

## **RE: ORDINANCE CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO SUBMIT TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS THE QUESTION OF IMPOSING A 1-CENT TAX TO FUND POLICE AND RECREATION**

### **Background:**

The City of Nixa has grown significantly over the last several years. In 1987 the City's population was fewer than 4,700 people. Today we stand at over 24,000 residents. Along with this growth comes challenges. Among some of those challenges are the need for additional Parks facilities, additional office space in the police department and the need to hire additional police officers.

As of March 2022, the police department was averaging 112 calls for service a day. A recent staffing study showed the need for 11 additional officers to keep up with the growing number of calls for service. Unfortunately, due to limited revenues we were not able to add any additional police officers in the 2022 budget year. As mentioned above, there is a great need for additional office space as well. The police department is currently maxed out on available space. There is currently no office space open, and they have had to find alternative space to secure evidence and found property. Insight Design Architects worked with staff to provide a design for a new police department that would meet not only their current need for space but is designed to handle the anticipated growth for the next 20 years. Nixa's Police Chief Joe Campbell presented the proposed design at the last City Council meeting.

The parks department is facing space issues as well. The City of Nixa has one community center (X Center) to serve our residents. The X center only has one basketball court to serve the many recreational activities that utilize the space. Some of these activities include basketball, volleyball and pickleball just to name a few. When you factor in the practices that each team needs to have and games that need to be scheduled, it does not leave much time for any "open" gym time for the general public. The X center is currently operating at 85-90% capacity, which leaves no space or time available to add additional programs, let alone keep up with the growth of the current programs we have in place. Sapp Design Architects worked with staff to provide a design for a new sports facility that would add the additional space needed to accommodate the community needs. Nixa's Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Crouse presented the proposed design at the last City Council meeting.

## **Analysis:**

Staff has worked diligently to find solutions to the challenges mentioned above. Of course, these solutions would take additional revenues. The City of Nixa's current available revenues are not sufficient to completely address any of the above needs. For example, the City of Nixa collected about 3.4 million dollars last year in general sales tax revenue. The police department alone had expenses of 3.7 million. The only way to be able to completely address the need for the additional officers, the need for additional office space and the need for additional parks facilities in the foreseeable future would be to ask the public to consider a 1-cent general sales tax increase. Currently, the total sales tax rate within the City of Nixa is 7.475%. When you look at the City of Nixa's portion of the sales tax, we are collecting 1.5%, with only 1% going to the general fund. The 1% general sales tax has not changed since its inception in 1987 and is below our neighboring cities, despite our larger population and continued growth rate. The current 1-cent sales tax brought in around 3.4 million dollars in 2021 and the use tax brought in around \$660,000. If the public were to choose to approve an additional 1-cent sales tax, it would bring in an additional estimated 3.8 to 4 million dollars. These additional funds would allow us to start to address the need for additional officers as well as allow us to build both the sports complex and the new police department. Bringing the total City of Nixa sales tax to 2.5% would also bring us in line with other surrounding communities.

## **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the approval of the ordinance calling for an election to be held on November 8, 2022, asking the public to impose a 1-cent sales tax to fund police and recreation.

## **MEMO PREPARED BY:**

**Jimmy Liles** | City Administrator

Jliles@nixa.com | 417-725-3785



**Issue:** Ordinance Calling for an Election to Submit to the Qualified Voters the Question of Imposing a 1-cent Sales Tax to Fund Public Safety and Recreation

**Date:** 08/12/2022

**Submitted By:** Jimmy Liles, City Administrator

---

### Background

The City of Nixa has grown significantly over the last several years. In 1987 the City's population was fewer than 4,700 people. Today we stand at over 24,000 residents. Along with this growth comes challenges. Among some of those challenges are the need for additional Parks facilities, additional office space in the police department and the need to hire additional police officers.

As of March 2022, the police department was averaging 112 calls for service a day. A recent staffing study showed the need for 11 additional officers to keep up with the growing number of calls for service. Unfortunately, due to limited revenues we were not able to add any additional police officers in the 2022 budget year. As mentioned above, there is a great need for additional office space as well. The police department is currently maxed out on available space. There is currently no office space open, and they have had to find alternative space to secure evidence and found property. Insight Design Architects worked with staff to provide a design for a new police department that would meet not only their current need for space but is designed to handle the anticipated growth for the next 20 years. Nixa's Police Chief Joe Campbell will present the proposed design at the City Council meeting.

The parks department is facing space issues as well. The City of Nixa has one community center (X Center) to serve our residents. The X center only has one basketball court to serve the many recreational activities that utilize the space. Some of these activities include basketball, volleyball and pickleball just to name a few. When you factor in the practices that each team needs to have and games that need to be scheduled, it does not leave much time for any "open" gym time for the general public. The X center is currently operating at 85-90% capacity, which leaves no space or time available to add additional programs, let alone keep up with the growth of the current programs we have in place. Sapp Design Architects worked with staff to provide a design for a new sports facility that would add the additional space needed to accommodate the community needs. Nixa's Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Crouse will present the proposed design at the City Council meeting.

### Analysis

Staff has worked diligently to find solutions to the challenges mentioned above. Of course, these solutions would take additional revenues. The City of Nixa's current available revenues are not sufficient to completely address any of the above needs. For example, the City of Nixa collected about 3.4 million dollars last year in general sales tax revenue. The police department



alone had expenses of 3.7 million. The only way to be able to completely address the need for the additional officers, the need for additional office space and the need for additional parks facilities in the foreseeable future would be to ask the public to consider a 1-cent general sales tax increase. Currently, the total sales tax rate within the City of Nixa is 7.475%. When you look at the City of Nixa's portion of the sales tax, we are collecting 1.5%, with only 1% going to the general fund. The 1% general sales tax has not changed since its inception in 1987 and is below our neighboring cities, despite our larger population and continued growth rate. The current 1-cent sales tax brought in around 3.4 million dollars in 2021 and the use tax brought in around \$660,000. If the public were to choose to approve an additional 1-cent sales tax, it would bring in an additional estimated 3.8 to 4 million dollars. These additional funds would allow us to start to address the need for additional officers as well as allow us to build both the sports complex and the new police department. Bringing the total City of Nixa sales tax to 2.5% would also bring us in line with other surrounding communities.

### Recommendation

Staff recommends the approval of the ordinance calling for an election to be held on November 8, 2022, asking the public to impose a 1-cent sales tax to fund public safety and recreation.

1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXA CALLING AN ELECTION  
2 TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022, TO SUBMIT TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS  
3 THE QUESTION OF IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL 1-CENT GENERAL SALES TAX TO  
4 FUND PUBLIC SAFETY AND RECREATION; AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO  
5 DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY AND CONVENIENT TO SUBMIT SAID QUESTION TO  
6 THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENACTMENT  
7 OF SAID TAX IF APPROVED.  
8  
9

10 **WHEREAS** the City is authorized pursuant to the Missouri Constitution and  
11 Sections 94.500 through 94.550 RSMo., to impose a general city sales tax; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS** the City currently collects a one cent sales tax for general municipal  
14 purposes and a half cent sales tax for street purposes; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS** the general one cent sales tax rate has existed at its current level since  
17 1987; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS** the Police and Parks Departments are funded through the City's  
20 general fund because they do not have a dedicated funding source; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS** in 2021 Police Department expenditures were over \$3.7 million while  
23 total general sales tax revenue was only \$3.4 million; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS** in 1987, the City of Nixa was home to fewer than 4,700 people, and in  
26 2000, the City grew to 12,000; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS** the City has since more than doubled again, cresting 24,000 residents  
29 in 2021 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, making Nixa the second-largest  
30 municipality in the Springfield-Branson metro area; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS** calls for service to the Nixa Police Department continue to increase  
33 each year as our population grows, with more than 21,000 calls for service over the  
34 course of 2021; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS** a staffing study of the Nixa Police Department demonstrated that the  
37 department requires an additional 11 officers to adequately serve the Nixa community,  
38 yet a facilities and use of space study indicated that the Police Department Headquarters  
39 needs to double in size to properly accommodate current staffing numbers, let alone any  
40 additional staff; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS** the National Recreation and Park Association says a city of Nixa's size  
43 should have 243 acres of developed park land, yet Nixa currently has 58 acres of  
44 developed park land and another 106 acres of undeveloped park land; and  
45

46 WHEREAS the X Center facility was completed in 2002 and is insufficient to meet  
47 growing demand for indoor recreational facilities; and

48  
49 WHEREAS citizens desire more walking and biking trails and other park  
50 improvements; and

51  
52 WHEREAS the City of Republic collects a 3.13 cent sales tax, the City of Ozark  
53 collects a 2.375 cent sales tax, the cities of Bolivar, Webb City, and Mt. Vernon each  
54 collects a 2.5 cent sales tax, the City of Rogersville collects a 2.25 cent sales tax, the City  
55 of Springfield collects a 2.12 cent sales tax, and the cities of Marshfield and Willard each  
56 collects a 2 cent sales tax; and

57  
58 WHEREAS Nixa’s current 1.5 cent sales tax rate is lower than our neighboring  
59 cities, despite our larger population and continued growth rate, and considering the city’s  
60 efforts to stretch its revenues as far as possible to meet the demand for police and  
61 recreational services; and

62  
63 WHEREAS imposing an additional 1 cent general sales tax, to fund public safety  
64 and recreation would bring Nixa’s total sales tax rate to 2.5 cents, bringing Nixa more in  
65 line with our neighboring cities; and

66  
67 WHEREAS an additional one cent sales tax will add a cost of \$0.01 to a qualifying  
68 \$1.00 retail purchase made within the city limits of the City of Nixa; and

69  
70 WHEREAS the City Council has determined that it is necessary to authorize an  
71 additional one percent city general sales tax to fund public safety and recreation; and

72  
73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
74 NIXA, AS FOLLOWS, THAT:

75  
76 SECTION 1: An election is hereby called and ordered to be held within the City of  
77 Nixa, Missouri, pursuant to Section 94.510, et. seq. RSMo., on November 8, 2022, to  
78 submit the following question to the qualified voters of the City:

79  
80 QUESTION

81  
82 Shall the City of Nixa, Missouri, impose a city general sales tax of one  
83 percent (1%) to fund public safety and recreation?

84  
85 Yes [ ]

86 No [ ]

87  
88 Instructions to Voters: If you are in favor of the question, place an X in the  
89 box opposite “YES.” If you are opposed to the question, place an X in the  
90 box opposite “NO.”

91

92 SECTION 2: The City Clerk is authorized and directed to notify the Clerk of  
93 Christian County, Missouri of the adoption of this Ordinance as soon as practicable, but  
94 no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Tuesday prior to November 8, 2022, and to include  
95 in said notification all of the terms and provisions required by Chapter 115, RSMo., or any  
96 other provision of law. The City Clerk is further authorized and directed to do all things  
97 necessary and convenient to ensure that the question is properly submitted to the voters  
98 on November 8, 2022, including, without limitation, submitting a different ballot from the  
99 form approved Section 1 of this Ordinance, so long as the question submitted to the voters  
100 is substantially the same as the question authorized in Section 1 of this Ordinance. The  
101 City Clerk shall also provide a certified copy of the notice of election, which is attached  
102 hereto as "Council Bill Exhibit A." Said notice of election shall be in substantially similar  
103 form as the document attached hereto as "Council Bill Exhibit A."

104  
105 SECTION 3: The Clerk of Christian County, Missouri is hereby authorized to  
106 conduct an election in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter 115, RSMo.

107  
108 SECTION 4: The City Administrator, and other officers of the City, are hereby  
109 authorized and directed to take such other actions as may be necessary or convenient to  
110 carry out the purpose and intent of this Ordinance.

111  
112 SECTION 5: Upon approval, by the qualified voters of the City, of the question  
113 herein submitted by this Ordinance the additional sales tax contemplated herein shall be  
114 levied, in addition to any other sales taxes levied by the City, within the City limits of the  
115 City of Nixa, Missouri. The City Administrator, or designee, shall thereafter be authorized  
116 and directed to provide certified copies of this Ordinance, and any other information which  
117 may be necessary or convenient, to the Director of Revenue of the State of Missouri.

118  
119 SECTION 6: If the proposed city sales tax is not approved by a majority of the  
120 votes cast by the qualified voters voting thereon, then this Ordinance shall be of no effect,  
121 and the sales tax proposed herein shall not be effective, however, the failure of this  
122 proposition to receive the requisite majority vote shall have no effect on any other sales  
123 tax levied or imposed by the City. Nothing herein is intended to be nor shall be deemed  
124 as an abolition of any other tax levied by the City.

125  
126 SECTION 7: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final  
127 passage by the City Council and after its approval by the Mayor, subject to the provisions  
128 of section 3.11(g) of the City Charter.

129  
130  
131 ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

132  
133 ATTEST:  
134  
135 \_\_\_\_\_  
136 PRESIDING OFFICER CITY CLERK  
137

138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY



**COUNCIL BILL EXHIBIT A**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION**

**NIXA, MISSOURI**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of Nixa, Missouri, that pursuant to an Ordinance duly adopted, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Nixa, Missouri, has called an election to be held in the City on November 8, 2022, commencing at 6:00 am and closing at 7:00 pm, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City the question contained in the following sample ballot:

**QUESTION**

Shall the City of Nixa, Missouri, impose a city general sales tax of one percent (1%) to fund public safety and recreation?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Instructions to Voters: If you are in favor of the question, place an X in the box opposite "YES." If you are opposed to the question, place an X in the box opposite "NO."

A full and complete copy of Council Bill 2022-086, submitting the above question to the electorate is on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Nixa, Missouri where the same is open for inspection and copying during normal business hours.

The election will be held at the following polling places in the City:

*To be determined by the County Clerk of Christian County, Missouri.*