

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN, COLORADO, IN SUPPORT OF THE BALLOT QUESTION ASKING CITY ELECTORS TO APPROVE AN INCREASE OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX RATES FOR STREETS PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS, The Fort Morgan City Council has received substantial and sustained community input in recent years about the poor condition of the city's streets, and improvement of street conditions has been identified as a priority through informal citizen surveys; and,

WHEREAS, the city undertook a scientific analysis and assessment of pavement conditions throughout the city as a way of defining the scope of the problem, and that study showed the majority of city streets were in marginal or poor condition, below the national average, and would require an investment of approximately \$2.475 million per year to raise pavement conditions to the national average, arrest the decline of street conditions, clear the backlog of deferred maintenance and set the city on a long-term course toward a better streets system; and,

WHEREAS, the Council directed city staff to explore various options for financing such a street improvement program, and staff examined the potential impacts and projected revenues of a property tax increase and General Fund budget cuts, among other solutions, before recommending a one percent sales tax increase as the most realistic, effective and fair way of improving the city's streets network; and,

WHEREAS, City staff and the Council engaged the public and received substantial feedback about the proposal, most of it in support of the sales tax increase, and made adjustments to the proposal based on that feedback such as the inclusion of alley improvements in the approved uses of the tax revenues; and,

WHEREAS, the Council also expressed its intention through the ballot issue language to use the revenue from the proposed sales tax increase exclusively for street, alley and related infrastructure improvements and maintenance, and to continue budgeting for streets improvements from the city's Capital Improvement Fund in addition to revenue from the sales tax; and,

WHEREAS, sales taxes are paid not just by city residents but by many people who visit the city and spend money here, which makes it a fair and reasonable way of funding street improvements; and,

WHEREAS, a good street network is an important and valued quality-of-life amenity for both city residents and visitors, as well as a key component of planning for future growth and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the city's street network is its most valuable infrastructure asset with an estimated value of nearly \$65 million, and the improvement and ongoing maintenance of that network is a prudent and worthy use of taxpayer money and reflects the City of Fort Morgan's philosophy of providing the best possible amenities and services to its residents; and,

WHEREAS, after exhaustive research, discussion, public input and consideration of the sales tax increase proposal as well as alternative solutions to the problem of street conditions, the Fort Morgan City Council unanimously approved placing the issue of a one percent sales tax increase Strictly for Streets on the ballot for the Nov. 7, 2017 coordinated election; and,

WHEREAS, the ballot language for this measure has been certified to the Morgan County Clerk and has been assigned the designation of Ballot Issue 2C; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fort Morgan may adopt a resolution in support of Ballot Issue 2C pursuant to the Colorado Revised Statutes section 1-45-117(1)(b)(III)(A).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN, COLORADO:

Section 1: The Fort Morgan City Council expresses its appreciation to the members of the Strictly for Streets Committee, a group of citizens who have provided invaluable feedback and effort in the development of the sales tax initiative, as well as all who have provided their input throughout this process.

Section 2: The Fort Morgan City Council fully and strongly supports the passage of Ballot Issue 2C, a one percent increase in sales and use tax rates for the City of Fort Morgan to be used exclusively for street, alley and related infrastructure improvements and maintenance.

Section 3: The Fort Morgan City Council strongly encourages all eligible city residents to register and vote in the coordinated election of Nov. 7, 2017, and to vote YES on Ballot Issue 2C.

INTRODUCED, PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of September 2017, the vote upon roll call being as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Shaver, Councilmembers Anderson, Castoe, Howe, Lindell, Marler and Northrup.

Nays: None.

Absent /Abstain: None.



THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FORT MORGAN, COLORADO

BY:

Ronald Shaver

Ronald Shaver, Mayor

ATTEST:

John Brennan
John Brennan, City Clerk

STATE OF COLORADO)
COUNTY OF MORGAN) ss.
CITY OF FORT MORGAN)

CERTIFICATE

I, John Brennan, City Clerk of the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing **Resolution** is a true, perfect and complete copy of the **Resolution** adopted by the City Council and is identical to the original thereof appearing in the official records of the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, and that the same has not been, since its adoption, in any respect, rescinded or amended.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Fort Morgan this 19th day of September, 2017.

John Brennan
John Brennan, City Clerk