

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HAZELWOOD, MISSOURI, CALLING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE SALES TAX FOR OPERATIONS OF THE HAZELWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING THAT AN EMERGENCY EXISTS ALLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL ON THE DAY OF ITS INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, the City of Hazelwood is authorized by Sec. 321.242, RSMo. Supp. 2019, to impose a sales tax at a rate not to exceed one half of one percent for the purpose of providing revenues for the operation of the City's fire department; and

WHEREAS, at an election held on August 5, 2014, over 60% of Hazelwood voters approved levying a fire sales tax of one quarter of one percent; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from that tax have been used exclusively to support the fire and emergency services of the Hazelwood Fire Department, but in the six years since the tax was approved the cost of fire and EMS services has increased substantially while the City has experienced significant loss of revenue due to changes in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the associated economic collapse is projected to cause an additional \$2 million reduction in City revenue in just the next year, in addition to the revenue losses the City has already experienced, thereby placing the entire range of City services, including fire and EMS services, at risk of reduction; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to enable the voters of the City to consider whether the sales tax previously authorized should be increased from one quarter to one half of one percent to help offset the circumstances that now imperil the City's ability to sustain its own fire department and protect the citizens of Hazelwood who rely on that service; and

WHEREAS, the Hazelwood City Council hereby finds and declares that this Bill concerns the immediate preservation of public safety and health in that the funds the referenced ballot measure will provide are critical to the continuation of the high caliber of fire and EMS services provided by the Hazelwood Fire Department and, therefore, an emergency exists with respect to the passage of this Bill on the day of its introduction as provided in Article II Section 8 of the Hazelwood City Charter in that the deadline for certifying measures for the August 4, 2020, election is May 26, 2020, which is less than one week after the date of this meeting and for that reason the time between first and second readings of Bills cannot be accommodated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAZELWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

An election is hereby called to be held in the City of Hazelwood on Tuesday, August 4 2020, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a proposition to authorize the imposition of a sales tax of one half of one percent tax on all retail sales made in the City which are subject to sales tax under chapter 144, RSMo., for the purpose of providing revenues for the operation of the Hazelwood Fire Department. The question shall be submitted in substantially the following language:

PROPOSITION A

Shall the City of Hazelwood impose a sales tax of one half of one percent for the purpose of providing revenues for the operation of the Hazelwood Fire Department? Approval of this proposition will result in an increase in the sales tax for support of the Hazelwood Fire Department from one-quarter of one percent to one-half of one percent.

YES

NO

SECTION 2.

The City Clerk shall prepare and cause to be forwarded to the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, Missouri, a Notice of Election in compliance with this ordinance and take such other steps as may be required so that an election may be lawfully conducted.

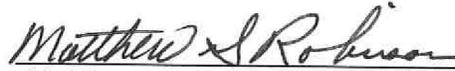
SECTION 3.

The Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County shall conduct such election according to the law and certify the results thereof. Said Board of Election Commissioners shall designate such polling places as shall be required for said election and shall appoint such necessary election officials as may be required for the conduct thereof. Said Board of Election Commissioners shall also publish such notice of said election as shall be required by law and shall do and perform such other necessary acts as may be required to conduct such election in accord with the statutes of the State of Missouri and the ordinances of the City of Hazelwood, Missouri.

SECTION 4.

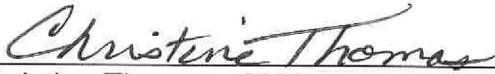
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.

PASSED this 20th day of May, 2020, by the Council of the City of Hazelwood, Missouri.



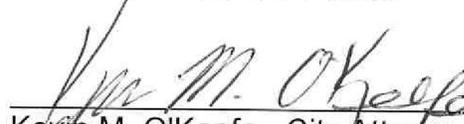
Matthew G. Robinson - Mayor
City of Hazelwood, Missouri

ATTEST:



Christine Thomas, CMC - City Clerk
City of Hazelwood, Missouri

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kevin M. O'Keefe - City Attorney
City of Hazelwood, Missouri