

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/25/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0274

LOG NAME: 80CIQUIO VASQUEZ PARK UTILITY EASEMENT - CHAPTER 26

SUBJECT

(CD 11) Conduct Public Hearing and Authorize the Use of Approximately 0.025 Acres of Dedicated Parkland at Ciquio Vasquez Park for a Utility Easement

(**PUBLIC HEARING** - a. Report of City Staff: Lori Gordon; b. Public Comment; c. Council Action: Close Public Hearing and Act on M&C)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing under the guidelines set forth by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 26, Protection of Public Parks and Recreational Lands;
 2. Find that no feasible or prudent alternative exists for the use of Ciquio Vasquez Park for utility easement;
 3. Find that the proposed utility easement includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland;
 4. Close the public hearing and authorize the use of approximately 0.025 acres of parkland at Ciquio Vasquez Park for the utility easement; and
 5. Authorize the use of approximately 0.025 acres of parkland at Ciquio Vasquez Park for temporary construction workspace.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the use of a portion of public parkland at Ciquio Vasquez Park for a utility easement.

The City of Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department (PARD) is requesting the use of a portion of Ciquio Vasquez Park (Park) for an Oncor utility easement. The park is approximately 41.3 acres and identified as a community based park. As part of the 2022 Bond Program, \$5 million was identified for Ciquio Vasquez Park, for the preparation of a park master plan, design, and construction of Phase I park improvements.

On May 24, 2023, the Park & Recreation Department Advisory Board endorsed staff's recommendation to the City Council to approve the Ciquio Vasquez Park Master Plan.

On September 26, 2023, City Council approved Mayor and Council Communication (M&C 23-0838) authorizing Amendment No. 1 to City Secretary Contract No. 58594 with Mesa Design Associates, Inc., for the design and development of Ciquio Vasquez Park Phase I Improvements (Project).

Project improvements require a new Oncor utility easement to support the lighting of two new ballfields, a concession stand, and park security lighting. The proposed new Oncor utility easement triggers the requirements of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 26. The proposed new Oncor utility easement varies in width from 10 feet to 13.67 feet wide and is approximately 100 feet in length, totaling approximately 1,074 square feet or 0.025 acres. Installation of the utilities require an adjacent temporary construction workspace that is approximately 1,074 square feet or 0.025 acres. Portions of the park will be closed for project improvements during construction.

The City Forester has determined that there are no tree impacts associated with the new Oncor utility easement.

Construction is anticipated to begin in February 2025 and last approximately 260 days. The park will be restored to previous conditions or better upon completion of the project.

In accordance with Chapter 26 of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, the City of Fort Worth seeks to use a portion of Ciquio Vasquez Park for a permanent utility easement.

On October 23, 2024, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board endorsed staff's recommendation to the City Council to authorize the use of portions of Ciquio Vasquez Park for a utility easement.

In accordance with state law, the parkland conversion will be advertised in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *Dallas Morning News* on March 2, 2025, March 9, 2025, and March 16, 2025.

An email announcing the proposed change of use was sent to registered Neighborhood Associations within one and one-half miles of the park before February 21, 2025 and posted on the City's Web page.

In addition, signage was posted at the project site informing the public of the proposed change of use and providing instructions for directing comments to the Park & Recreation Department. The sign will remain posted through the public hearing process.

Ciquio Vasquez Park is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 11, east of Interstate Highway 35 West, south of E. Berry Street, west of S. Riverside

Drive, and north of E. Seminary Drive.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of these recommendations will have no material effect on City Funds.

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