

202500981 May 14, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Parks: Biochar Facility Equipment Ohio EPA Grant**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING new capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x252045, “Biochar Facility Equipment – Ohio EPA,” to provide resources for the purchase of equipment necessary to process wood waste into biochar within the City’s biochar processing facility; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of up to \$97,085 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Innovation to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x252045, “Biochar Facility Equipment – Ohio EPA”; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant resources into capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x252045, “Biochar Facility Equipment – Ohio EPA.”

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance will authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of up to \$97,085 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Office of Environmental Innovation to support the purchase of equipment necessary to process wood waste into biochar within the new processing facility. This Emergency Ordinance further authorizes the establishment of new capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x252045, “Biochar Facility Equipment – Ohio EPA,” to provide resources for the purchase of biochar processing equipment and authorizing the Director of Finance to deposit the grant resources of up to \$97,085 into the newly established capital improvement program project account.

The grant requires a local match of \$24,271, which will be provided from existing resources in capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility.” There are no new FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this grant.

Providing equipment for a biochar processing facility is in accordance with the “Sustain” goal to “[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati” and strategy to “[c]reate a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption” as well as the goal to “[p]reserve our natural and built environment” as described on pages 181-185 and 193 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to comply with grant deadlines for acceptance of funds.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment

