARTMENTAL/OTHER CLEARANCES:

Legal/Bond Counsel
Capital Programs Department
Finance Department
Parks and Recreation Department
Planning Commission

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Operating Revenue Capital Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2013-2014	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Comments: Financial information for the special election is explained in the related agenda item calling for the November 4, 2014 general election.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- Ordinance
- Joint Election Agreement
- Election Services Contract
- Election Cost Estimate