

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey and the Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: January 13, 2022
RE: Approval of Ballot Language – Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal

For the Agenda of January 17, 2022

Background. The voter-approved .75mill parks and recreation millage expires soon. We have been able to make extraordinary improvements (the purchase of the property at 303 Pinecrest to develop a new park and home for the Clare Youth Soccer Program; development within the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex; placement of a skate and bike park and purchase of equipment; obtaining property to relocate the historic Clare Union Railroad Depot and help fund rehabilitation of the facility and railcars; and for the purchase of numerous park benches and tables; etc.) since this dedicated, voter-approved millage was instituted. There remains a long list of proposed recreation capital improvements (items include continued development at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex and at the skate & bike park; closing the 2.3 mile gap that exists within the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail; campground improvements at Pettit Park; a dog park; park improvements to the adult softball field; completion of Lake Shamrock dredging and beach restoration; a community center, etc.) listed in the City's Recreation Master Plan that simply will not be accomplished or will be long-delayed in becoming a reality if the millage is not again approved by the electorate of Clare.

The City Staff and the City's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board consider the proposed future capital improvements essential to maintaining and improving quality of life for Clare residents and suggest that the continuance of this dedicated millage is imperative to continue the type of improvements that have been made to date as a result of the millage.

If this millage is to continue, the Clerk's office must provide the proposed ballot language to the Clare County Clerk by February 8, 2022, for inclusion on the May ballot. Therefore, the City Commission is asked to consider approving this topic as an item on the May ballot. Suggested ballot language for this millage proposal is attached. The Commission is asked to approve the proposed ballot language.

Issues & Questions Specified. Should the City Commission approve the proposed parks and recreation millage proposal ballot language?

Alternatives.

1. Approve the proposed ballot language.
2. Amend and approve the ballot language.
3. Do not approve the ballot language, thereby terminating the parks facilities improvement program.
4. Defer/delay decision of this matter to a subsequently scheduled City Commission meeting.

Financial Impact. If the millage is not approved, any future recreation capital improvements will have to be funded using general tax funds and will be required to “compete” with other City requirements funded in this manner.

Recommendation. I recommend the City Commission approve the proposed ballot language by adoption of Resolution 2022-009.

Attachments.

1. Proposed ballot language.
2. Resolution 2022-009.

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

City of Clare Proposal 1

Title: Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal

Shall the City of Clare, Clare and Isabella Counties continue to levy three-quarter (3/4) mill (\$.75 per \$1,000.00) on taxable value of property located in the City of Clare for four years beginning with the 2023 tax year and running through 2026 tax levy year (inclusive), which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated revenue of \$70,592.55 to be used for parks and recreation purposes. This is a renewal of a millage that will otherwise expire in 2023. Taxes within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) districts will be distributed as prescribed by law.

RESOLUTION 2022-009

A RESOLUTION OF THE CLARE CITY COMMISSION APPROVING THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR A PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE FOR A MAY 2022 ELECTION.

WHEREAS, the electorate of Clare has historically approved a millage for the improvement of parks facilities within the City; and

WHEREAS, said millage is due to expire soon; and

WHEREAS, the City Staff and the Clare Parks & Recreation Advisory Board have recommended that said millage again be submitted to the City’s electorate for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has considered and concurs with said recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has reviewed the proposed ballot language for legal sufficiency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Commission of the City of Clare hereby approves proposed ballot language for the renewal of .75 mills for improvement of parks facilities throughout the City of Clare, said millage proposal to be presented at the May, 2022 election, and said ballot language to read, “Shall the City of Clare, Clare and Isabella Counties continue to levy three-quarter (3/4) mill (\$.75 per \$1,000.00) on taxable value of property located in the City of Clare for four years beginning with the 2023 tax year and running through 2026 tax levy year (inclusive), which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated revenue of \$70,592.55 to be used for parks and recreation purposes. This is a renewal of a millage that will otherwise expire in 2023. Taxes within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) districts will be distributed as prescribed by law.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Commission hereby directs its City Clerk to take all necessary actions required to place said millage proposal on the May, 2022 election ballot.

ALL RESOLUTIONS AND PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS INSOFAR AS THEY CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION BE AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY RESCINDED.

**The Resolution was introduced by Commissioner _____ supported by Commissioner _____.
The Resolution declared adopted by the following roll call vote:**

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Resolution approved for adoption on this 17th day of January, 2022.

Diane Lyon, City Clerk