

City of Solon

Record of Ordinances

Requested by the
Finance Committee

ORDINANCE NO: 2021-121

INTRODUCED BY: Zelwin

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SOLON THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING 0.5 MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING MOTORIZED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE AND SAFETY DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 5705.19(F) AND 5705.191 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, at an election held on May 8, 2001, the electors of this City approved a 0.5 mill tax levy for the purpose of acquiring motorized vehicles and equipment, together with the necessary appurtenances, for use in the Service and Safety Departments of the City for a period of five years, the last collection of which levy occurred in calendar year 2006; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2006, the electors of the City approved a renewal of the 0.5 mill tax levy outside of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of acquiring motorized vehicles and equipment, together with necessary appurtenances, for use in the Service and Safety Departments of the City, which levy had its last collection in calendar year 2011; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2011, the electors of the City approved a renewal of the 0.5 mill tax levy outside of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of acquiring motorized vehicles and equipment, together with necessary appurtenances, for use in the Service and Safety Departments of the City, which levy had its last collection in calendar year 2016; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, the electors of the City approved a renewal of the 0.5 mill tax levy outside of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of acquiring motorized vehicles and equipment, together with necessary appurtenances, for use in the Service and Safety Departments of the City, which levy will have its last collection in calendar year 2021; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that the renewal of that tax upon its expiration is necessary for the proper operation of the Service and Safety Departments; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2021, this Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-101 pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code declaring it necessary to renew the existing 0.5 mill tax levy and requesting the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to certify the total current tax valuation of the City and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by that renewal tax levy; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, the County Fiscal Officer has certified that the total current tax valuation of the City is \$1,240,536,590 and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by that 0.5 mill renewal levy would be \$462,514 annually during the life of the levy, assuming that the total current tax valuation remains the same throughout the life of the levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Solon, County of Cuyahoga, Ohio, not less than two-thirds of all the members elected thereto concurring, that:

Departments of the City, and specifically that it is necessary to renew, for five years, the existing 0.5 mill tax approved by the voters of the City at an election held on November 8, 2016, for that purpose.

SECTION 2. The question of renewing the City's existing 0.5 mill ad valorem property tax outside of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of acquiring motorized vehicles and equipment, together with the necessary appurtenances, for use in the Service and Safety Departments of the City, for a period of five years, beginning with the **2021** tax list and duplicate, the proceeds of which levy first would be distributed to this City in the calendar year **2022**, shall be submitted under the provisions of Sections 5705.19(F) and 5705.191 of the Ohio Revised Code to the electors of the City of Solon at the election to be held therein on November 2, 2021, as authorized by law. That election shall be held at the regular places of voting in the City as established by the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, or otherwise, within the times provided by law and shall be conducted, canvassed and certified in the manner provided by law. A majority vote is required for passage.

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is authorized and directed to request that notice of that election be given as provided by law.

SECTION 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to deliver or cause to be delivered to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, not later than 4:00 p.m. or the earlier close of business on **August 4, 2021**, (i) a certified copy of this Ordinance, (ii) a certified copy of Resolution No. 2021-101, passed on May 3, 2021, and (iii) the certificate of the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer referred to in the last preamble to this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council and any of its committees concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were taken and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were held in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the City and for the further reason that it is necessary that this Ordinance be effective immediately so that it can be timely filed with the Board of Elections in order to submit the question of the renewal of the levy to the electors at the November 2, 2021 election; wherefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage by the required number of votes and approval by the Mayor.

Passed: June 7, 2021



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

City Council
AGENDA ITEM REPORT
AIR-21-262



To: City Council
Subject: Ordinance to proceed for Renewal of City's 0.5-mill Service and Safety Property Tax Levy
Meeting: City Council - Jun 07 2021
Department: Finance
Staff Contact: Matt Rubino, Finance Director

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of Solon has a voted 0.5 mill property tax levy that generates revenue to fund Service and Safety equipment. The levy is effective for five years and the final year of collection is 2021. In order to renew the existing levy for an additional five year term, Council must undertake a series of legislative approvals to ensure the placement of the levy renewal on the November 2021 ballot. The first approval of the resolution of necessity was recorded at the May 3rd Council meeting. It maintains the City's intent that it is necessary to submit to the electors at the November 2, 2021 election the question of the renewal of the City's *existing 0.5 mill tax levy* for the purpose of acquiring motorized vehicles and equipment for use in carrying out functions of the Service and Safety Departments for a period of five years. The ordinance to proceed is the next required approval and it has been prepared as an emergency measure and may be adopted under suspension of the rules. The Ordinance must be adopted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The 0.5 mill Service & Safety levy generates about \$450,000 in property tax revenue per year. The revenue is used to fund the acquisition of equipment that is critical to delivering core city services to residents. The average investment in equipment has averaged about \$850,000 over the last five year period. The portion of equipment outlays in excess of the levy revenue are covered by an annual transfer of General Fund resources to the Service & Safety Capital Equipment Fund.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

After the certification from the County Fiscal Officer is received, the City will prepare the ordinance necessary to proceed in submitting the question of the renewal of the tax levy to the electors. That legislation is being offered to Council at the meeting of June 7th. Once adopted, by Council, both the resolution of necessity and ordinance to proceed, together with the County Fiscal Officer's certification and suggested forms of notice of election and ballot language must be filed with the Board of Elections. All of the required approvals and certification must be filed with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections by August 4th.

RECOMMENDATION:

The adoption of the Ordinance to Proceed in timely manner will ensure the City can proceed with certification of the proposed levy renewal continue with placing the question to the electors during the General Election in November.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City could choose to not renew the existing levy and fund equipment with General Fund dollars or an alternate source of funding. No renewing the 0.5 mill levy would place additional financial strain on the General Fund and reduce the rate at which critical equipment is replaced.