STAFF REPORT

MEETING
DATE: July 25, 2017

TO: City Council

FROM: Regan M. Candelario, City Manager

PRESENTER: Claudia Laughter, City Clerk

SUBJECT: APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PERSONS TO WRITE THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER 2017 BALLOT

REQUEST

Review and approve a resolution authorizing a Councilmember(s) (and/or others) to submit an argument in favor of the Urban Growth Boundary measure on the November 2017 ballot.

DISCUSSION

On July 11, 2017, the City Council approved revisions to an ordinance regarding the Urban Growth Boundary and authorized the City Clerk’s Office to proceed to have it placed on the November 7, 2017 Election Ballot. A resolution is required to appoint persons to write the argument in favor of the measure. The Council is presented with three options:

1. The City Council shall submit an argument in favor of the measure and hereby authorize a Councilmember to write the first draft thereof. All Councilmembers shall be entitled to comment on and make changes thereto and all Councilmembers shall be entitled to sign the argument. The argument is subject to the approval of the Council.

Alternatively:

2. A Councilmember(s) shall write and sign the argument in favor of the measure on behalf of the City Council.

Alternatively:

3. The Councilmember(s) _______________ shall work with _______________, ________________, and ________________, and shall sign the argument in favor of the measure on behalf of the City Council.

Alternatively:

4. Neither the Council as a whole, nor any individual Councilmember, acting on behalf of the City Council, shall write or sign the argument in favor of or against the measure.
The deadline for submission of the 300 word argument and forms to the Marin County Elections Department is Monday, August 21, 2017.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Urban Growth Boundary has been discussed at the Regular Public Meetings of the City Council and has received Public Comment at each meeting. Public groups such as the Greenbelt Alliance, the Marin Conservation League, and the Sierra Club have all expressed interest in contributing to the drafting of the argument in favor of the measure and to sign and support it.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council appoint the Mayor to write and sign, on behalf of the Council, the argument in favor of the ballot measure revising the Urban Growth Boundary.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution of the City Council appointing persons to write the argument in favor of the ballot measure revising the Urban Growth Boundary
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVATO

RESOLUTION NO. ___

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVATO APPOINTING PERSONS TO WRITE THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF BALLOT MEASURE REVISING AN URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

WHEREAS, the City Council has submitted to the voters at the general election the question of whether to adopt a General Plan Amendment revising the Urban Growth Boundary for the City of Novato; and

WHEREAS, the Elections Code authorizes the City Council, or any member thereof, to write an argument on behalf of the Council in favor of the measure; and

WHEREAS, the Elections Code authorizes other persons, besides the City Council or its members, to submit arguments in favor of the measure, but the City Clerk is required to give preference to the following persons/entities, in the following order in the event more than one argument in favor of the measure is timely submitted:

1. The City Council, or a member of the Council authorized to write the argument by the City Council;
2. The individual voter, or bona fide association of citizens, or combination of voters and associations, who are the bona fide sponsors or proponents of the measure;
3. Bona fide associations of citizens;
4. Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council shall submit an argument in favor of the measure and hereby authorizes ________________________ to write the first draft thereof. All Council members shall be entitled to comment on and make changes thereto and all council members shall be entitled to sign the argument. The argument is subject to the approval of the Council.

   [alternatively]

2. Council member(s) ______________________ shall write and sign the argument in favor of the measure in behalf of the City Council.

   [alternatively]

2. Council member(s) ______________________ shall work with ______________________ and ______________________ and ______________________ shall sign the argument in favor of the measure in behalf of the City Council.
[alternatively]

2. Neither the Council as a whole, nor any individual councilmember, acting in behalf of the City Council, shall write or sign the argument in favor of or against the measure.

* * * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Novato, Marin County, California, at a regularly and duly noticed meeting thereof, held on the 25th day of July, 2017, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Council members
NOES: Council members
ABSTAIN: Council members
ABSENT: Council members

_________________________________
City Clerk of the City of Novato

Approved as to form:

_________________________________
City Attorney