

City of Carson City Agenda Report

Date Submitted: 4/7/08

Agenda Date Requested: 4/17/08

Time Requested: 15 minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Lawrence A Werner P.E., P.L.S., City Manager

Subject Title: Action to adopt Resolution No. _____, a resolution establishing a ballot question for the enactment of an additional ad valorem tax of \$0.1260 in order to provide additional funding of \$965,000 for the Carson City Fire Department and \$1,108,000 for the Carson City Sheriff's Department, establishing the explanation for the ballot question, directing the Carson City Clerk to bring to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation regarding who should be appointed to the committees to prepare arguments for and against the ballot question, requiring the City Clerk to set the length of an argument and rebuttal and the date by which it must be submitted to the Clerk, and other matters properly related thereto.

Staff Summary: Staff has been asked to request that the Board of Supervisors place a question on the next general election to help fund additional staffing for the Carson City Fire Department ambulance service and for wildland fire protection services and to provide additional funding to the Carson City Sheriff's Department to support a gang unit, additional deputies in the detention facility and for one additional 24 hour position in the communications center. The funding necessary, if approved by the voters, would increase the ad valorem by \$0.1260.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

Resolution Ordinance
 Formal Action/Motion Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: Yes No

Recommended Board Action: I move to adopt Resolution No. _____, a resolution establishing a ballot question for the enactment of an additional ad valorem tax of \$0.1260 in order to provide additional funding of \$965,000 for the Carson City Fire Department and \$1,108,000 for the Carson City Sheriff's Department, establishing the explanation for the ballot question, directing the Carson City Clerk to bring to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation regarding who should be appointed to the committees to prepare arguments for and against the ballot question, requiring the City Clerk to set the length of an argument and rebuttal and the date by which it must be submitted to the Clerk, and other matters properly related thereto.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: See attached memorandum.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: NRS 295.121

Fiscal Impact: \$0.1260 additional Ad valorem tax

Explanation of Impact: \$2,323,000 of additional property tax if approved by the voters.

Funding Source: If approved, the funding would be from new property taxes.

Alternatives: Do not present any property tax question to the voters on this issue or reduce level or program funding.

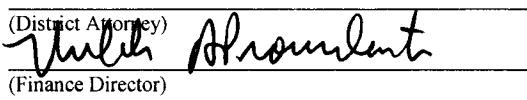
Supporting Material: Resolution, Staff Memo

Prepared By:

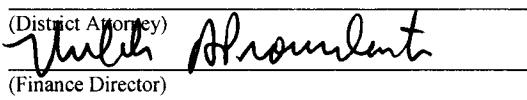
Reviewed By:



(City Manager)



(District Attorney)



(Finance Director)

Date: 4-11-08

Date: _____

Date: 4-11-08

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay _____
2) _____

_____ (Vote Recorded By)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BALLOT QUESTION FOR THE ENACTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM TAX OF \$0.126 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CARSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE CARSON CITY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, DIRECTING THE CARSON CITY CLERK TO BRING TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WHO SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE COMMITTEES TO PREPARE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE BALLOT QUESTION, REQUIRING THE CARSON CITY CLERK TO SET THE LENGTH OF AN ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL AND THE DATE BY WHICH IT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CLERK, AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, NRS 361.4728 allows the Board of Supervisors to ask the registered voters of Carson City a question on imposing a property tax that is exempt from the tax abatement process, and

WHEREAS, NRS 295.121 requires the Board of Supervisors in consultation with the Carson City Clerk to appoint two committees, one committee to be composed of three persons who favor approval by the voters of the ballot question and the other committee to be composed of three persons who oppose approval by the voters of the ballot question;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carson City Board of Supervisors, hereby proposes that the following question be placed on the November 4, 2008, general election ballot:

Shall Carson City be authorized to levy an additional property tax rate to assist in the funding of the Carson City Fire Department's ambulance service and to assist in wildland fire protection services and to assist in the funding for the Carson City Sheriff's Department Gang Unit, Detention Facility and Communication Center in the amount of up to \$0.126 per \$100 assessed valuation? The cost for the owner of a new \$100,000 home is estimated to be up to \$44.10 per year. If this question is approved by the voters, any property tax levied as authorized by this question will be outside of the caps on a taxpayer's liability for property (ad valorem) taxes established by the legislature in the 2005 session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Explanation of the Questions shall be as follows:

A Citizens Ad Hoc Committee was formed in 2007 to review and study current public safety services, their efficiency and adequacy in meeting the needs of Carson City residents. The Committee provided findings demonstrating the need for additional funding for public safety services in the amount of \$4.4 million which would have required an increase in the property tax rate of 26 cents. After review and consideration, the Board of Supervisors have approved a Ballot Questions that asks if an additional 12.6 cents should be added to the property tax rate for Carson City in order to generate \$2.323 million in revenues to fund the following public safety related activities: For the Carson City Fire Department, an additional 24 hour ambulance unit and \$170,000 annually to support wildland fire protection efforts. For the Carson City Sheriffs Office, a gang unit that can operate a full 3 shifts per day, additional deputies to serve in the jail in order to insure 4 deputies to cover the jail at any time and additional dispatchers in the public safety communications center to provide a minimum of 3 dispatchers on duty at any time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to NRS 295.121, the Carson City Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Carson City Clerk to prepare a recommendation of three persons to serve on the committee who favors approval of the ballot question and three members to serve on the committee who oppose approval of the ballot question.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carson City Clerk shall consider recommending to the Carson City Board of Supervisors those persons who have expressed an interest in serving on the committees and persons who are members of organizations that have expressed an interest in having a member of their organization serve on the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carson City Clerk shall provide by rule or regulation: (a) the maximum permissible length of an argument or rebuttal and (b) the date by which an argument or rebuttal must be submitted by the committee to the Carson City Clerk.

ADOPTED this _ day of April, 2008.

AYES Supervisor

NAYES Supervisor

ABSENT Supervisor

Marv Teixiera, Mayor

ATTEST:

Allen Glover, Clerk-Recorder



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

Memo To: Board of Supervisors
From: Larry Werner, City Manager
Date: April 10, 2008
Subject: Public Safety Ballot Initiative

Upon receiving feedback from the community regarding future funding for public safety, Supervisors Williamson and Aldean met with Fire Chief Stacey Giomi and Sheriff Ken Furlong to discuss a modified approach to a proposed 2008 General Election Ballot Question. The Sheriff and Fire Chief were interviewed and asked to select the most immediate critical issues facing the community; those that, if not funded, could pose an immediate threat to the safety of our citizens and employees. While it was clear that all of the findings of the Citizens Ad Hoc Committee to Study Public Safety Services merited serious consideration, it was also agreed that there was a need to pare down the request in light of current economic conditions. The Fire Chief and Sheriff indicated the following items were of the utmost importance:

Fire:

1. An additional 24 hour ambulance unit to cover emergency medical calls and reduce our reliance on neighboring jurisdictions to provide that service.

Staffing Increase	6 full time paramedic / firefighters
Fiscal Impact	\$795,000
Property Tax Rate	\$0.0431 Cents

2. Additional resources to provide wildland fire protection services for the entire City, rather than on only the west side as is currently provided for through the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District

Staffing Increase	Seasonal positions, contractual services
Fiscal Impact	\$170,000
Property Tax Rate	\$0.0092

Fire Total: \$965,000 which will require a \$0.0524 property tax rate

Sheriff:

1. With the rapid increase in gang related criminal activity, a fully staffed gang unit is needed. One (1) Sergeant and five (5) Deputies are needed to create a gang unit capable of operating 3 shifts.

Staffing Increase	6 Positions
Fiscal Impact	\$475,000
Property Tax Rate	\$0.0258

2. Additional Rove Deputies are needed in the Jail. Often times, only one deputy is on the floor to control inmate populations of nearly 200.

Staffing Increase	6 Positions
Fiscal Impact	\$475,000
Property Tax Rate	\$0.0258

3. The introduction of specialty courts has required additional deputies to provide security. Deputies are being taken out of the Jail to provide this service. Additional staffing is needed to avoid this situation.

Staffing Increase	2 Positions
Fiscal Impact	\$158,000
Property Tax Rate	\$0.0086

Sheriff Total: \$1,108,000 which will require a \$0.0601 property tax rate

Public Safety Communications:

1. In order to meet minimum national standards and the increased workload associated with emergency medical dispatch, three (3) operators should be on staff at all times.

Staffing Increase	5 Dispatchers
Fiscal Impact	\$250,000
Property Tax Rate	\$0.0136 Cents

Public Safety Communications: \$250,000 which will require a \$0.0136 property tax rate

Total amounts to be proposed in a ballot initiative:

Increase property rates by .1260 cents beginning in Fiscal Year 2009/2010 specifically to fund the above listed positions. Based upon the 2008/09 assessed valuation for Carson City, 12.60 cents will generate \$2,323,000.