**WHEREAS,** on January 25, 2021, City Council adopted Resolution No. 21-R-06 establishing a recreation and parks advisory committee (“RPAC”), which would provide recommendations on various matters including planning and development of existing and new parkland and recreational facilities; and

**WHEREAS,** concurrently, the Administration entered into an agreement with BallardKing for the purpose of conducting a recreation center feasibility study (the “Study) and to conduct a parks and recreation needs assessment (the “Survey”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Study suggested support for the construction of a community center and the Survey determined residents desired additional recreation and parks amenities and programming; and

**WHEREAS,** in order to provide these increased services, as well as maintain and support current services, the RPAC and City Administration recommends that the City increase the income tax rate from two percent (2%) to two and one-half percent (2.5%); and

**WHEREAS**, the additional one-half percent (0.5%) would be solely dedicated to recreational and parks capital, programming, and operational expenses, including, but not limited to, the following:

* Community Center design, construction, maintenance and operations;
* Trail acquisition, development and maintenance;
* Parkland acquisition, development, and maintenance;
* Athletic field and facility design, construction, maintenance, and operations;
* Art, culture and history facility and site acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations;
* Recreation, parks, health and wellness programing and services;
* Older adult programming and services;
* Special Events programming and services;
* Recreation and parks facility upgrade and maintenance;
* Road, utility, and other capital associated with Recreation and Parks infrastructure development and maintenance; and
* The payment of principal and interest on debt issued by the City for the expenses listed above.

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code Section 718.04(C)(2) requires the City to obtain approval of majority of electors to levy a tax on income; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Council of the City that the income tax increase from two percent (2%) to two and one-half percent (2.5%) be placed before the electorate of the City for approval at the General Election held on November 2, 2021.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Hilliard, Ohio, that:

**SECTION 1.** Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 718.04(C)(2), City Council hereby approves the submission to the electors of the City of Hilliard, Ohio for their approval or rejection at the General Election to be held on November 2, 2021, a proposed Ordinance to amend Sections 183.01 and 183.04 of the City’s Codified Ordinances, to provide for an increase in the income tax rate from two percent (2%) to two and one-half percent (2.5%), **attached** hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** That the amendment to Sections 183.01 and 183.04 of the Codified Ordinances shall be effective January 1, 2022.

**SECTION 3**. The Board of Elections is hereby requested to provide a separate ballot in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 718.04(C)(2) to submit to the electors for the City of Hilliard, Ohio the proposed ordinance set forth in Section 2, at the General Election to be held on November 2, 2021. Said issue may be placed on a ballot with other issues if authorized by law.

**SECTION 4.** For purposes of the ballot title, consistent with Section 718.04(C)(2), the following statement of the issues to be submitted to the electors is, in the opinion of this City Council, true and impartial and in compliance with law:

“Shall the Ordinance providing for an additional one-half percent (0.5%) levy on income earned on or after January 1, 2022, such that the total rate levied per annum shall equal two and one-half percent (2.5%), and providing that the revenue resulting from the one-half percent (0.5%) increase be dedicated to a Recreation and Parks Fund to be used for recreation and parks capital and operational expenses, including, but not limited to: Community Center design, construction, maintenance and operations; Trail acquisition, development and maintenance; Parkland acquisition, development and maintenance; Athletic field and facility design, construction, maintenance and operations; Art, culture and history facility and site acquisition, development, maintenance and operations; Recreation, parks, health and wellness programming and services; Older adult programming and services; Special Events programming and services; Recreation and parks facility upgrade and maintenance; Road, utility and other capital associated with Recreation and Parks infrastructure development and maintenance; and the payment of principal and interest on debt issued by the City for the expenses listed above, be passed?”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FOR THE INCOME TAX  |  |
| AGAINST THE INCOME TAX  |  |

If the majority of electors voting thereon, vote “For the Income Tax Increase” then the proposed ordinance shall be passed and shall take effect in accordance with its terms.

**SECTION 5**. The Clerk of Council is directed to certify a copy of this Ordinance to the Board of Elections of Franklin County before 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, for placement on the November 2, 2021, General Election Ballot for consideration by City of Hilliard electors.

**SECTION 6**. Pursuant to Section 3.07 of the Charter for the City of Hilliard, Ohio, this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.