

April 17, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202401125

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Parks: Biochar Replication Facility

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the transfer and return to source of \$500,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x232031, “Urban Tree Canopy – GF,” to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to realign sources with uses; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility,” to provide additional resources for implementing a biochar production facility; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$850,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Revolving Energy Loan Fund 883 to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility,” to provide additional resources for implementing a biochar production facility.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the following:

1. The transfer and return to source of \$500,000 from the “Urban Tree Canopy – GF” capital improvement program project account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund;
2. The transfer and appropriation of \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the “Biochar Replication Facility” capital improvement program project account; and
3. The transfer and appropriation of \$850,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Revolving Energy Loan Fund 883 to the “Biochar Replication Facility” capital improvement program project account.

The biochar replication facility project is the City’s first carbon removal project that will include a combined heat and power system. Heat emitted from biochar production will be captured to heat the greenhouses at Warder Nursery and generate electricity. The biochar replication facility is also expected to produce energy savings and be eligible for elective pay benefits under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Implementing a biochar production 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 – 186 and 193 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to appropriate additional resources to the biochar production facility project to meet the established project timeline.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment