ORDINANCE NO. 03-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WESTON LAKES, TEXAS, ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD MAY 3, 2025 ON A PROPOSITION TO AUTHORIZE GENERAL REVENUE SALES AND USE TAX; AND PROVIDING DETAILS RELATING TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH ELECTION.

WHEREAS, the City of Weston Lakes is a Type B General Law municipality located in Fort Bend County, Texas, created in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 23 of the Local Government Code and operating pursuant to the enabling legislation of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tax Code Chapter 321 authorizes a municipality's governing body to call an election by a vote of a majority of its members; and

WHEREAS, to the extent known by the City, there are no other entities within the boundaries of the City that collect any portion of the available local sales and use tax; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to keep funds that could be generated through a sales and use tax available for local use; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to put the issue of a sales and use tax to the voters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City wishes to proceed with the ordering of an election for May 3, 2025, the next available uniform election date, and enter into a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with the Fort Bend County, and has deemed it advisable to call the election hereinafter ordered; and

WHEREAS, the meeting to adopt this Ordinance was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting was given, all as required by Chapter 551, Government Code, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTON LAKES, TEXAS:

Section 1. The facts and recitations set forth in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby found to be true and correct.

<u>Section 2</u>. A Special Municipal Election is hereby called and ordered for May 3, 2025, at which election all qualified voters of the City may vote for the purpose of voting for or against the adoption of a two percent (2%) general revenue sales and use tax. The election materials enumerated in the Texas Election Code, as amended, shall be printed in English and Spanish for use at the polling places and for early voting for the election.

The Proposition shall be set forth on ballots in substantially the following form and language.

CITY OF WESTON LAKES SALES AND USE TAX ELECTION PROPOSITION A

The adoption of an additional sales and use tax within the city at the rate of two percent (2%).

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- <u>Section 3</u>. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with the Fort Bend County for election services.
- <u>Section 4</u>. Early voting along with all early voting matters will be conducted at the location(s) and during the times set forth in the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between Fort Bend County and the City.
- <u>Section 5.</u> The election shall be conducted by the County pursuant to the terms of the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between the City and the County, with Election Day polling location(s) for the voters in the City to be determined by the County.
- <u>Section 6.</u> This election shall be held in accordance with, and shall be governed by, the election laws of the State of Texas. The Mayor, City Secretary or City Council shall perform each act as is required to be performed, in connection with the holding and consummation of such election, and to give effect to the intent of this Ordinance and the City's Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services with the County.
- <u>Section 7</u>. Early Voting and voting on the date of the election, shall be by the use of a lawfully approved voting system. The preparation of the voting equipment to be used in connection with such voting system and the official ballots for the election shall conform to the Texas Election Code.

- **Section 8**. A central counting station will be established in accordance with the conduct of election agreement with Fort Bend County.
- <u>Section 9</u>. The presiding judges, alternate presiding judges and clerks for the election shall be selected and appointed by Fort Bend County and its appointees in compliance with the requirements of state law, and such judges and clerks so selected by Fort Bend County and its appointees are hereby designated and appointed by the city council as the election officers, judges and clerks, respectively, for the holding of said election. The presiding judges, alternate presiding judges and clerks shall perform the functions and duties of their respective positions that are provided by state law. The city council confirms and appoints the election judges and alternate election judges that are appointed by Fort Bend County for the election.
- <u>Section 10</u>. Notice of this election shall be given in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code and returns of such election shall be made as provided for in said Code. The Mayor is authorized to issue all necessary orders and writs for such election.
- <u>Section 11</u>. Said election shall be held in accordance with the Texas Election Code and the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.
- Section 12. The City Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to aid the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator in the acquisition and furnishing of all necessary election supplies and materials to conduct such election. The City Secretary is further authorized to assist with the giving of notices required for the election, and to take such other and further action as is required to conduct the election in compliance with the Texas Election Code; provided that, pursuant to the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between the City and Fort Bend County, the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator shall have the duty and be responsible for organizing and conducting the election in compliance with the Texas Election Code; and for providing all services specified to be provided in the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services.
- <u>Section 13</u>. The Mayor and the City Secretary of the City, in consultation with the City's Attorney, are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary to comply with the provisions of the Texas Elections Code and the Federal Voting Rights Act in carrying out and conducting the Election, whether or not expressly authorized herein, including but not limited to making changes or additions to polling places, ballot language, or procedures to the extent required or desirable or as may become necessary due to circumstances arising after the date of this Ordinance.
- <u>Section 14</u>. In the event any clause phrase, provision, sentence, or part of this Ordinance or the application of the same to any person or circumstances shall for any

reason be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect, impair, or invalidate this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provision hereof other than the part declared to be invalid or unconstitutional; and the City Council of the City of Weston Lakes, Texas, declares that it would have passed each and every part of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, whether there be one or more parts.

<u>Section 15</u>. That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law, and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required.

Section 16. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED on this 28th day of January 2025.

Bob Wall, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeremy Barcomb, City Secretary