



CITY of WILMINGTON North Carolina

ITEM 01

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28402

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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10/1/2019

City Council
City Hall
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

City Council passed a resolution on September 17, 2019, directing the City Manager to present a financial plan to fund Portia Mills Hines Park proposed improvements at this meeting. This recommendation is in conformance with Council's direction.

Portia Mills Hines Park is located at 10th and Rankin streets. This park sits within the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Youth Violence Prevention's Youth Empowerment Zone (YEZ). The areas within the YEZ were designated as such to invite a closer evaluation of public and private programs, services and facilities that serve this area of the Northside community. Further, the YEZ focus had an aim to identify opportunities to enhance programs and services to deter youth violence and provide positive experiences for at risk youth and families.

Staff in 2018 surveyed Portia Mills Hines area residents and park patrons on park needs and desires. The survey results supported strongly the desire and need for public restrooms, activity lighting at the basketball court, area lighting and a walking path. In 2018, representatives for the BRC Voyage Youth Leadership Council and Voyage Community Council petitioned City Council seeking Portia Mills Hines Park improvements. Recently, additional entities have begun offering recreational programs and services for youth and families at Portia Mills Hines. The new events will benefit from the proposed improvements shown on Exhibit A.

It is worth noting that the City Council Ad Hoc Capital Improvements Committee recommended this year funding the Portia Mills Hines improvements after the receipt of Hurricane Florence Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements. In addition, the funding of these improvements supports the prior commitments the City Council has made in implementing the joint City/Community "A Community Plan: Northside" adopted by Council on July 15, 2003. Staff had intended to seek direction from Council at the November 15, 2019, Council Retreat on this matter as well as other capital improvement needs. A number of capital improvement needs remain that staff will bring forward for your prioritization at the Retreat.

Staff recommended initially that the planned improvements be completed in two separate phases. After further evaluation, staff recommends completing Phases 1 & 2 as one project. By proceeding with all of proposed improvements at one time, staff thinks there will be some construction mobilization and administration savings as well as reduced inconvenience to park patrons and recreational programs and services.

Funding for the improvements has been identified within the debt capacity available from the estimated debt payments given the change in the borrowing schedule. When projects are delayed, the need to borrow on the project is also sometimes delayed thus creating capacity in the debt plan. The debt capacity is a fluctuating amount and it is not generally recommended to use on new projects due to the number of committed projects that may have cost adjustment requirements. Portia Mills Hines is a City priority and the project will use \$658,200 of that existing capacity.

Staff recommends approval of the appropriation ordinance for the proposed Portia Mills Hines Park improvements as shown in Exhibit A and approved by resolution of City Council on September 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling B. Cheatham,
City Manager

Ordinance



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager

Date: 10/1/2019

Ordinance Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$658,200 to the Parks and Recreation Capital Fund for Portia Mills Hines Park Improvements Phase 1 & 2

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

City Council passed a resolution on September 17, 2019, directing the City Manager to present a financial plan to fund Portia Mills Hines Park proposed improvements at this meeting.

Portia Mills Hines Park (PMH) is located at 10th and Rankin streets. This park sits within the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Youth Violence Prevention's Youth Empowerment Zone (YEZ). The areas within the YEZ were designated as such to require a closer evaluation of public and private programs, services and facilities that serve this area of the Northside community.

Staff in 2018 surveyed Portia Mills Hines area residents and park patrons on park needs and desires. The survey results supported strongly the desire and need for public restrooms, activity lighting at the basketball court, area lighting and a walking path. In 2018, representatives for the BRC Voyager Youth Council petitioned City Council seeking PMH park improvements. Recently, additional entities have begun offering recreational programs and services for youth and families at PMH.

Staff recommended initially that the planned improvements be completed in two separate phases. After further evaluation, staff recommends completing Phases 1&2 as one project. By proceeding with all of proposed improvements at one time, staff thinks there will be some construction mobilization, construction administration savings and reduced inconvenience to park patrons and recreational programs and services.

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THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

THAT, the following appropriation is hereby made to the Parks and Recreation Capital Project Fund and that the following revenue is available to meet this appropriation.

Portia Mills Hines Park (3CRPK1210)

Appropriation

General Construction (PH I&II) \$601,500
IMPPARKS-CPCONSTR-CPGENCONST

Design(Ph II) \$ 56,700
IMPPARKS-CPPRECONS-CPDESIGN

Revenue

Transfer from Debt Service Fund Pay-go \$131,640
7TRANSFER-7X150-XFDEBTSVC

Installment Obligation Bonds \$526,560
8DTINSTOBL-8INSTALFIN-INSTFINCG

Adopted at a _____ meeting
on _____ 2019

Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

Finance Director

Exhibit A

Portia Mills Hines Improvements Phase I:

- Restroom building
- Basketball court lighting
- Area Lighting

Portia Mills Hines Improvements Phase II:

- Walking trail
- Off-Street Parking