

CITY of WILMINGTON North Carolina

ITEM 03

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6/4/2019

City Council
City Hall
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

Attached for your consideration is a supplemental ordinance appropriating \$67,100 from the Tennis Complex (Empie Park Phase II) to Portia Mills-Hines Park Improvements for the design of restrooms, area lighting and basketball court lighting.

Wilmington citizens residing in the Northside Community have requested improvements to Portia Mills-Hines Park in the form of restrooms, lighting and electrical power. Staff performed the following steps in evaluating the request:

- Assessment of the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
- Initiation of a Public Engagement Campaign
- Research of park history
- Evaluation of current park uses
- Preparation of a cost estimate

Support for the improvements were identified in the master plan in the following recommendation: in the areas of the City's Community Centers, develop partnerships to support future parks, recreation and open space needs, Hemenway Center being located two blocks from Portia Mills-Hines Park.

A public engagement campaign was conducted in December 2018. The following activities were conducted:

- Presentation and survey distribution at the Rankin Terrace Neighborhood Association
- Presentation and survey distribution at the Fair Housing Fair
- Presentation and survey distribution at the Feast Down East Farmers Market
- Survey distribution through the Blue Ribbon Commission against Youth Violence Teen Council
- Official public meeting at a Blue Ribbon Commission Community Coalition meeting
- Distribution of survey to Dorothy B. Johnson School students for parents
- Area door to-door-distribution of surveys

Overwhelmingly, survey respondents indicated they were in favor of the addition of restrooms, lighting improvements and water fountains in Portia Mills-Hines Park.

Staff research finds that Portia Mills-Hines Park, once known as Rankin Park, had permanent restrooms which at some point during the late 1980's or early 1990's were demolished by the City as a strategy to deter crime.

Organized use of Portia-Mills Hines has increased over the past two decades. The park was added to the City's park reservation system in 2014, based on the number of requests by the public to use the park as a site for special events. This use has been continually growing.

A cost estimate for improvements was completed by City Engineering in 2018. The cost estimate for Phase I, which consists of the design of the restrooms, electrical and lighting is \$67,100. The construction cost estimate for Phase I is estimated at \$321,200. The cost estimate for the design of Phase II which consists of parking and a walking trail is \$56,700 with the construction cost estimated at \$280,300.

During its meetings in early 2019, the Wilmington City Council ad-hoc committee for Capital Projects recommended that staff identify potential funding for the design of Portia Mills-Hines Park improvements and, once the City has begun receiving FEMA reimbursements from Hurricane Florence Storm Recovery, revisit the conversation of appropriating construction funding for Portia Mills-Hines Park.

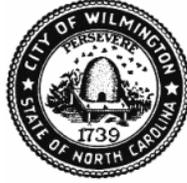
This ordinance is aligned with City Council's Promotion of Arts, Culture and Public Spaces, Civic Partnerships and Create a Safe Place Focus Areas.

Passage of the attached Ordinance is recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling B. Cheatham,
City Manager

Ordinance



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager

Date: 6/4/2019

Ordinance making a Supplemental Appropriation in the Amount of \$67,100 from Empie Park Phase II Tennis Complex (3CRPK0749) to Portia Mills-Hines Park Improvements (3CRPK1210) for the Design of Restrooms and Lighting [budget impact \$67,100]

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, Wilmington citizens residing in the Northside Community have requested improvements to Portia Mills-Hines Park in the form of restrooms, lighting and electrical power; and

WHEREAS, upon evaluation, City staff has found such requested improvements are warranted; and

WHEREAS, City staff has calculated that the estimated cost of design for Phase I of improvements to Portia Mills-Hines Park are approximately \$67,100.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

THAT, the following appropriations are hereby made to the Parks and Recreation Improvements Capital Projects Fund:

Portia Mills-Hines Park Capital Project Appropriation

Capital Project Design \$67,100
(IMPPARKS-CPPRECONS-CPDESIGN)

Revenue

Transfer from General Fund \$67,100
(7TRANSFER-7XF100-XFGENFUND)

Tennis Complex Capital Project (Empie Park PH II)

Appropriation

Capital Project General Construction (\$ 3,418)
(IMPPARKS-CPCONSTR-CPGENCONST)

Capital Project Unallocated (\$63,682)
(IMPPARKS-CPUNALLOC)

Revenue

Transfer from General Fund (\$67,100)
(7TRANSFER-7XF100-XFGENFUND)

Adopted at a _____ meeting
on _____ 2019

ATTEST:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

Bill Saffo, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:

Finance Director