



# CITY OF MOORHEAD LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROPOSAL REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER

HF 1614  
SF 1727

**\$29.1M**

**MAXIMUM  
EXPENDITURE**

## PROJECT VISION

The City of Moorhead is seeking to construct a Regional Public Library/Community Center to serve Moorhead, Clay County residents, and users of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library System. The new facility will replace a 59-year old library with a state of the art library that includes spaces designed for the community to thrive—from the youngest community members to our elders. The multipurpose facility will include space for learning, gathering, and caring for a growing community and region. The model is fiscally responsible with joint and regional benefits. Library Strategies, a St. Paul-based library consulting firm, has been contracted to conduct a community needs assessment that will include community and stakeholder engagement, site analysis, and recommendations to guide the size and scope of a library to serve our growing community for generations to come.

## REGIONAL LIBRARY Community Center



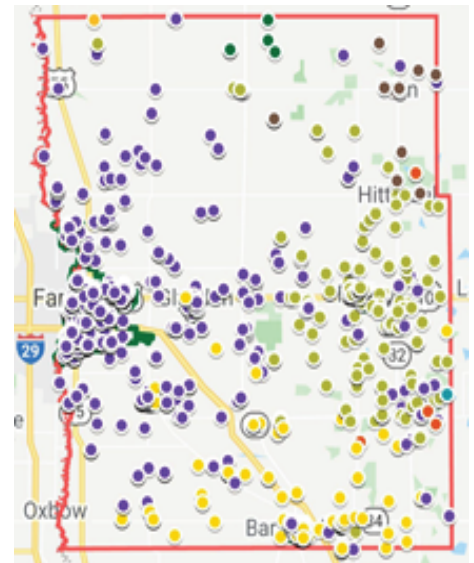
## REGIONAL BENEFITS

Moorhead Public Library is the largest branch of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system and houses the regional library's headquarters. Serving as the main branch, the Moorhead Public Library and headquarters provides region-wide support to 22 communities in the seven county service area, including administration, IT support, marketing and promotion, training, interlibrary loan services, customer account support, and research and referral services for nearly 49,000 patrons.

Moorhead Public Library has more than 20,000 library card holders. Seventy-five percent of Moorhead Public Library patrons reside within the city limits, with an additional 25% residing outside the city limits. The LARL System headquartered in Moorhead provides assistance and support to a population of 154,000 residents throughout the seven county service area.

### (Map - Right)

The purple dots on the right represent the citizens in Clay County who use the Moorhead Public Library. The other dots represent those citizens with LARL cards who have access to Moorhead Public Library services, but use other LARL locations as their home library.



## contact:

Lisa Bode, Governmental Affairs Director  
218.299.5372 [lisa.bode@cityofmoorhead.com](mailto:lisa.bode@cityofmoorhead.com)

Dan Mahli, City Manager  
218.299.5303 [dan.mahli@cityofmoorhead.com](mailto:dan.mahli@cityofmoorhead.com)  
Michelle (Shelly) Carlson, Mayor  
218.299.5307 [shelly.carlson@cityofmoorhead.com](mailto:shelly.carlson@cityofmoorhead.com)

*Photo used with permission by "Travelin' Librarian on Flickr"*

March 2021



## ABOUT MOORHEAD

The City of Moorhead is a growing regional center of more than 43,000 people within the Fargo-Moorhead Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of more than 245,000 population, comprised of Clay County Minnesota and Cass County North Dakota (2 states, 2 counties, 14 cities, and 30 townships within 1,073 square miles, and the intersection of two interstate highways). Moorhead is home to four post-secondary institutions with a combined enrollment of nearly 14,000 students from the region, around the country, and around the world.

## REGIONAL LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER AMENITIES

The Moorhead Regional Library and Community Center will be an incredible asset to Moorhead and the surrounding area, bringing traditional library services under the same roof as so much more. The City of Moorhead is currently actively engaged in community conversations regarding the combination of community functions of the library and community center. The Library Strategies study underway in February 2021, supplemented by the "Onward, Moorhead" Comprehensive Plan which kicked off in January 2021 will inform the multipurpose spaces that will be part of the Library Community Center. Spaces for childcare, seniors, youth, and community gatherings are central themes, each of which will have broad regional impact.

### CHILDCARE

Childcare is an identified local need impeding workforce development by a Regional Workforce Study of the Greater Fargo/Moorhead area (available upon request).

The United Way of Cass/Clay indicates that the shortage of childcare availability in our region is a key challenge for all working families in the region, and for low-income families in particular.

### SENIOR PROGRAM

Seniors living in rural areas are traveling to, and in some cases, moving to Moorhead in order for medical and other services and amenities, including community activities and social spaces.

### YOUTH PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES

Moorhead's school district extends beyond the City limits and includes students who live in surrounding areas. Youth activities and programming at the library and community center will serve those students who live outside of the city but attend Moorhead schools, as well as attracting youth from the surrounding metro area.

### COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

Multifunction spaces are in demand, adding to Moorhead's offering of regional parks, ice arenas, cultural center, and entertainment facilities that attract regional, state and international visitors from Minnesota, North Dakota, Canada, and beyond.

### RECREATION AND EXERCISE FACILITIES

The active spaces within the Library/Community Center will serve to improve community health outcomes. According to County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Clay County currently ranks 58 of Minnesota's 87 counties in terms of health outcomes. Moorhead has higher than average premature death, an elevated premature age-adjusted mortality, and lower than average social associations. With a young population, we see no reason why Moorhead couldn't be in the top 10 Minnesota counties in terms of health outcomes.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY is changing with the times.

It is more and more an all-age, all-purpose **INFORMATION CENTER** for the entire community.

For..." the library serves the whole community, boys and girls, men and women, laborers and businessmen — and it serves them whether they ever enter its doors or not. For by whatever measure the city grows and prospers, so too does each member of the community grow and prosper."

## SUPPORT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

SO IT CAN GIVE BETTER SERVICE  
TO MORE AND MORE PEOPLE

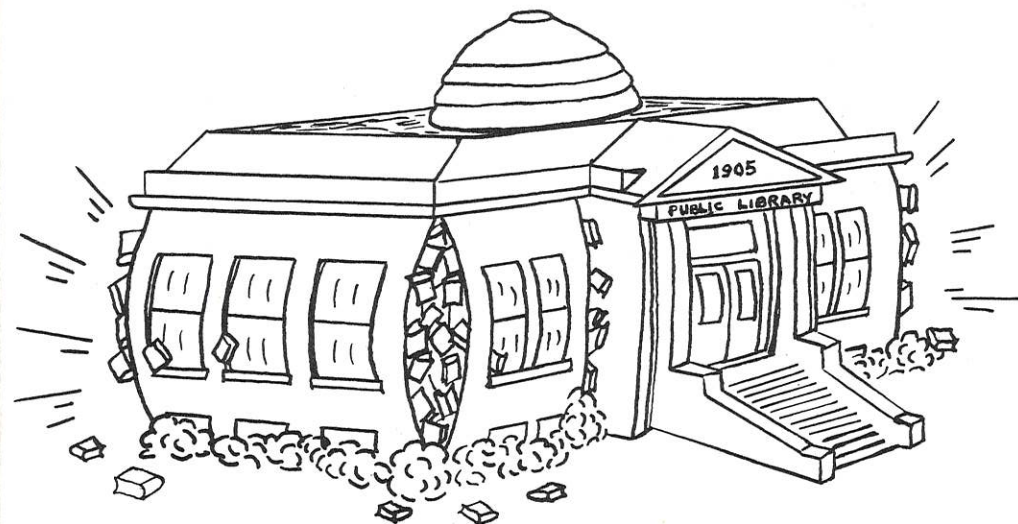
Vote "YES" on the  
**LIBRARY BOND ISSUE**  
May 3rd 24

# VOTE YES

on the

## LIBRARY BOND ISSUE

MAY ~~3rd~~ 24



THE NEED IS URGENT !

Moorhead is Growing  
The Library Must Keep Pace





# LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL LIBRARY

118 S. 5th St.  
Moorhead, MN 56560

Phone 218.233.3757  
Toll-free within the LARL Region  
Fax 218.233.7556  
[www.larl.org](http://www.larl.org)

February 26, 2021

To: Representative Paul Marquart, Chair of the House Committee on Taxes  
Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair of the House Property Tax Division  
  
Senator Carla J. Nelson, Chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes  
Senator Bill Weber, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Property Taxes

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) expresses its enthusiastic support of the City of Moorhead's request to the Minnesota Legislature to allow a 2022 General Election ballot question regarding a .5% Local Option Sales Tax for the purpose of a joint public library, regional public library system headquarters and community center.

The Lake Agassiz Regional Library is a consolidated public library system providing assistance and support to 22 community libraries within the seven-county geographic area with a service population of 154,000 residents. LARL administrative services to the 22 community libraries include finance, IT support, marketing, training, interlibrary loan services, customer account support, research and referral services, and programming, in addition to the purchasing, maintenance, and delivery of library materials and resources.

As the largest library within LARL, the Moorhead Public Library serves as the main branch, providing essential support and services to other libraries in the system and support directly to customers region-wide. As an institution, the Moorhead Public Library has been in existence since 1906, and has been a member of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library since 1961. With deep roots in the community, the residents of Moorhead and the surrounding area have come to rely on the library for a variety of ever changing wants and needs. Both LARL and the Moorhead Public Library are committed to listening to the community and responding with services and resources to assist with information, educational, entertainment, enrichment, and workforce needs.

The current library was originally constructed in 1961 and remodeled in 1980. While the mission of public libraries have remained the same, resources and services have

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Bagley Library  
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Moorhead Library  
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evolved. A new library facility will allow for adequate space required for 21st Century services.

A modern facility will provide the necessary space for new parents to congregate and network while preparing their children for Kindergarten; school age children will participate in educational and enriching activities and events to help them reach their literacy and educational potential; residents of all ages will be able to attend civic and educational events as an active community member and engage in lifelong learning opportunities; and community groups will be able to come together in meeting spaces to solve community problems. In addition, individuals will have the necessary space for distance learning and remote working conditions.

Unfortunately, the existing facility is in extreme distress from the inside out. Structural and facility issues include cracks in the lower level resulting in flooding in the LARL headquarters, an antiquated H-VAC and boiler system that no longer adequately supports the space, restrooms in desperate need of repair, a crumbling exterior, a leaky roof that is in disrepair, electrical panels that are corroded and have outlived their expected service life, lighting that is obsolete and inefficient, and an inadequate sized parking lot that includes cracks and potholes.

The Lake Agassiz Regional Library and Moorhead Public Library are excited about a shared community center facility to provide the necessary resources for building community, improving lives and helping Minnesotans reach their full potential. Please authorize the City of Moorhead's request to provide the voters within the City of Moorhead the opportunity to determine whether they wish to pursue a sales tax for a Regional Public Library and Community Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Liz Lynch, LARL Executive Director, [lynchl@larl.org](mailto:lynchl@larl.org)

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March 5, 2021

Senator Carla J. Nelson, Chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes  
Senator Bill Weber, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Property Taxes

Representative Paul Marquart, Chair of the House Committee on Taxes  
Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair of the House Property Tax Division



Dear Senators and Representatives:

Downtown Moorhead Inc. (DMI) supports the City of Moorhead in their request to build a Regional Library and Community Center. DMI is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the beneficial economic growth and business development of downtown Moorhead. We accomplish this through policy development, advocacy, and program management functions conducted on behalf of downtown stakeholders/investors, and in cooperation with public and other private-sector partners.

DMI and the City of Moorhead have worked with Stantec and the community on a Downtown Master Plan completed in December 2020. The plan, developed over a period of 18-months, had an unprecedented level of community participation. It is clear Moorhead residents are supportive of revitalizing downtown and investing in our community. We are pleased that the City of Moorhead is looking at opportunities to activate the Downtown Plan by proposing a project like the Regional Public Library/Community Center that would bring more activity downtown and create more opportunities for commerce

Moorhead is a growing West Central Minnesota regional center and an important part of the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Residents and visitors to the City of Moorhead need and appreciate community amenities that contribute to quality of life, wellness, and economic development. Placing an amenity of the size and scope planned will be a synergistic development for Moorhead's core.

The Regional Public Library and Community Center will include space for learning, gathering, and caring for a growing community and region. Please provide the voters within the City of Moorhead the opportunity to determine whether they wish to pursue a sales tax for a Regional Public Library and Community Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D LaPoint", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derrick LaPoint  
Downtown Moorhead Inc.  
President/CEO  
[dlapoint@dtmoorhead.org](mailto:dlapoint@dtmoorhead.org)  
218-443-1361

**RESOLUTION 21-09**

**SUPPORTING CITY OF MOORHEAD'S LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Moorhead is seeking the Minnesota Legislature to authorize a vote of Moorhead residents for a .5% Local Option Sales Tax for the purpose of a Regional Public Library and Community Center as a question on the 2022 General Election ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, Moorhead and Dilworth are adjacent cities within a growing West Central Minnesota regional center and vital, growing communities within the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area; and


**WHEREAS**, area residents and visitors need and appreciate community amenities that contribute to quality of life, wellness, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, neighboring North Dakota cities of Fargo, West Fargo, and Cass County have local option sales taxes that Moorhead and Dilworth residents pay as they purchase goods and services in other parts of our metro area. These taxes fund amenities and infrastructure in neighboring North Dakota communities. A city sales tax for Moorhead would provide public financing for the Library/Community Center while sharing the cost with others who will use and benefit from the facilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DILWORTH**, that it supports the City of Moorhead's legislative request for authority to pursue a Local Option Sales Tax for the purpose of a Regional Public Library and Community Center.

**ADOPTED** by the City of Dilworth the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

MAYOR:

  
Chad Olson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
L. Peyton Mastera, City Administrator





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Representative Paul Marquart, Chair of the House Committee on Taxes

Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair of the House Property Tax Division

Senator Carla J. Nelson, Chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes

Senator Bill Weber, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Property Taxes

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Public Libraries are often misunderstood by those who do not use them. People often ask me what libraries do or why they exist in the age of the internet. However, I can assure you that the public library is more relevant now more than ever.

While serving as director of the Moorhead Public Library for the past several years, I have witnessed first-hand the impact our services have on people of all ages and backgrounds in our community every day. I am proud of the work our librarians do to help job seekers navigate online job applications, assist students in locating information for school projects, helping community members start their own businesses using the public computers and printers, or helping a young child pick out great books to help her reach her goal of reading 1,000 books before kindergarten. This is just a small sample of how our library impacts the lives of the people in our community, and the types of services a community can expect from a modern library.

I grew up going to the Moorhead Public Library and have fond memories of the current building, but this facility no longer properly supports the work that we do. We need expanded and different kinds of spaces to accommodate the ways in which Moorhead residents use this library. We no longer have spaces large enough to accommodate large educational events or town hall meetings. We need adequate spaces for people who work remotely or run their own business out of the library – making use of both the

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space and the Wi-Fi to conduct business. We need space for students to study or distance learners having exams proctored by librarians. We need more comfortable areas for families to meet, network and find community. Our current space simply does not accommodate all of these essential activities.

In addition to offering better spaces for public use, our current building is in disrepair and it is simply time to find a new location. Structural and facility issues include cracks in the foundation, a failing and inadequate H-VAC and boiler system, restrooms in disrepair, a crumbling exterior, a leaky roof that is deteriorating, electrical panels that are corroded and have outlived their expected service life, lighting that is obsolete and inefficient, and an inadequate sized parking lot that includes cracks and potholes.

For these reasons I strongly support the City of Moorhead's request to the Minnesota Legislature to allow a 2022 General Election ballot question regarding a .5% Local Option Sales Tax for the purpose of a Regional Public Library and Community Center. I hope you will support this effort as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Megan Krueger

Moorhead Library Director

[kruegerm@larl.org](mailto:kruegerm@larl.org)

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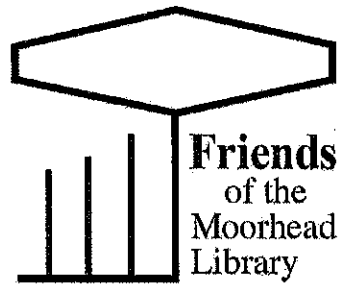
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Representative Paul Marquart, Chair of the House Committee on Taxes

Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair of the House Property Tax Division

Senator Carla J. Nelson, Chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes

Senator Bill Weber, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Property Taxes

Dear Senators and Representatives:

This letter expresses the Friends of the Moorhead Library Board's support of the City of Moorhead's request to the Minnesota Legislature to allow a 2022 General Election ballot question regarding a .5% Local Option Sales Tax for the purpose of a Regional Public Library and Community Center.

Moorhead Public Library serves more than 20,000 library cardholders. Seventy-five percent of Moorhead Public Library patrons reside within city limits, with an additional 25% residing outside of city limits. The building also serves as headquarters for the Lake Agassiz Regional Library, which provides assistance and support to a population of 154,000 residents within 22 communities throughout a seven-county service area, including the city of Moorhead.

The Friends of the Moorhead Library support the work and efforts of the library through advocacy and through fundraising to help provide financial support for various programs, services and facility needs. We have been proud to support various cultural and educational events and to provide new furnishings for various library spaces. One message we hear loud and clear from our library staff is that the current space is inadequate for both staff and the public.

The current facility was constructed 60 years ago and no longer provides adequate space for library services and events or community needs. Two years ago the library arranged to remove four large shelving units to better accommodate the large crowds of community members who attend various events or candidate forums. This space is now multipurpose, and we've found that the size is still not adequate. A new facility will provide the space needed for large community events as well as spaces to use technology utilizing WiFi, distance learners needing space to study, and more.



In addition to inadequate space, the facility itself faces many issues, including but not limited to, a cracked foundation, HVAC and boiler systems that have outlived their service life expectancy, insufficient lighting, inadequate bathrooms, and more.

The Friends of the Moorhead Library look forward to a new public library and community center to better meet community needs for decades to come. Please authorize the City of Moorhead's request to provide the voters within the City of Moorhead the opportunity to determine whether they wish to pursue a sales tax for a Regional Public Library and Community Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Jacowitz".

Respectfully,  
Karen Jacowitz  
friendsofmoorheadlibrary@gmail.com

February 25, 2021

Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair of the House Property Tax Division  
591 State Office Building \*  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Youakim,

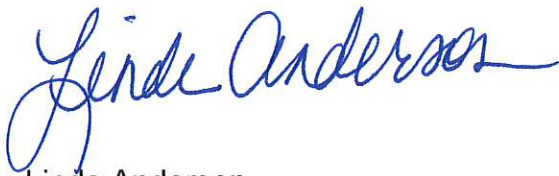
As a long time resident and current Chair of the Moorhead Library Board I am writing in support of the City of Moorhead's request to the Minnesota Legislature to allow a 2022 General Election ballot question regarding a .5% Local Option Sales Tax for the purpose of building a new, combined Regional Public Library and Community Center.

The need for a new library facility has been a topic of library board meetings for the last several years, in fact these conversations began well before my time on the board. At practically every meeting, our director updates us on the most recent patch or mend that has occurred, along with current facility conditions. This includes the formal Facility Condition Assessment conducted by a third party firm to assess the condition of all City of Moorhead Facilities, and our library is consistently one of the lowest rated city buildings. When presented with conditions that affect public safety, such as an H-VAC and boiler system that is nearly beyond repair, a crumbling exterior, a crack in the foundation, it is clear we need to stop patching up and take assertive action.

Our Moorhead Public Library building serves more than just our 20,000 library cardholders. This building also serves as headquarters for the Lake Agassiz Regional Library, which provides support throughout a seven-county service area. Our crumbling infrastructure is a poor representation of the innovations and cutting edge systems our staff provides to the area.

In addition to rectifying the increasingly irreparable condition of our current facility, a new library and community center will reflect our library's ability to serve our varied and growing population. Please help us make this project a reality and support us as we continue our efforts to bring this issue to a vote in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Linda Anderson,  
Moorhead Library Board Chair  
[Lindalou6232@gmail.com](mailto:Lindalou6232@gmail.com)  
(701) 306-9107

## **RESOLUTION 2021-0111-4**

### **Resolution Supporting the Authority to Impose a Local Option Sales Tax to Fund Specific Capital Improvements Providing Regional Benefit, to Establish the Duration of the Tax and the Revenue to be Raised by the Tax, and to Authorize the City to Issue Bonds Supported by the Sales Tax Revenue**

WHEREAS, the City of Moorhead is a growing regional center of more than 43,000 people within the Fargo-Moorhead Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of more than 245,000 population, comprised of Clay County Minnesota and Cass County North Dakota (2 states, 2 counties, 14 cities, and 30 townships within 1,073 square miles, and the intersection of two interstate highways); and

WHEREAS, the community is home to four post-secondary institutions with a combined enrollment of nearly 14,000 students from the region, around the country, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Moorhead is a regional center in western Minnesota, as evidenced by the following:

- Home to agribusiness processing, including American Crystal Sugar Factory, Busch Agricultural Resources Malting Facility, and other industrial uses that bring supply and customer traffic into and through the City from the Red River Valley and beyond;
- Serves as the Clay County seat and home to the Moorhead/Clay County Joint Law Enforcement Center and Clay County District Courthouse;
- Offers regional parks, ice arenas, cultural center, and entertainment facilities that attract regional, state and international tournaments, performances, and other tourism visits from Minnesota, North Dakota, Canada and beyond, including the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, Cullen Hockey Center, Bluestem Amphitheater, Moorhead Sports Center, Gooseberry Mound Park, and Southside Regional Park.

WHEREAS, the City of Moorhead has engaged community residents and businesses, and will continue to engage residents regarding a Regional Library and Community Center, a project which will acquire land, pre-design, design, construct, furnish and equip the facility at an estimated expenditure of \$25.3 million.

WHEREAS, the project will result in benefits to both the residents and businesses of the city of Moorhead and to non-resident visitors and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, funding the Regional Library and Community Center with a local sales tax will more closely distribute the cost of the project to the regional users of the facility; and,

WHEREAS, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$25.3 million; and,

WHEREAS, the city estimates that a local sales tax of .5% could generate \$75.5 million over 25 years and support bond financing of \$47.6 million; and,

WHEREAS, the city has provided documentation of the regional significance of the Regional Library and Community Center Complex, including the share of the economic benefit to or use of each project by persons residing, or businesses located, outside of the jurisdiction; and,



WHEREAS, the current Moorhead Public Library was built in 1962 and its size and functionality are not adequate for the growing and changing needs of the community or the region served by the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system; and

WHEREAS, the local sales tax revenue and time needed to raise the funds for the Regional Library & Community Center is estimated at \$30,187,057 over 13 years.

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 297A.99 authorizes the imposition of a general sales tax if permitted by special law of the Minnesota Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 297A.99 requires the City to pass a resolution authorizing such a local tax and to obtain Legislative approval prior to approval by the local voters to enact the local tax;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota, of the following:

1. The City Council supports the authority to impose a general local sales tax of .5% for a period of up to 25 years to fund the Regional Library and Community Center;

2. Upon approval of this resolution, the city will submit the adopted resolution and documentation of regional significance to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Taxes committees for approval and passage of a special law authorizing the tax, by January 31 of the year that it is seeking the special law.

3. Upon Legislative approval and passage of the special law authorizing the tax, the city will adopt a resolution accepting the new law, which will be filed with a local approval certificate to the Office of the Secretary of State before the following Legislative session.

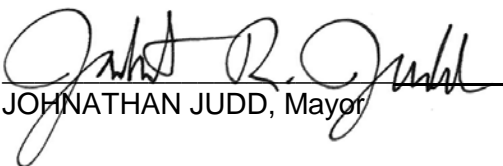
4. The city will put a detailed ballot question on a general election ballot for local voter approval within two years of receiving legislative authority.

5. If the ballot questions passes, the city will also pass an ordinance imposing the tax and notify the commissioner of Revenue at least 90 days before the first day of the calendar quarter that the tax will be imposed.

6. Upon completion of the aforementioned requirements, the local sales tax will commence and run until 2048 or until a sum sufficient to fund the voter-approved project, including related debt costs, is raised, whichever comes first.

PASSED: January 11, 2021 by the City Council of the City of Moorhead.

APPROVED BY:

  
JOHNATHAN JUDD, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
CHRISTINA RUST, City Clerk

## RESOLUTION 2021-0308-19

### Resolution to Amend Resolution 2021-0111-4, a Request to Legislature for Local Option Sales Tax Authorization

WHEREAS, On January 11, 2021, the City Council of the City of Moorhead passed Resolution 2021-0111-4, a Resolution Supporting the Authority to Impose a Local Option Sales Tax to Fund Specific Capital Improvements Providing Regional Benefit, to Establish the Duration of the Tax and the Revenue to be Raised by the Tax, and to Authorize the City to Issue Bonds Supported by the Sales Tax Revenue; and

WHEREAS, recent increases to the cost of lumber, qualified construction crews, and construction interest rates may impact the cost of the proposed Regional Public Library/Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 297A.99 requires the City to pass a resolution authorizing such a local tax that includes maximum cost information, and to obtain Legislative approval prior to approval by the local voters to enact the local tax;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota, that Resolution 2021-0111-4 is herein amended to reflect the following:

1. Maximum Estimated Construction Expenditure: \$29.1 million
2. Estimated Total Construction and Financing Cost, including a required reserve account: \$31.59 million
3. Estimated Sales Tax Collection Period: 22 years

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota that all other terms and conditions of Resolution 2021-0111-4 remain in effect.

PASSED: March 8, 2021 by the City Council of the City of Moorhead.

APPROVED BY:

  
MICHELLE (SHELLY) A. CARLSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
CHRISTINA RUST, City Clerk

## **RESOLUTION 2021-0111-5**

### **Resolution Documenting the Regional Significance of the Moorhead Public Library/Community Center Identified for Possible Funding through a Local Option Sales Tax which may be considered by Voters in 2022**

WHEREAS, the City of Moorhead is a growing regional center of more than 43,000 people within the Fargo-Moorhead Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of more than 245,000 population, comprised of Clay County Minnesota and Cass County North Dakota (2 states, 2 counties, 14 cities, and 30 townships within 1,073 square miles, and the intersection of two interstate highways); and

WHEREAS, the community is home to four post-secondary institutions with a combined enrollment of nearly 14,000 students from the region, around the country, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Moorhead is a regional center in western Minnesota, as evidenced by the following:

- Home to agribusiness processing, including American Crystal Sugar Factory, Busch Agricultural Resources Malting Facility, and other industrial uses that bring supply and customer traffic into and through the City from the Red River Valley and beyond;
- Serves as the Clay County seat and home to the Moorhead/Clay County Joint Law Enforcement Center and Clay County District Courthouse;
- Offers regional parks, ice arenas, cultural center, and entertainment facilities that attract regional, state and international tournaments, performances, and other tourism visits from Minnesota, North Dakota, Canada and beyond, including the Heritage-Hjemkomst Interpretive Center, Cullen Hockey Center, Bluestem Amphitheater, Moorhead Sports Center, Gooseberry Mound Park, and Southside Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, Moorhead Public Library is the largest library within and headquarters for the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system, which consists of 13 libraries in the west central Minnesota region serving nearly 49,000 library patrons living in 22 communities in a seven-county service area; and

WHEREAS, Moorhead Public Library has 20,172 library card holders – 15,096 (75%) of which reside in the City of Moorhead and 5,076 (25%) reside in areas outside of the City of Moorhead; and

WHEREAS, community rooms and facilities at Moorhead Public Library offer robust cultural enrichment and community events and forums; and

WHEREAS, a Regional Library and Community Center would serve Moorhead and Clay County residents, and serve as a draw for visitors; and

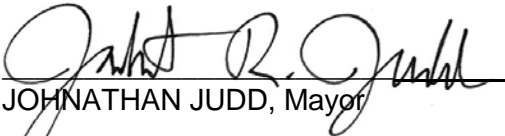
WHEREAS, a Regional Library and Community Center would offer a fiscally responsible facility with efficiency and expanded community benefits, including facility maintenance/management, shared meeting rooms, community spaces and parking areas.



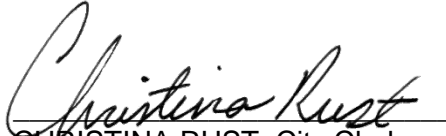
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota, that the Mayor and City Council do hereby designate the Regional Library and Community Center a regionally significant project.

PASSED: January 11, 2021 by the City Council of the City of Moorhead.

APPROVED BY:

  
JOHNATHAN JUDD, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
CHRISTINA RUST, City Clerk