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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEAVERTON CITY COUNCIL DIRECTS STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER BOND MEASURE

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The Beaverton City Council last night directed city staff to draft a resolution to refer a \$35 million bond measure to voters at the November election. The purpose of the measure is to secure funding for a new, earthquake resistant public safety center.

City council direction followed a presentation by the Public Safety Center Advisory Committee (PSCAC), with the committee's recommendation for a new police and emergency management facility. The \$35 million public safety center is to be built on city-owned property in Beaverton.

The PSCAC's recommendation calls for a 90,000 square foot building at the corner of SW Hall Blvd and SW Allen Blvd. The site would house the city's police department and emergency operations center. The public safety center would be built to critical facility standards to ensure the city's emergency response functions are intact in case of natural and other disasters.

During the presentation, city staff also shared survey results from a recently completed survey of 300 Beaverton voters. The survey was conducted to gauge public support for the project.

The results show that 70 percent of respondents support a new public safety center after hearing about why the project is needed, what funding options are being considered and how much it would cost the typical Beaverton resident. The results also reveal that 71 percent of respondents said that the city is headed in the right direction.

"We are extremely delighted with the survey results," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "We know that we still have a lot of work ahead of us, but this level of community support is so encouraging. We can't wait much longer to get this project going, we need to be prepared to keep our city safe."

In the event of a major disaster, like the anticipated earthquake that could result from shifting in the Cascadia Subduction zone, the existing police building is expected to fail. Any lapse in readily available emergency services during a disaster is a major concern. Additionally, the existing police building is located in office space that was never designed for police and emergency services. Prisoners are moved in common areas in close proximity to crime victims and members of the public. A new public safety center will meet police and public safety facility standards.

The city council will consider a resolution to refer the public safety center measure to voters at its June 14 meeting. If approved by voters, the tax rate for the bonds to construct the public safety center is estimated to not exceed 20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or approximately \$50 per year for property with an assessed value of \$250,000. The city chose this rate because it is what taxpayers are paying today for voter-approved bonds set to retire in two years that were used to construct the Beaverton City Library in 2000. The city's plan calls for voters to hold their property tax rate level. The city will be asking voters to pay the same rate for the construction of the public safety building that they pay today for the retiring library bonds.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton is a welcoming and responsible city that enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. In 2015, Beaverton was recognized as one of the **safest cities** in the Pacific Northwest (according to CQ Press with cities more than 75,000). Recently, the city's award-winning finance department received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** as well as the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The city was named **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com* and **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine. The city also received the **Recycler of the Year** award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, named a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, received a **Silver Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists, and recognized as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Lastly, the city's nationally acclaimed visioning program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter and also received the prestigious **3CMA Award of Excellence**.

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