

AT A GLANCE

- City Hall has been at its current location for more than 50 years. The Police Station has been in its location for almost 40 years.
- Current buildings are overcrowded, inefficient, and decaying structurally.
- Two citizens' groups as well as a city-wide survey affirmed the need for a new police station and city hall.
- Building costs are currently low, as are borrowing rates.
- The city is seeking grants to help defray a portion of the cost.
- The city wishes to maintain its location close to the Courthouse Square.
- The proposed location allows easy access to major streets and local institutions, businesses and schools.
- With a 3/8th cent sales tax, the building will be paid off in less than 15 years and the sales tax will expire at that time.
- A sales tax helps spread the cost among all who shop in Harrisonville, rather than placing it solely on property owners.
- A resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen mandates the city seek and encourage the use of local tradesmen, material suppliers and vendors for this project.



City of Harrisonville, Missouri

Just The Facts

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS ON A SALES TAX TO FUND A NEW POLICE STATION & CITY HALL FACILITY

“Shall the City of Harrisonville, Missouri impose a sales tax of 3/8th of one percent for the purpose of providing funds for capital improvements, limited to acquiring land and constructing a new City Hall and Police facility and furnishing and equipping the same, such sales tax to be imposed for such time as any obligations issued for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, furnishing, and equipping such City Hall and Police facility shall remain unpaid, and thereafter the sales tax shall end?”

ELECTION DAY APRIL 6

BUILD NOW OR BUILD LATER?

City officials and the Board of Aldermen are mindful of the current state of the economy, but believe this is a good time to build a new municipal facility. Judging from the number of construction bids which have been received for other city projects, contractors are looking for work and are submitting bids that are well-below what engineers and designers have estimated the projects would cost. This indicates that now is a good time to move forward with this project.

Furthermore, the city is pursuing more than \$1.5 million in grants that would be used to reduce the overall cost to citizens. The lower the cost to our citizens, the sooner the sales tax will expire.

The Board of Aldermen has taken two steps to ensure the construction project would be structured in a fiscally responsible manner. First, the board mandated that the total spent will be no more than \$8.39 million. This will include land acquisition, construction, furnishing and equipping the new building.

Next, the city has adopted a resolution pledging to seek out and encourage the use of local contractors, workers, material suppliers and vendors to the greatest extent possible in the construction of the proposed facility. By utilizing the local construction industry, we will re-circulate grant monies and sales tax revenue in our local economy.



A CONCEPTUAL RENDERING OF HOW THE NEW POLICE STATION & CITY HALL MIGHT LOOK.

JUST THE FACTS

The buildings located at 208 E. Pearl and 300 E. Pearl, just off the historic Courthouse Square, have served the citizens of Harrisonville as the seat of city government and public safety for a combined total of almost 90 years. While the size and scope of city government has grown, they have not. Work space is cramped. Storage space is lacking. Electrical systems cannot easily handle today's technology needs. Mechanical systems do not meet energy efficiency standards. Even the structures themselves are aging, with crumbling masonry and leaking roofs.

What?

On April 6, Harrisonville voters will have the opportunity to vote on the following question:

"Shall the City of Harrisonville, Missouri impose a sales tax of 3/8th of one percent for the purpose of providing funds for capital improvements, limited to acquiring land constructing a new City Hall and Police facility and furnishing and equipping the same, such sales tax to be imposed for such time as any obligations issued for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping such City Hall and Police facility shall remain unpaid, and thereafter the sales tax shall end?"

Why?

The building located at 300 E. Pearl is well over 100 years old. Since 1959, it has been the seat of city government. However, the city has outgrown the building, and a larger facility, more accessible to the general populace and able to expand with the growth of our community, is needed. Likewise, the Police Department building at 208 E. Pearl is no longer suitable. Besides being too small for the current force, it has structural defects and needs extensive repairs. Architects and professional engineers have studied both buildings and determined it would cost more to repair them than to build new facilities. In addition, the current sites have no space for expansion.

Where?

The Board of Aldermen is committed to preserving the integrity of the historic Courthouse Square and to maintaining a physical presence in the downtown area. To do so, the city has chosen a site adjacent to the Square which would be suitable for a new facility.

The tract of land is already owned by the city and is bordered by Wall and Mechanic, Marler and Wirt streets. This site provides improved visibility and street access, ample space for parking, and room to expand in the future. A small parcel of privately held property would likely have to be purchased and an existing home moved to make way for the new structure.

Who?

The Board of Aldermen sought community input before bringing this issue to the voters. A city-wide survey conducted in 2008 showed a majority of residents see a need for these facilities and that a majority preferred the facility to be located downtown. A task force of local residents called Team 21 thoroughly studied the state of city facilities. Citizens participating in Harrisonville's strategic planning program also reviewed building needs. The two groups voted unanimously to recommend the city build a combined Harrisonville Police Department and City Hall on the site identified.

How Much?

A sales tax of 3/8th of one cent is proposed to finance the new facility. With a sales tax, the cost will be borne by all who shop in Harrisonville, rather than property owners alone.

To illustrate the effect of a 3/8th cent sales tax, shoppers would pay an additional 3¢ for each \$8 purchase and 30¢ for each \$80. Utilizing the 3/8th cent sales tax at current economic levels, city officials expect the building to be paid for and the sales tax to end in less than 15 years.

The new rate would go into effect on Oct. 1, 2010 and would bring the city-wide retail sales tax rate to 7.725%, an amount that is less than 15 other cities in the Kansas City metro area, including our neighboring cities of Peculiar, Belton, Raymore, Pleasant Hill, Kansas City, and Grandview.

Want to See for Yourself?

Citizens are welcome to tour the current City Hall and Police Station facilities. Please call 380-8916 to arrange a time to visit.