

# CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



**MEETING DATE:** August 13, 2024

**ITEM NUMBER:** 9.D

**SECOND READING:** August 27, 2024

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Consent

**PRESENTED BY:**

Danielle Cassidy, Parks & Natural Resources, [danielle.cassidy@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:danielle.cassidy@longmontcolorado.gov)

## **SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:**

A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Chapter 4.04, Of The Longmont Municipal Code For Extending The Existing Two-Tenths Cent Open Space Sales And Use Taxes And Referring Said Extension To A Vote Of The Qualified Electors

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the June 25, 2024, City Council meeting, City Council confirmed that they wanted to place an item on the November ballot asking voters to remove the sunset for the sales and use tax for open space and regional trail projects. This item places that question on the ballot.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the ordinance.
2. Amend the ordinance.
3. Do not approve the ordinance.

## **RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:**

Option 1. Approve the ordinance.

## **FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

If approved by the voters, this ballot issue would allow for stable and ongoing investment in our open space lands (natural, agricultural, low-impact recreational, regional trails), water (agriculture, instream flows) and minerals.

## **BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:**

After hearing comments and input from the community, City Council confirmed that they wanted to place an item on the November ballot asking voters to remove the sunset date for the sales and use tax for open space and regional trail projects. This item places that question on the ballot and includes the following Open Space goals and purposes.

1. Preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, agriculture, and visual corridors.

2. Link and trails, access to public lakes, streams and other usable open space lands, stream corridors and scenic corridors along existing highways.
3. Conservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, forest lands, range lands, agricultural land, aquifer recharge areas, and surface water (agriculture, instream flows).
4. District parks devoted to low-impact recreational uses.
5. Implementing Greenways and Open Space policies or strategies of the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan.
6. Urban shaping buffers between or around municipalities or community service areas and buffer zones between residential and non-residential development.

Recent educational information related to Longmont's Open Space Program and the Open Space Sales and Use Tax Extension occurred on these dates:

1. June 2023, Educational Field Trip #1: Open Space educational field trip to learn about Open Space and Oil and Gas matters on-site.
2. Sept. 2023, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board: Educational presentation about Longmont's Open Space Program entitled *Longmont Open Spaces: Our Past, Present, and Future*
3. May & June 2024, Advisory Boards: The Water Board, the Sustainability Advisory Board, the Transportation Advisory Board, and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously support putting the Open Space Sales and Use tax extension on the Nov. 5 ballot.
4. June 11, 2024, City Council: Educational presentation about Longmont's Open Space Program - *Longmont Open Spaces: Our Past, Present and Future*
5. June 14, 2024, Educational Field Trip #2: Open Space educational field trip to learn about Open Space and O&G matters on site.
6. July 8, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board: Informational presentation and discussion about Open Space Program acquisitions, maintenance, and restoration.
7. July 23, 2024, City Council Session: Informational presentation about Open Space Program components over time including acquisitions, maintenance, and restoration.
8. August 6, 2024, City Council Packet: Information pertaining to projected costs for Longmont's Open Space Program over time.

## ATTACHMENTS:

Att 1 - Ordinance