

RESOLUTION NO. RS-2015-32

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE ACTION OF THE DREW COUNTY QUORUM COURT TO PASS LEGISLATION CALLING FOR AN SPECIAL ELECTION TO EXTENDED A HALF CENT SALES TAX AND APPROVE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT BONDS SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF DREW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I OF THE MONTICELLO COMMUNITY CENTER.

WHEREAS, since January 1, 2005, the countywide half cent sales tax has provided revenue for constructing and equipping the new Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Headquarters and Monticello Library Branch, located at the intersection of North Main and Jefferson Streets, a project that benefits the residents of Drew County and the City of Monticello; and

WHEREAS, the said half cent sales tax will expire on March 31, 2016 after the \$7 million is collected to pay off the public bonds funding the library project; and

WHEREAS, the Drew County Quorum Court is considering submitting to the electorate a proposal to extend the half cent sales tax for an additional period of time in order to fund additional community enhancement projects beneficial to the residents of Drew County and the City of Monticello; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2015, the Drew Memorial Hospital Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$31 million hospital expansion plan, to include a six new surgery rooms, a new post-acute care unit, a new outpatient surgery center, a new central sterile supply, a new surgical lounge, a new central energy plant, a new public lobby, a new labor/ delivery/ recovery & nursery center, and a new laboratory; and

WHEREAS, Drew Memorial Hospital has expressed to the Drew County Quorum Court that \$14 million of the hospital expansion will be paid through a USDA loan and paid off through future hospital revenue, \$10 million of the project will be paid with cash-on-hand, and the remaining \$7 million to equip the expansion could be paid from public bonds paid off through extending the half cent sales tax; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2011, City Council of Monticello created the Monticello Advertising & Promotion Commission to develop and propose plans for community conference and aquatic center; and

WHEREAS, Monticello Advertising & Promotion Commission appointed a subcommittee to recommend a plan for a community conference and aquatic center; and

WHEREAS, in August 2015, the community center subcommittee adopted plans for a \$22 million community conference and aquatic center that would be constructed in three phases (Phase I, construction of a 3,300 capacity conference center; Phase II, upgrade center to include community needed athletic amenities; and Phase III: construction of a community aquatic center);

WHEREAS, the community center subcommittee has expressed to the Drew County Quorum Court and the City Council of Monticello that Phase I of the community center plans would cost \$11 million and could be paid from public bonds paid off through extending the half cent sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the City Council values the proposals of both Drew Memorial Hospital and Monticello Advertising & Promotion Commission for the said community enhancement projects; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes both community enhancement projects, namely the Drew Memorial Hospital expansion and the Monticello Community Center, are projects that will positive enhance our city, county, and region's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to convey to the Drew County Quorum Court its position concerning possible uses for a future community enhancement half cent sales tax proceeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council Monticello, Arkansas, the City of Monticello, Arkansas supports the passage of an ordinance of the Drew County Quorum Court calling for a special election to extended the half cent sales tax and approve community enhancement bonds supporting \$7 million toward the expansion of Drew Memorial Hospital and \$11 million toward the construction of Phase I of the Monticello Community Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of

Monticello, Arkansas, that the City Clerk of Monticello shall mail a certified copy of this resolution to Drew County Clerk for delivery to the members of the Drew County Quorum Court.

(END OF RESOLUTION)

ADOPTED on this 25 day of August, 2015.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk