



SHAKER HEIGHTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator

CC: Mayor David E. Weiss
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 19, 2021

RE: **Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC)
Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Acceptance**

The City is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), a regional council of governments formed under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code to administer electric and/or gas aggregation programs for communities. NOPEC currently serves over 200 communities who have been authorized by ballot to purchase electricity or gas on behalf of their citizens.

Shaker Heights offers its residents electric aggregation through NOPEC but currently administers our own gas aggregation program approved by a vote of our residents.

In 2020, NOPEC informed the City it was eligible for a special, one-time grant of up to \$35,000 for electric vehicle charging equipment. This was the estimated cost to provide charging at City Hall and Thornton Park. These locations were identified based on the expected need to provide charging for electric vehicles (EVs) as they are added to the City fleet over the upcoming years, as well as to accelerate the adoption of EVs by residents.

The relatively compact physical geography of the city and the short distances are ideally suited for electric vehicles. These short trips and multiple starts and stops wear more heavily on internal combustion (gasoline) vehicles, whereas EVs excel in this environment due to the nature of the electric motor, its efficiency, and the lack of components such as starters, alternators, and transmissions (EVs typically have no transmission as the motors can reach much higher RPMs than gasoline engines). EVs also have no tailpipe emissions, reducing local particulate matter and air pollution and, because the City contracts for 100% renewable electric power, no upstream emissions either. Additionally, EVs save the City money through lower fuel costs per mile (electricity is \$0.03 to \$0.04 per mile versus \$0.09 to \$0.12 per mile for gasoline) and lower maintenance costs (there are no oil changes, spark plugs, etc. and few moving parts overall).

The original budget allowed for four charging “ports” at two locations; however, adapting the installation plan will allow for seven ports at four locations for a total of \$34,816. The original estimate included an electrical upgrade at Thornton Park, which does not have the additional capacity for 240 volt, single-phase power that the chargers require. To bring power from the Ice Rink mechanical room would require a new transformer and panel. Instead, the power will come

directly from a FirstEnergy pole adjacent to the Ice Rink where a new meter and panel will be installed. These savings allowed for the additional chargers that will be installed in the City parking lot at Larchmere Boulevard and Kendall Road and replace an old and no longer fully functional charger at The Dealership.

We have received \$34,816 in grant funds that were deposited in Fund 401, the General Capital Fund, to offset the City funds allocated to this project.

The acceptance of this grant was approved by the Sustainability Committee on January 14, 2021 and the Finance Committee on January 19, 2021. Both Committees expressed support for the City's efforts to provide public charging, noting that access allows all City residents to consider an EV even if they live in an apartment or rental that does not have or allow charging. The Finance Committee also noted that the City is expected to add its first electric vehicle to the City fleet this year, and these chargers would support that effort as well.

Council is requested to recommend both the acceptance of the grant from NOPEC in the amount of \$34,816 for the electric vehicle charging project and the additional appropriation of the funds in the City Facilities Repair and Renovation account. Since the funds have been received and there has been no concern expressed over the project, this action is requested to be approved on first reading and as an emergency to allow immediate signature by the Mayor.

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing the acceptance of a grant in the maximum amount of \$34,816 from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC") for the electric vehicle charging project, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), which is a regional council of governments formed under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code, as a part of its electricity aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, NOPEC has informed the City that it is eligible for a special one-time grant for electric vehicle charging equipment; and

WHEREAS, NOPEC has awarded the City a grant in the amount of \$34,816 to be used toward the electric vehicle charging project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. The Mayor is authorized to accept a grant from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC") for the electric vehicle charging project.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized and directed to enter into such agreements as may be necessary in conjunction with the grant from NOPEC in the maximum amount of \$34,816 for the electric vehicle charging project, as approved by the Director of Law. The grant does not require any matching funds from the City.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is necessary in the current operation of the City, and in order to allow immediate acceptance of the funding from NOPEC and, therefore, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor.

Enacted

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2021.

DAVID E. WEISS, MAYOR

Attest:

JERI E. CHAIKIN
Clerk of Council

coun21/0119NOPECgrant-EVchargers