

City Council Meeting
Public Comments
July 27, 2022

Dear Mike,

Back in June, supporters of a sales tax increase for the County of San Diego failed to get enough signatures to qualify such a measure for the November ballot. But now we have a "study" that says Escondido voters support a sales tax increase for the city. While the proposed measures would address different issues, the inconsistency in public support for increases in sales tax is remarkable and merits deeper analysis.

I hope at this council meeting the council will question this "study" - who paid for it, who conducted it, and most importantly - who were polled in this "study" of "Escondido voters". If the "study" is not statistically sound, the council should ignore it, and should publicly state why. The council in that case should endeavor to get the N. County Tribune to publish a truthful follow up article.

In my understanding, the fundamental issue is underfunded public employee Defined Benefit Plans. Of course it is difficult for the current council members to address an issue that is not of their making, and in fact may be argued to be a lack of responsibility to both public employees and the citizens at large, by former council members decades ago. But now the question is what is a fair and equitable way to address the problem?

I suggest a study should be undertaken by the council to perform an accurate, honest comparison in the city between the compensation of public employees and private employees. In particular, the study should consider both the hourly/salaried compensation of like work together with the hours worked, and the compensation for benefits - medical and retirement. Based upon the results of this study, a small number of alternate proposals could be made for a fair and equitable method of resolving the underfunded public employee benefit programs. This would inform the Escondido citizens at large what the real problem is.

I suggest a sales tax increase is not a fair solution. For example, sales tax is paid disproportionally by young people who are establishing homes and raising children. Notably, sales tax is not progressive, so the impact of a sales tax increase would be much greater for our lower income citizens.

I also suggest a sales tax increase would mitigate against Escondido's ability to attract new business and homeowners - all of whom would increase Escondido's tax base on a long-term basis. Such an increase would of course in and of itself alleviate the problem.

Sincerely, Cliff Reader, Escondido Resident +1 408 867 4884 Office-Mobile cliffreader Skype CliffReader WeChat cliff@reader.com www.reader.com Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

I don't often communicate to you on many issues, but on this occasion I feel strongly enough to request your approval on Item 10 of Current Business, for this Wednesday's Agenda; "CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE PLACING THE ESCONDIDO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES REVENUE MEASURE BEFORE VOTERS AT THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022."

As an Escondido Police Lieutenant, I was very involved with staffing, budget and expenditures. I'm shocked to know that the Department is still at the same staffing levels as we were in the 90's. I realize that some of you are opposed to 'raising taxes" particularly at a time when inflation is so high. But if you vote for this measure, you are not responsible for raising taxes if the measure succeeds. You are merely allowing the issue to be considered by the voters. I believe that is how our government should work, allowing the voters to decide. We want public safety to be at appropriate levels, not 30 years behind. We want our City to be in good financial shape, even if it costs us another penny per dollar.

So please, do not be the one who denies the Escondido voter an opportunity to have a say in our City.

Respectfully,

Tom Albergo

2576 Hamlin Court

Escondido, Ca. 92027



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California Building Industry Association

National Association of Home Builders

July 25, 2022

Mayor Paul McNamara and Escondido City Council 201 North Broadway Escondido, CA 92025

Re: Revenue Measure Consideration

Dear Mayor McNamara and Escondido City Council Members:

The Building Industry Association of San Diego County represents hundreds of companies that generate thousands of jobs in the Greater San Diego region, serving as a driving force in our local economy. BIA is committed to being a positive change in the community and to create spaces that all San Diegans can call home.

BIA San Diego recognizes the City of Escondido is facing significant budget shortfalls in future years. In order to be able to maintain adequate levels of City services for residents and future residents, we understand the importance of placing a revenue measure on the November 2022 ballot. The measure will be an important tool in maintaining a high quality of life for Escondido residents and ensuring Escondido is a place people want to live, work and play. This measure is critical to maintain those same high standards and quality of life.

While placing any kind of tax on the ballot is not always ideal, the BIA feels that in order to provide adequate public safety, infrastructure improvements and to continue to provide services to build housing and maintaining safe and secure communities, a sales tax measure should be considered. Based on survey data, it seems that a potential measure would receive widespread voter approval.

Any sales tax measure should include appropriate spending plans, transparency measures and appropriate taxpayer oversight while maintaining a healthy reserve and should include extensive voter outreach once placed on the ballot.

Sincerely,

Lori Holt Pfeiler President & Chief Executive Officer **Building Industry Association of San Diego County**

cc: Deputy Mayor Tina Inscoe Councilmember Consuelo Martinez Councilmember Joe Garcia Councilmember Mike Morasco Sean McGuiness City Manager Chris McKinney, Deputy City Manager

Building Industry Association of San Diego County 9201 Spectrum Center Blvd., Suite 110, San Diego, CA 92123-1407 P 858-450-1221 F 858-552-1445 www.biasandiego.org

Submitted on Monday, July 25, 2022 - 8:30pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email ceclemens6@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/27/22

Item # 10

Subject Sales Revenue Measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Carolyn Clemens

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important measure today. As a volunteer and resident of the City of Escondido I am very supportive of allowing the public to decide the future of the sales tax increase for our city. Who better to make this decision than the individuals who will likely pay the most in increased tax, but also reap the most benefits? We have seen through the Escondido Discussions that people are engaged in the future of our City and are excited to see how the City can grow and meet the challenges it faces. In order to honor that engagement I believe it best to allow the public to vote. Therefore, I urge you to vote yes to bring the revenue measure to the November 2022 ballot.

Thank you, Carolyn Clemens Submitted on Monday, July 25, 2022 - 1:14pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email palbergo@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date July 27, 2021

Item # 10

Subject Revenue Measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Pam Albergo

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I am writing today in support of passing item # 10.CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE PLACING THE ESCONDIDO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES REVENUE MEASURE BEFORE VOTERS AT THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

I believe the voters of Escondido should be the afforded the opportunity to decide on the potential tax increase. The City of Escondido is long overdue the opportunity to increase revenue like many other cities in San Diego County have opted to do in the past.

I have seen how the City of Escondido has suffered by not having the additional income. In 2011 we saw the East Valley Parkway library close and all the books sold to cover budget shortfall. We have seen the cutting back of park services including the closing or limiting of hours for the community pools. The police and fire departments have been at almost the same staffing levels as they were in 2000, even though we have had a tremendous increase in population.

Our City services are already suffering and will only get worse if the City does not have additional resources.

Please do not stand in the way of allowing the voters to decide this issue as it is one that is important to ALL of the citizens of Escondido.

Pam Albergo 92027

Submitted on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 - 10:25am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email katiejaye@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date July 27, 2022

Item # 10

Subject CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE PLACING THE ESCONDIDO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES REVENUE MEASURE BEFORE VOTE

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Katie Zack

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Currently, the EPD is the worst paid department in the region. We have lost good officers to other states and cities in order for their families to survive inflation and many other aspects of our nation at this time, even the Chief left as he was not offered more money or even a meeting when requested. You are losing good people and the city doesn't appear to care. Staffing at the PD is worse than at any other point in history yet the population of Escondido continues to rise. I am not sure why the city is unwilling to put money into our police force but it is truly unacceptable. The voters deserve the ability to vote on this tax increase so the people of Escondido can speak. I have lived here since 1992 and I can't believe the decline of moral and services. We used to be a competitive department, but now people flee it. You have already lost so many experienced officers that used to train new officers, lost experienced detectives to the District Attorney. It is time to stop the bleeding and work to rebuild the department and make it a desirable place to be once again.

Submitted on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 - 4:02pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email cameronmcurry@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7-27-2022

Item # 10

Subject Consideration of Resolution and Ordinance Place the Escondido Measure to Voters in November

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Cameron Curry

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

As I have shared with the Council in a communication early this month, I am not in favor of placing another tax on the citizens of Escondido. When it comes to adding a new city tax, we are sitting on the precipice of a pending recession and reeling from rising inflation that is impacting the cost of basic needs that is drowning many families financially. In my estimation, this is not the time to add to that burden when your organizational communications have not helped connect the dots on why your needs are paramount and how that supports bettering my life as a resident of Escondido. No on this measure is the right move by the City Council at this time.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 5:35am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email youssefhannapl@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 07/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject Sales Tax Measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Youssef Hanna

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I write to this council to express that I am strongly in favor of this sales tax measure making it on the ballot. Escondido is a growing city that needs to continue to be served to its fullest capacity. The potential earnings from this measure would strongly benefit several departments within the city that are long overdue for an increase in their resources and budget. PUT THE MEASURE ON THE BALLOT!

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 8:58am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email <u>laurahunter744@gmail.com</u>

Council Meeting Date July 27, 2022

Item # 10

Subject Voter Tax measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Laura Hunter

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

One thing we can all agree on is we don't know the future. As the city moves forward with this, and with the voters' approval, it is important not to restrict where the funding can be spent because, again, we don't have a complete picture of the future. There are continuing needs we know we will have. But there are also those we don't know the full scope of the need yet or are still evolving. These include impacts of and need to address a changing climate, green job creation, and create a working infrastructure for urban residents. It is quite possible that funding one area, can reduce the need for funding in another. For example, perhaps improving tree canopy in heat-island stricken areas may be the least expensive way to protect residents from the health impacts of extreme heat. This is just one example. I urge city to establish as flexible use of the funds as possible.

Thank you for your consideration, Laura Hunter

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 10:08am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email jsan_nicolas@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject 1% Sales Tax

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Jonathan San Nicolas

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

The city public safety departments are in dire needs of increased funding. The personnel or severely understaffed and over worked. Both FD and PD have had increased call volumes and workloads with minimal increase to resources. Many of the fore engines being used are outdated from the 90's. Please take this request into consideration and allow the sales tax to go to ballot.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 11:14am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email tlmdesigns@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 07/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject Sales tax increase on ballot

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Tammy Miller

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am in favor of a 1% sales tax raise which would support our efforts to increase and continue the great work of Escondido Police Department and crime suppression and safety in general. Crime is only rising and the community needs to step up in support of this tax raise. It is critical for our community so we can make more efforts to combat crime and bring back a safer community.. Full support !!!!

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 11:21am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email bajamike265@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 07272022

Item # 10

Subject Revenue measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Mike

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I think it is imperative to allow the citizens of this city to have a voice and vote for the tax increase to keep our city secure and our children safe. There has clearly been a rise in crime and constant need for increasing our public safety entities. Our Police and Fire Departments don't have minimum staffing and in some cases less than what we had 20 years ago! We MUST keep our Police and Fire Department's fully staffed by keeping the budgets at a level to hire accordingly. It's seams they are being forced to do more with less and we are nearing a breaking point. As a community member I'm asking for this measure to be pushed forward.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 11:32am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email samcracker77@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 07/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject Revenue Measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Sam M

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dear honorable Mayor and city council,

My name is Sam and I was born and raised in this wonderful city. The main purpose of this email to encourage ALL city council members not to let politics or personal views get in the way of the decision to put the revenue measure on the November ballot. Your own survey has over %60 of the respondents in favor of it. So why on earth has this been a debate between council members? Let us voters decide in November. The passage of a 1% tax increase will cause waves of vibrancy through the city. The potential to elevate this city to unseen levels of performance, beauty and safety are at your fingertips. Don't let this historic opportunity slip away. Let the fate of this ballot measure be at the will of the voters....no you.

Very respectfully, Sam Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 12:45pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email lindajwilkinson@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject Put Increase of Sales Tax on ballot

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Linda Wilkinson

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

It is great that you have found a way to fill the \$8 million shortfall for this year but those remedies will not be available in future years. Please let the voters decide about increasing the sales tax by putting the issue on the ballot. If Escondido needs to raise salaries to attract good personnel you will need the funds to do that. Escondido has many items that need financial attention.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 12:53pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email michelle.rudisell@att.net

Council Meeting Date 07/27/22

Item # 10

Subject Revenue measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Michelle Rudisell

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Public Safety and Essential Services Revenue Measure. It is the obligation of our elected officials to ensure a safe, clean and well-maintained community for all who call Escondido home. I fear that without this measure, Escondido will continue to suffer with roads in disrepair, rampant homelessness and crime and a declining quality of life. Please give Escondido the chance to VOTE and to move our community forward.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 12:57pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email kbeverly1@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 7/27/2022

Item # 10? Agenda was taken offline?

Subject Sales tax measure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Kevin Beverly

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I would like to express my support for a 1% sales revenue measure being placed before the voters of Escondido. This can only be accomplished if the current City Council votes to allow its residents the opportunity to have their voices heard. City staff has been diligent and transparent in their preparation to bring this item before you tonight.

To recap this measure: a revenue sub-committee was formed with meetings open to the public. Resident and business input has been requested through multiple in person meetings as well as different media forms. Research and polling has been conducted by an independent third party and has identified support for this measure. Information from that survey was shared with the public at a previous Council meeting and can be found on the City's website. Please listen to the consultants who have experience drafting the ballot language. Changing the language at the 11th hour is ill advised and the reason why we are revisiting this revenue measure again.

Tonight, I urge you to put politics aside, place Escondido first, listen to your residents and vote to allow the 1% sales tax measure to be placed on the ballot. This additional revenue would allow the City the ability to enhance its appearance, work towards addressing homelessness, recruit and retain business and provide the essential City services that our community and its residents deserve. Thank you.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 1:14pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email joannetenney@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date 07/27/22

Item #7

Subject Tax

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Joanne Tenney

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments I support the sales tax for Escondido. It is good for the city.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 2:33pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email bbcagle@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 7/27/22

Item # 10

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

A 1% sale tax increase is necessary for Escondido. The increase would allow the city to improve infrastructure and city services, much of which are behind the time. Escondido has improved many parks and local attractions recently. The increase would allow Escondido to continue improving. Thank you

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 2:39pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email jsbw@cox.net

Council Meeting Date July 27, 2022

Item # 10

Subject CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE PLACING THE ESCONDIDO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES REVENUE MEASURE BEFORE VOTE

Position In Favor

First and Last Name John Williams

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Given the current skyrocketing rate of inflation, and the current needs of the City, I do not see how we cannot suggest a 1% sales tax increase.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 2:40pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email rrivera@escondido.org

Council Meeting Date 07/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Rafael Rivera

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

The city of Escondido future is in council's hands but it should be in the residence. The people should have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the one cent measure. The facts need to be present to them as to the future with it passing or without it being accepted. The True North survey agenda wishes will not work without the 1 cent measure to truthful there many city services will need to be cut throughout the city. Are we going to allow the county or state to make the final choice on the remaining 1.5 cent? I would think the citizens would rather decide on the future of Escondido.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 2:50pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email vierraryan@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/27/22

Item # 10

Subject Sales Tax

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Ryan Vierra

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

This message is in support of a 1% sales tax measure to be placed on the ballot. The city and it's services are in need of some upgrades. I would like to see more money invested in combating homelessness, streets/roads and our emergency services. From my perspective the city is falling drastically short in all of these issues.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 2:50pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email <u>darthart@hotmail.com</u>

Council Meeting Date 7/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject Sales tax

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Art

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

The city is struggling to maintain a competitive compensation package for employees. Public safety is being negatively affected with endless problems involving the homeless community. Police and Fire resources are being swamped with medical assists .and fentanyl overdoses. Let's use this new tax to clean up our beloved city. Let the people VOTE!

With the needs of our business community in the forefront of the Chamber's day-to-day activities the Greater Escondido Chamber of Commerce stands united in support of the Escondido City Council approving a motion to have a sales tax increase placed on the ballot for the November general election 2023.

We respectively feel that having a proposed retail sales tax increase in Escondido should be a decision best left to the democratic process of voting by the community.

Sincerely,

James Rowten (JR)

President/CEO

Greater Escondido Chamber of Commerce

know the content is safe.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 3:04pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email dabraham11@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/27/2022

Item # 10

Subject Sales Tax Increase

Position In Favor

First and Last Name David Abraham

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am expressing my support for placing a one percent sales tax increase before the voters of Escondido. This increase has been polled and the results have indicated a favorable response to the proposed measure. If passed, this increase in sales tax would allow the city to improve services to the citizens of Escondido, through public safety, parks, libraries, and other city services. These increased services will assist the city in its goal of being clean, safe and efficient. This will attract people to live and shop in the city, which will bring in future businesses. Thank you for your consideration in allowing the voters to decide on this measure.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 3:20pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email gtsmrrc@aol.com

Council Meeting Date July 27, 2022

Item # 7

Subject Sales Tax Measures

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Georgine Tomasi

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am in favor of the Sales Tax Measure being placed on the ballot so Escondido voters have the opportunity to determine if this is or isn't the measure they want to support. This measure impacts all residents, not just members of City Council. Tonight, you have the opportunity to do the right thing and "Vote to approve placing the measure on the ballot for the General Election and letting all Escondido voters determine whether or not they want the sales tax measure. Thank You.

Submitted on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - 3:31pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email ryan@rgalliance.com

Council Meeting Date 07/27/2022

Item # 12

Subject City Treasurer Comp/Position

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Ryan Saathoff

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am a business owner, accounting and financial consulting, in Escondido and long time resident. The City Treasurer position is an unnecessary expense. The job of treasury management can easily be outsourced with often much better returns and the fund management costs are already being incurred by they city. The oversight should be quite easy to fold into the current finance department with no additional expense. I recommend eliminating this position completely and saving the cost to Escondido indefinitely.

Thank you.



CHAIRMAN

John La Raia H.G. Fenton Company

VICE CHAIRMAN

Chris Hall Hallmark Communities

TREASURER / SECRETARY

Rita Mahoney ColRich

PAST CHAIRMAN

Alex Plishner Lennar

PRESIDENT & C.E.O.

Lori Holt Pfeiler

AFFILIATES

California Building Industry Association

National Association of Home Builders

July 25, 2022

Mayor Paul McNamara and Escondido City Council 201 North Broadway Escondido, CA 92025

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While placing any kind of tax on the ballot is not always ideal, the BIA feels that in order to provide adequate public safety, infrastructure improvements and to continue to provide services to build housing and maintaining safe and secure communities, a sales tax measure should be considered. Based on survey data, it seems that a potential measure would receive widespread voter approval.

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Sincerely,

Lori Holt Pfeiler President & Chief Executive Officer Building Industry Association of San Diego County

cc: Deputy Mayor Tina Inscoe
Councilmember Consuelo Martinez
Councilmember Joe Garcia
Councilmember Mike Morasco
Sean McGuiness City Manager
Chris McKinney, Deputy City Manager