

INTRODUCED: April 8, 2024

AN ORDINANCE No. 2024-111

To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$170,000,000 to finance the costs of the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of a new baseball stadium to be developed in connection with the redevelopment of the area known as the “Diamond District” and to pay the issuance and financing costs incurred in connection with such bonds (including, but not limited to, certain capitalized interest on such bonds); to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement project, to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – Mayor Stoney, Ms. Jordan, President Nye, Ms. Newbille, Ms. Trammell, Mr. Addison,  
Ms. Lynch and Ms. Robertson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: MAY 8 2024 AT 3 P.M.

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond, Virginia (the “City”), acting in concert with the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia (the “EDA”), is seeking to redevelop an approximately 67-acre site located in the Greater Scott’s Addition area known as the “Diamond District,” which is home to The Diamond baseball stadium; and

AYES:                   6               NOES:                   0               ABSTAIN:                               

ADOPTED:     MAY 8 2024     REJECTED:                              STRICKEN:

WHEREAS, in connection with the redevelopment of the Diamond District, the City is seeking to replace The Diamond baseball stadium, the operation of which is no longer economically viable as a result of age, limited seating capacity and operational deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the EDA is expected to enter into development agreement providing for the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of the new baseball stadium; and

WHEREAS, the Public Finance Act of 1991, Sections 15.2-2600 *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia* of 1950, as amended (the “Public Finance Act”), permits the issuance of bonds, when authorized by the Council of the City of Richmond, Virginia (the “Council”), at one time or from time to time in one or more series, to finance the costs of the capital improvement project hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to provide that all or a portion of the general obligation public improvement bonds authorized by this ordinance may be issued as taxable bonds (the “Taxable Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the Council that the City should authorize the issuance and sale of either tax-exempt or taxable general obligation public improvement bonds or both in the maximum principal amount of \$170,000,000 (the “Bonds”) to finance (a) the costs of the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of a new baseball stadium to be developed in connection with the redevelopment of the Diamond District and (b) the issuance and financing costs incurred in connection with the Bonds (including, but not limited to, certain capitalized interest on the Bonds); and

WHEREAS, the City expects to advance its own funds to pay expenditures related to such project prior to the issuance of such Bonds, and it is the intention of the City to reimburse itself for such expenditures from the proceeds thereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on this ordinance has been advertised and held in the manner required by Section 4.10 of the Charter of the City (the “Charter”) and Section 15.2-2606 of the Public Finance Act;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. The issuance of the Bonds, as either tax-exempt or taxable, is authorized in the maximum principal amount of \$170,000,000 to finance the costs of the capital improvement project hereinafter described and the issuance and financing costs incurred in connection with the Bonds (including, but not limited to, certain capitalized interest on the Bonds). The Bonds shall be designated “General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds” or “General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds (Federally Taxable)”, as appropriate, and may include such other term or terms as part of their designation as the officers herein authorized deem appropriate.

§ 2. Proceeds of the Bonds shall be used by the City to finance, in whole or in part, the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of a new baseball stadium to be developed in connection with the redevelopment of the Diamond District. Such project is hereby approved as a “project” eligible to be financed with the proceeds of Taxable Bonds.

§ 3. (a) The Bonds shall be in registered form and shall be designated by title, date and series, bear interest from the date, be payable on the payment dates, be issued in the denomination, and mature at such time or times not exceeding 40 years from their date or dates and in amounts as either serial or term bonds, or both, with sinking fund payments, if any, all as determined by the Director of Finance of the City (the “Director of Finance”), with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer of the City (the “Chief Administrative Officer”).

(b) Each Bond shall bear interest (i) with respect to any fixed-rate bond issuance, at such rate as shall be determined at the time of sale, calculated on the basis of a 360-day year and a 30-day month, payable semiannually, and (ii) with respect to any variable or auction rate bond issuance, such rate shall be determined initially at or proximate to the time of sale and thereafter be subject to adjustment on such dates or during such periods, calculated on such basis, and payable on such dates or during such periods; all as determined by the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer and subject to the terms of this ordinance.

(c) Principal and premium, if any, shall be payable to the registered owners upon surrender of the Bonds as they become due at the office of the Registrar (as hereinafter defined). Interest shall be payable by check or draft mailed to the registered owners at their addresses as they appear on the registration books kept by the Registrar on the date prior to each interest payment date that shall be determined by the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer (the "Record Date"); provided, however, that (i) any Record Date contained in the bond certificate shall be deemed the determination of such officers and (ii) at the request of a registered owner of the Bonds, payment may be made by wire transfer pursuant to the most recent wire instructions received by the Registrar from such registered owner. Principal, premium, if any, and interest shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America.

(d) The Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, may (i) enter into an agreement for a book-entry system for the Bonds with a qualified securities depository (the "Securities Depository") and (ii) appoint a paying agent and registrar for the Bonds (the "Registrar"), as well as a trustee (the "Trustee") if necessary or appropriate.

§ 4. (a) The Bonds may be subject to redemption or purchase prior to maturity at the option of the City on or after dates, if any, determined by the Director of Finance, with the approval

of the Chief Administrative Officer. The Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, is authorized and directed to approve such optional redemption provisions for the Bonds as such officer or officers determine to be in the best interest of the City.

(b) Any term bonds may be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption as determined by the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.

(c) The City shall provide for the purchase of the Bonds in the manner specified in any Bonds subject to purchase as approved by the officers authorized to do so pursuant to this ordinance.

§ 5. The Bonds shall be signed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Finance, and the City's seal shall be affixed thereto or a facsimile thereof printed thereon and attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk. No Bond signed by facsimile signatures shall be valid until it has been authenticated by the manual signature of an authorized officer or employee of the Registrar or Trustee, as appropriate, and the date of authentication noted thereon.

§ 6. The Bonds shall be in the form or forms as the Director of Finance may select, with such terms and provisions not inconsistent with this ordinance as may be approved by the officers signing the Bonds, whose approval shall be evidenced conclusively by the execution and delivery thereof.

§ 7. The full faith and credit of the City are irrevocably pledged for the payment of principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds. Unless other funds are lawfully available and appropriated for timely payment of the Bonds, the Council shall levy and collect an annual ad valorem tax, over and above all other taxes authorized or limited by law and without limitation as to rate or amount, on all locally taxable property in the City sufficient to pay when due the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Bonds.

§ 8. (a) The Registrar shall maintain registration books for the registration of the Bonds. Upon surrender of any Bond at the corporate trust office of the Registrar, together with an assignment duly executed by the registered owner or his duly authorized attorney or legal representative in such form as shall be satisfactory to the Registrar, the City shall execute, and the Registrar shall authenticate and deliver in exchange, a new Bond or Bonds having an equal aggregate principal amount, in authorized denominations, of the same form and maturity, bearing interest at the same rate, and registered in the name(s) as requested by the then-registered owner or such registered owner's duly authorized attorney or legal representative. Any such exchange shall be at the expense of the City, except that the Registrar may charge the person requesting such exchange the amount of any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect thereto.

(b) The Registrar shall treat the registered owner as the person exclusively entitled to payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest and the exercise of all other rights and powers of the owner, except that interest payments shall be made to the person shown as owner on the registration books as of the applicable Record Date.

§ 9. The Council has ascertained and hereby determines and states that the maximum principal amount of the Bonds authorized by this ordinance and all other outstanding general obligation bonds or other general obligation indebtedness heretofore issued or contracted by the City for any purpose, or in any manner, does not exceed 10% of the assessed valuation of the real estate in the City subject to taxation, as shown by the last preceding assessment for taxes, and that, accordingly, the Bonds are within the limitation of indebtedness as provided in Section 7B.02 of the Charter and Section 15.2-2634 of the Public Finance Act.

§ 10. The Council hereby approves the following terms of the sale of the Bonds. The Bonds may be sold all at one time, in one or more series or otherwise, as may be determined by the Director

of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer. The Bonds shall be sold by competitive bid or by negotiation with one or more underwriters or other purchasers as the Director of Finance may determine pursuant to the Public Finance Act, at such price or prices as the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, shall determine to be in the best interest of the City, provided that in no event shall (a) the net interest cost of the Bonds, after taking into account any premium or discount on the Bonds, but excluding credit and/or liquidity enhancement premium, exceed 8% per year; provided; however, that variable or adjustable rate Bonds may be issued with interest rate adjustment provisions not to exceed 12%; (b) the sale price of the Bonds to the underwriters, excluding any original issue discount, be less than 97% of the aggregate principal amount thereof, and (c) the final maturity of the Bonds be later than 40 years from their dated date or such lesser period as set forth from time to time in the City's general obligation bond debt policy. The Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, is authorized to negotiate and acquire credit and/or liquidity enhancement for the Bonds. Bonds sold with an interest rate subject to adjustment as variable or auction rate bonds may be subject to such repurchase and/or remarketing terms as the Director of Finance may determine with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer. The Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, is also authorized to enter into contracts with respect to the Bonds, commonly known as interest rate swap agreements, and contracts providing for payments based on levels of, or changes in, interest rates; provided that the form of such contract or arrangement shall have been previously approved by resolution or resolutions hereafter adopted by the Council. These contracts or arrangements may be entered into by the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, in connection with, or incidental to, entering into, or maintaining any (x) agreement which secures bonds or (y) investment, or contract providing for investment, otherwise

authorized by law. These contracts and arrangements may contain such payment, security, default, remedy, and other terms and conditions as determined by the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, after giving due consideration to the creditworthiness of the counterparty or other obligated party, including any rating by any nationally recognized rating agency, and any other criteria as may be appropriate. This ordinance is intended to grant to the Director of Finance and the Chief Administrative Officer full and complete authority to finalize the terms of the Bonds, to provide for their issuance and sale and to execute and deliver any and all documentation in connection therewith without further approval by Council, unless otherwise required in connection with any refunding, consistent with the requirements of this ordinance, the Public Finance Act, the Charter and the Constitution and other laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Director of Finance is authorized to negotiate, execute and deliver a bond purchase agreement with the underwriters or other purchasers of the Bonds if the Bonds are sold by negotiation, a copy of which shall be filed with the City Clerk. If the Bonds are sold by competitive bid, the Director of Finance shall file a certificate following the award of the Bonds setting forth the final terms of the Bonds with the City Clerk. In connection with the obtaining of any line of credit, credit or liquidity enhancement, interest rate swap or similar agreements, the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, is authorized to include in the borrowing the cost of obtaining such line of credit, credit or liquidity enhancement, interest rate swap or similar agreements. The actions of the Director of Finance in selling the Bonds shall be conclusive, and no further action shall be necessary on the part of the Council.

§ 11. The City intends to advance funds from time to time to pay expenditures related to the project for which the Bonds are to be issued as generally described herein and to use Bond proceeds to reimburse itself for such expenditures made prior to the effective date of this ordinance. This

ordinance constitutes the City's declaration of "official intent" within the meaning of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2 promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to reimburse itself for such expenditures with Bond proceeds. The Director of Finance shall keep on file records of the expenditures for which reimbursement will be sought.

§ 12. The Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Finance are authorized and directed to have prepared and distributed, in accordance with standard practices for municipal securities, one or more Preliminary Official Statements of the City describing the Bonds as authorized herein, the security therefor, and providing any other pertinent or relevant information. The Director of Finance shall make such completions, omissions, insertions and changes in such Preliminary Official Statement not inconsistent with this ordinance as are necessary or desirable to complete it as a final Official Statement. The City shall arrange for the delivery to the purchasers of the Bonds of a reasonable number of copies of the final Official Statement, within seven business days after the date the Bonds have been awarded, for delivery to each potential investor requesting a copy of the final Official Statement and to each person to whom such underwriter or bidder and members of the underwriting or bidding group initially sell Bonds.

§ 13. The Director of Finance is authorized, on behalf of the City, to deem such Preliminary Official Statement and such Official Statement in final form, each to be final as of its date within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), except for the omission in such Preliminary Official Statement of certain pricing and other information permitted to be omitted pursuant to the Rule. The distribution of such Preliminary Official Statement and such Official Statement in final form shall be conclusive evidence that each has been deemed final as of its date by the City, except for the omission from such Preliminary Official Statement of such pricing and other information permitted to be omitted pursuant to the Rule.

§ 14. The Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Finance and the City Clerk are authorized and directed to take all proper steps to have the Bonds prepared and executed in accordance with their terms and to deliver the Bonds to or for the account of the purchasers thereof upon payment therefor.

§ 15. The City covenants that it shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which will cause the Bonds to be “arbitrage bonds” within the meaning of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including regulations issued pursuant thereto (the “Code”), or otherwise cause interest on the Bonds to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners thereof under existing law. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the City shall comply with any provision of law that may require the City at any time to rebate to the United States any part of the earnings derived from the investment of the gross proceeds of the Bonds, unless the City receives an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel that such compliance is not required to prevent interest on the Bonds from being includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners thereof under existing law. The City shall pay any such required rebate to the United States from its legally available funds. This Section shall not apply to Taxable Bonds.

§ 16. Such officers of the City as may be requested by the City’s bond counsel are authorized and directed to execute appropriate certificates setting forth facts and covenants related to (a) the expected use, expenditure and investment of the proceeds of the Bonds in order to show that such expected use, expenditure and investment will not violate the provisions of Section 148 of the Code and (b) any elections such officers deem desirable regarding rebate of earnings to the United States for purposes of complying with Section 148 of the Code. Such certificates shall be prepared

in consultation with the City's bond counsel, and such elections shall be made after consultation with bond counsel. This Section shall not apply to Taxable Bonds.

§ 17. The City covenants that it shall not permit the proceeds of the Bonds or the facilities financed with the proceeds of the Bonds to be used in any manner that would result in (a) 5% or more of such proceeds or the facilities financed with such proceeds being used in a trade or business carried on by any person other than a governmental unit, as provided in Section 141(b) of the Code, (b) 5% or more of such proceeds or the facilities financed with such proceeds being used with respect to any output facility (other than a facility for the furnishing of water), within the meaning of Section 141(b)(4) of the Code, or (c) 5% or more of such proceeds being used directly or indirectly to make or finance loans to any person other than a governmental unit, as provided in Section 141(c) of the Code; provided, however, that if the City receives an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel that any such covenants need not be complied with to prevent the interest on the Bonds from being includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners thereof under existing law, the City need not comply with such covenants. This Section shall not apply to Taxable Bonds.

§ 18. The City desires to assist the purchasers of the Bonds in complying with the provisions of Section (b)(5)(i) of the Rule. In order to accomplish this, the City covenants to do the following to the extent required or requested:

(a) Annual Disclosure.

(i) The City shall provide annually certain financial information and operating data in accordance with the provisions of Section (b)(5)(i) of the Rule, as follows:

(A) audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; and

(B) the operating data with respect to the City of the type appearing in portions of the Official Statement in final form relating to and describing (1) a statement of General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources and a statement of General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses in the section relating to discussions of certain financial information, (2) schedules relating to property assessments, real estate tax levies and collections and personal property tax levies and collections in the section relating to revenues of the City, and (3) schedules relating to legal debt margin, percentage of bonded debt to assessed values of real estate and bonded debt per capita and percentage of debt service to total General Fund Expenditures and Transfers in the section relating to debt of the City.

(ii) The City shall annually provide the financial information and operating data described in subsection (i) above (the “Continuing Disclosure”) within 220 days after the end of the City's fiscal year, commencing with the City's fiscal year in which the Bonds are issued, to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the “MSRB”) for publication on its Electronic Municipal Market Access (“EMMA”) System, or as otherwise designated by the Rule and to the appropriate state information depository if any then exists (“SID”).

(iii) Any of the Continuing Disclosure may be included by specific reference to other documents previously provided to the MSRB and to the SID, if any, or filed with the SEC; provided, however, that any final official statement incorporated by reference must be available from the MSRB.

(iv) The City shall provide in a timely manner to the MSRB and to the SID, if any, notice specifying any failure of the City to provide the Continuing Disclosure by the date specified.

If the City fails to comply with any covenant or obligation specified in this Section, any holder (within the meaning of the Rule) of the Bonds then outstanding may, by notice to the City, proceed to protect and enforce its rights and the rights of the holders by an action for specific performance of the City's covenant to provide the applicable financial information and operating data.

(b) Event Disclosure. In a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of the event, the City shall provide to the MSRB and to the SID, if any, notice of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds:

- (1) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) unscheduled draws on any credit enhancement reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other materials notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax-exempt status of the Bonds;
- (7) modifications to rights of bondholders, if material;
- (8) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) defeasance of all or any portion of the Bonds;

(10) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds, if material;

(11) rating changes;

(12) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person;

(13) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving an obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;

(14) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;

(15) incurrence of a financial obligation of the obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the obligated person, any of which affect holders of Bonds, if material; and

(16) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

(c) Termination. The covenants and obligations of the City specified in subsections (a) and (b) to the extent they apply shall terminate upon the redemption, defeasance (within the meaning of the Rule) or payment in full of all the Bonds.

(d) Amendment. The City reserves the right to modify its obligations specified in subsections (a) and (b) without the consent of bondholders, provided that such modification complies

with the Rule as it exists at the time of modification. The City shall, within a reasonable time thereafter, send to the MSRB and the SID, if any, a description of such modification(s).

(e) Additional Disclosure. The City may from time to time disclose certain information and data in addition to the Continuing Disclosure. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the City shall not incur any obligation to continue to provide, or to update, such additional information or data.

§ 19. The Director of Finance is authorized to issue and sell from time to time, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, at either public sale or private sale without prior public bidding at such prices, subject to the limitations set forth herein, as the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, may determine, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance Act, notes of the City in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds authorized to be issued by this ordinance for the purpose of defraying the whole or any part of the costs of the capital improvement project described in this ordinance. Such bond anticipation note issuance may be in the form of a line of credit with one or more financial institutions; a variable or auction rate financing with provisions for purchasing and remarketing of the notes; a commercial paper financing; or a fixed rate financing as the Director of Finance may determine, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer. Such bond anticipation note financing may provide for a maximum amount not in excess of the amount herein authorized which may be drawn down and repaid from time to time by the City. The limitations as to interest rate and sales price in Section 10 of this ordinance for the issuance of the Bonds shall also apply to the issuance of notes; provided the term of any such bond anticipation note issuance shall not exceed 5 years in accordance with Section 15.2-2628 of the Public Finance Act. Except to the extent modified by this Section, the Director of Finance, with the approval of the

Chief Administrative Officer, shall have the same authorization granted herein for the issuance of the Bonds in connection with any issuance of notes in anticipation of the issuance of such Bonds.

§ 20. The City Clerk, with the assistance of the City Attorney, is authorized and directed to see to the immediate filing of a certified copy of this ordinance in the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond and is directed to make a copy of this ordinance continuously available for inspection by the general public during normal business hours at the City Clerk's office from the date of adoption hereof through the date of the issuance of the Bonds.

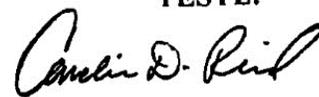
§ 21. All other actions of officers of the City in conformity with the purposes and intent of this ordinance and in furtherance of the issuance and sale of the Bonds are approved and confirmed. The officers of the City are authorized and directed to execute and deliver all certificates and instruments and to take all such further action as may be considered necessary or desirable in connection with the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds, including entering into contracts and arrangements to provide credit and/or liquidity enhancement or insurance for all or a portion of the Bonds and for the investment of the proceeds of the Bonds. The authorization granted herein to the Director of Finance, the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Attorney shall apply equally to any person serving in such capacity on an interim or acting basis pending a permanent appointment to any such office.

§ 22. This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its effective date in accordance with the Charter.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**A TRUE COPY:  
TESTE:**



**City Clerk**



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
2nd Floor of City Hall  
Richmond, VA 23219  
www.rva.gov

## Master

**File Number: Admin-2024-0278**

<b>File ID:</b> Admin-2024-0278	<b>Type:</b> Request for Ordinance or Resolution	<b>Status:</b> Regular Agenda
<b>Version:</b> 1	<b>Reference:</b>	<b>In Control:</b> City Clerk Waiting Room
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>	<b>File Created:</b> 04/03/2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Final Action:</b>	
Title:		

**Internal Notes:**

**Code Sections:**

**Agenda Date:** 04/08/2024

**Indexes:**

**Agenda Number:**

**Patron(s):**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** Admin-2024-0278\_Davenport Diamond District Comparison Table I, Admin-2024-0278\_Diamond District - Bond Ordinance AATF.pdf

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Introduction Date:**

**Drafter:**

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### Approval History

Version	Seq #	Action Date	Approver	Action	Due Date
1	1	4/3/2024	Sheila White	Approve	4/4/2024
1	2	4/3/2024	Meghan Brown	Approve	4/4/2024
1	3	4/3/2024	Sharon Ebert	Approve	4/4/2024
1	4	4/3/2024	Sabrina Joy-Hogg	Approve	4/4/2024
1	5	4/4/2024	Lincoln Saunders	Approve	4/4/2024
1	6	4/4/2024	Mayor Stoney	Approve	4/5/2024

### History of Legislative File

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

**Text of Legislative File Admin-2024-0278**

**O&R REQUEST**

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 3, 2024

**TO:** The Honorable Members of City Council

**THROUGH:** The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

**THROUGH:** J. E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

**THROUGH:** Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer -  
Finance and Administration

**THROUGH:** Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer -  
Planning and Economic Development

**THROUGH:** Meghan Brown, Interim Director of Budget & Strategic Planning

**FROM:** Sheila White, Director of Finance

**RE:** **Diamond District Project - Authorization to issue \$170 Million General  
Obligation Public Improvement Bonds**

**ORD. OR RES. No.**

**PURPOSE:**

This request is to authorize the issuance of up to \$170,000,000 of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds to finance the costs of the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of a new baseball stadium to be developed in connection with the redevelopment of the area known as the “Diamond District” and to pay the issuance and financing costs incurred in connection with such bonds (including, but not limited to, certain capitalized interest on such bonds). The Economic Development Authority (the “EDA”) is expected to enter into development agreement to provide for the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of the new baseball stadium in the Diamond District and will lease the stadium to the Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Team for an initial term of 30 years.

**BACKGROUND:**

The originally proposed CDA financing approach by the Developer for the Diamond District project in June 2022 consisted of a planned \$2 billion phased investment that would support the New Baseball Stadium with estimated costs of \$110 million. It requires the creation of a Community Development Authority (“CDA”) that would collect the incremental revenues generated by the project and issue CDA revenue bonds to build a new baseball stadium. The incremental revenues from the CDA district were to be used to make debt service payments of the CDA revenue bonds. In the event of insufficient

incremental revenues generated in the CDA district and certain neighboring property included in the hereinafter described TIF district, the Developer would pay a special assessment to make the debt service payment whole. Additionally, the city included an expanded tax increment financing (“TIF”) district beyond the CDA district to provide additional incremental as a potential source of debt repayment. As a result of this financing structure, the city would have no responsibility for any shortfalls for the CDA revenue bonds with respect to the new baseball stadium.

However, since then, the interest rates have increased significantly from historic low of 0.25% in March 2022 to 5.50% in September 2023. Based on current market condition, it is estimated that interest rates would be approximately 8% or higher for a non-rated bond to be issued by the CDA.

In order to build a new baseball stadium that meets the minor league baseball team mandated requirements by spring 2026 to keep the Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Team in town, the project team revamps the financing approach based on current market conditions.

Together with our financial advisor, the city has developed an alternative approach that bifurcates the new stadium financing and the private development portion of Phase I. Under this approach, the city would issue general obligation bonds and lease revenue bonds via the EDA to fund the construction of the new baseball stadium as well as the surrounding infrastructure. Because of the city’s excellent credit ratings, the estimated debt service costs would approximate 4%. This approach would reduce the financing costs by nearly 50% and increase the surplus amount to the city by approximately \$220 million. In addition, the stadium G.O. bonds are self-supported by incremental tax revenues from the Stadium and Phase I real estate developments, and the lease revenue bonds will be repaid from the lease payments made by the Flying Squirrels. It would also reduce the city’s debt capacity by \$26 million previously programmed for Phase I infrastructure.

The attached Davenport Diamond District Comparison Table I is provided by the city’s financial advisor and compares the new financing approach to the original CDA approach.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

N/A

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL:**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

To finance an estimated total of \$161.7 million of Stadium and phase I infrastructure costs, the city plans to issue up to \$170 million in bonds which consists of \$130 million tax-exempt general obligation bonds and 40 million tax-exempt lease revenue bonds to cover the construction costs of the Stadium and Phase I infrastructure, respectively, as well as issuance and financing costs related to the bonds. This funding is needed to ensure Stadium construction completion meets the deadline imposed by the Minor League Baseball.

The estimated annual debt service on the \$130 million G.O. bonds for the Stadium will be

approximately \$7 million per year when incremental revenues stabilize. The debt service will be paid from the incremental tax revenues generated by the Stadium and Phase I development.

The estimated annual debt service on the \$40 million lease revenue bonds for the Phase I infrastructure will be approximately \$3 million per year depending on the lease payment schedule. Flying Squirrel Stadium rental payments collected by EDA will be used to pay debt service on the lease revenue bonds.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Upon Adoption

**REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE:**

Monday, April 8, 2024 City Council Meeting

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:**

Monday, April 22, 2024 City Council Meeting

**REQUESTED AGENDA:**

Regular Agenda

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:**

Thursday, April 18, 2024 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

**AFFECTED AGENCIES:**

- City Attorney's Office
- Department of Budget and Strategic Planning
- Department of Economic Development
- Department of Finance
- Department of Public Utilities
- Department of Public Works

**RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.:**

- ORD. 2023-134
- RES. 2022-R058
- RES. 2022-R055

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Davenport Diamond District Comparison Table I

**STAFF:**

- Michael Nguyen, Department of Finance - Chief Investment and Debt Officer x6993
- Meiling Qu, Department of Finance - Debt Manager x6180

## Davenport Diamond District Comparison Table I

(All Dollar Figures Presented in Millions)

	CDA Revenue Bond Approach	Special Revenue Approach
<b>Sources of Funding</b>		
CDA Revenue Bonds	\$122	N/A
Cost of Funds	8%	N/A
Subordinate Bonds	\$20	N/A
Cost of Funds	10%	N/A
City Issued Bonds	\$27	\$170
Cost of Funds	4%	4%
<b>Projected Cashflow Surplus*</b>		
Phase I Project Revenues	\$688	\$698
<u>Less: Debt Service/Projected Exp**</u>	<u>\$(493)</u>	<u>\$(280)</u>
<b>Surplus to the City</b>	<b>\$196</b>	<b>\$418</b>

\* Includes Expanded TIF District for comparison purposes.

\*\* CDA Revenue Bond Approach includes \$10 million of cash applied toward New Baseball Stadium construction.