

1st June, 2020

To: The Creve Coeur City Council

In reference to a memo sent to the same addressees on 28th January, 2020 relating to the Parks and Historical Preservation Committee (PHP) priorities for FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program, the PHP committee wishes to express its disappointment with the Proposed FY2021-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program. Our committee recognizes that current economic circumstances have put additional pressure on the CIP, but even prior to this pressure the CIP would not have come close to financing the recently-completed Park Master Plan.

In order to raise the funds necessary to realize the vision laid out in the Park Master Plan, our committee is recommending that the City Council consider placing a sales tax increase measure on the November ballot to fund the Parks Master Plan. This additional source of revenue will put Creve Coeur on a par with a majority of other municipalities that use a dedicated sales tax to raise revenue for parks and recreational operations. The committee also supports, if needed, a combined Parks and Storm Water Sales Tax which has been done in many other cities. In fact, Creve Coeur is one of very few communities of its size in St. Louis County which has not adopted the Parks and Storm Water Sales Tax.

We also know from the recent Park Master Plan assessment that amenities in our parks urgently need attention to be safe and provide the expected value. Even though the city receives grants to supplement the CIP they are not sufficient and predictable to support the current infrastructure and the future vision of Park Master Plan.

The PHP committee, in conjunction with other citizen committees, is ready to help inform and educate the community regarding the Parks and Storm Water sales tax and how it can facilitate the vision laid out in the Park Master Plan. We would rely on Council to determine the size of the sales tax levy, which for many cities appears to be a half cent (0.5%). The additional revenues could also be used for critical storm water improvements in our community as well.

Even though we are going through a difficult time from both a public health as well an economic perspective, the upcoming November election may be the best opportunity for the foreseeable future to place this measure before voters.

Please give our request serious consideration as we feel it is in the best interest of our city. If have any questions, or require further clarification, please contact us. We look forward in hearing from you either way.

Sincerely,

Dave McCoy, Chairperson

Rupi Pujji, Vice Chairperson

Creve Coeur Parks and Historic Preservation Committee

Finance Committee

May 11, 2020

Mayor and City Council
City of Creve Coeur Missouri
Creve Coeur MO 63141

Re: FY 2021 Operating Budget Review

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Finance Committee studied the preliminary (4/17/2020) operating budget at meetings in April and May 2020, which forecast FY21 expenditures \$212,122 more than revenues. The shortfall was due to the ongoing trend of general spending increases and flat revenue projections prior to COVID-19, combined with an early estimate of reduced revenue due to business closings attributable to the pandemic. At committee request, staff prepared an alternative budget captioned Scenario #1 that severely reduces FY2021 revenues and expenditures, to maintain essential services, staffing and fiscal responsibility. The Scenario #1 budget forecasts \$1.2 million expenditures more than revenues, almost \$1 million higher than the previous preliminary budget shortfall. While the City is fiscally sound, it is primarily due to our having \$13 million in unassigned fund balance plus \$3 million in reserved fund balance, which will accommodate the anticipated shortfall.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Scenario #1 budget for consideration by City Council.

The committee wishes to note there remain several possible ways to increase revenues and/or decrease spending including seeking citizen approval for a use tax, parks and stormwater tax, and increased business license tax. Additionally, we continue to study increasing the building permit fee to achieve 80% cost recovery per City policy or charge fees for some or all of refuse, recycling, leaf vacuuming and/or limb chipping. Finally, the possibility of revising the City-paid charges for employee health insurance could be reconsidered.

In closing, we want to complement City staff for diligent effort in producing two first-rate budgets and the extraordinary responsiveness to accommodate the pandemic emergency.

Sincerely,



Richard Kutta, Chair

June 15, 2020

RE: Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax

Dear Mayor Glantz and Members of the City Council:

At its meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, the Stormwater Committee voted in unanimous support for the City of Creve Coeur to pursue a new, half-cent sales tax to fund parks and stormwater improvements and maintenance. Further, the Committee recommends that the City pursue this sales tax on the November 2020 ballot.

Such a tax has been estimated to provide \$1.5-\$2 million in annual revenues, which would dramatically change the funding available and would allow the City to advance in new directions that are currently not possible due to budget constraints. The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies approximately \$13 million in stormwater-related improvements as "future projects," projects for which no funding or schedule have been identified. Many of these projects – to address erosion, flooding, and stormwater infrastructure – will not be addressed in the foreseeable future without a significant increase in funding, such as what is offered by the parks and stormwater sales tax.

While the CIP identifies specific projects, the City's Stormwater Master Plan provides a broad idea of the stormwater-related needs in Creve Coeur. The Stormwater Master Plan was last updated in 2012, and the Stormwater Committee will consider recommendations for additional updates to the master plan so that it can continue to accurately guide the City, particularly if the parks and stormwater tax is pursued and is approved by the citizens of Creve Coeur.

Sincerely,

Richard Koch, P.E.
Stormwater Committee Chairman

cc: Stormwater Committee