

CD 06 Susan Hall  
FOR the Record  
Thx.

4/18/23

Attention: Ashland City Council

I request this testimony be entered into the Minutes of this meeting on the record.

Susan Hall RN  
Ashland

I am here tonight to oppose the second reading of this F&B tax ordinance & I oppose the Food & Beverage tax Measure 15-214 on the May 16 ballot. This Measure extends the F&B tax an additional 10 years to 2040. This 10 year extension request from Parks was hand carried into Council by Councilor Hansen on February 7, 2023. With Council's 5:1 passage of Councilor Hansen's motion it was clear that every one of you, except Councilor DuQuenne, have failed to grasp the serious potential consequences of this extension. Not only is it wrong to burden Ashland residents with 17 years of the F&B tax at this time, the potential for future crippling debt to the City and taxpayers will exist if Measure 15-214 were to pass.

I summarized this in my Letter to the Editor of the RV-Times. This is my LTE:

4/13/23

RV-Times Titled it:

"Measure would be a "pot of gold" for Ashland Parks"

MORE DEBT?

BIG BUCKS! That's what 17 years of a "dedicated revenue stream" from 98% of the Food & Beverage Tax (FBT) would give Ashland Parks and Rec. (APRC) if Measure 15-214 passes on May 16, 2023. Proponents of 15-214 avoid disclosing the new 2040 end date.

Why? 3 reasons:

- 15-214 obligates voters to pay FBT for 17 years (not 7).
- 15-214 establishes a guaranteed revenue source from 98% of the FBT for 17 years.
- This guaranteed revenue yields approximately \$3Million the first year and using a 4% annual escalation, approximately \$24 Million by 2030, and approximately \$75 Million by 2040.

This Pot of Gold has the potential to become collateral for APRC to sell revenue bonds to investors for whatever projects Parks wants. With approval of a revenue bond sale by City Council, the City & taxpayers would be in DEBT until the principle and interest are repaid.

I urge Council to recognize the potential debt Ashland residents, their children and their grandchildren could be left with to pay. Do not pass the second reading of this ordinance and reject Measure 15-214.

Thank you

Susan Hall RN  
Ashland  
4/18/23

*Susan R. Hall RN*