RESOLUTION NO. 8617

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember Richard Harmon expressing the City Council’s position regarding the possible submission of a ballot question to the electorate to extend the current countywide retailers’ sales tax

WHEREAS, since January 1, 2005, the countywide retailers’ half cent sales tax has provided revenue for economic development and infrastructure projects benefiting the residents of Shawnee County and the City of Topeka; and

WHEREAS, the sales tax will expire on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Shawnee County (County Commissioners) is considering submitting to the electorate a proposal to extend the sales tax for an additional period of time in order to continue projects beneficial to the residents of Shawnee County; and

WHEREAS, the City has conducted several town hall meetings to gather input from the public concerning their thoughts on how sales tax funds should be used in the event the County Commissioners decide to submit the matter to the electorate; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to convey to the County Commissioners its position concerning possible uses for future sales tax proceeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Topeka, Kansas that the County Commissioners consider the following items for which the proceeds of any future countywide retailers’ sales tax be used, subject to an interlocal cooperation agreement with the City:

1. Economic development. Economic development funds would consist of one-third of retail sales tax revenue and be focused on emerging technology markets; new business development; research; targeted marketing; downtown development;
existing business retention and expansion; incentive funds; and workforce training and education.

2. Infrastructure. Sales tax proceeds would be used for improvements to the following:

   a. Southwest 6th Street from Gage to Fairlawn Road
   b. 12th street from Gage to Kansas Avenue
   c. Huntoon from Gage to Southwest Harrison
   d. Southwest 17th Street from Adams to Washburn
   e. Southwest 17th Street from McVicar to Kansas Interstate 470
   f. Topeka Boulevard from 15th Street to 21st Street
   g. Southwest 29th Street from Fairlawn to Wanamaker
   h. Southwest 37th Street from Scapa Place to Burlingame
   i. Southeast California from 37th to 45th
   j. Southwest 37th Street from Kansas to Adams
   k. Northeast Seward from Sumner to Forest


4. Topeka Zoo. Sales tax proceeds would be used to support Zoo expansion, exhibit improvements and infrastructure improvements.

5. Quality of Life. Sales tax proceeds would be used to implement the bikeways master plan and walking trails master plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council prefers that the election be held in the spring of 2015 and that the sales tax extend over a period of not more than 12 years.
ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council on May 13, 2014.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

Larry E. Wolgast, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Younger, City Clerk