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# AGENDA ITEM

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TO: Mayor McNeill, Lansing City Council  
FROM: Tim Vandall, City Administrator  
DATE: July 9, 2022  
SUBJECT: Aquatic Center Ballot Issue

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**Explanation:** The City Council has expressed a desire to allow citizens to vote and decide whether to proceed with a new aquatic center at the corner of West Mary and Bittersweet. If approved, this resolution would put the question below on the general election ballot for November 8, 2022. While the City has conceptual designs at this time, if Lansing voters approve the sales tax issue, true design engineering will begin immediately. The City has been working with Waters Edge out of Lenexa, Kansas on preliminary conceptual design.

Collections of this sales tax would commence on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Lansing's current sales tax rate is 8.95%; if approved by citizens, Lansing's new sales tax rate would be 9.4%. For comparison, Basehor's sales tax rate is 8.5%, Tonganoxie's is 9.25%, and Leavenworth's is 9.5%. Other sales tax jurisdictions further south exceed 10% (It is worth noting that Lansing currently has a 1% Community Improvement District for Mainstreet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, so the sales tax rate on that parcel would be 10.4%.

**Policy Consideration:** It is worth noting this sales tax issue would only pay for the bond on construction of the new aquatic center. This bond issue would not pay for annual operating expenses or address annual revenue shortfalls. If approved by voters, guests at the aquatic center would still need to pay daily admittance fees and/or seasonal passes.

The City is not permitted to advocate for this ballot issue publicly. We can, however, educate citizens on this topic. We plan on having an article in the upcoming edition of the Lansing Connection. We are also discussing educational mailers to all residents in Lansing, similar to the previous special sales tax for DeSoto/Bernard Park in 2017. We may also do an open house to answer questions this fall.

**Financial Consideration:** Based on 2022's sales tax collections thus far, an additional .45% of sales tax would generate approximately \$634,000/year. Sales tax collections can be fluid and can increase or decrease based on the number of businesses in Lansing and the state of the local economy. We do not know what interest rates will be in 2023, nor do we know about the status of inflation on construction materials. If we received similar interest rates to the Bernard Park bond issuance on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, annual debt service on an \$8 Million aquatic center would be \$600,000/year, or an \$8.5 Million center around \$638,000/year.

**Action:** Approval of Resolution B-8-2022.