



Legislation Text

File #: 23-0754, Version: 1

Resolution to Enter a Lease with Lee Maulbetsch to Farm the Maisel Property **(8 Votes Required)**
This resolution approves a 9-month lease with an optional 1-year renewal with Lee Maulbetsch to farm the City-owned parcel on Nollar Road, Northfield Township, commonly known as the Maisel property. The Maisel property was acquired by the City through the Greenbelt Program in 2022 with the intent to resell the property to land-insecure farmers, subject to a conservation easement. The purchase and resale process was approved by City Council resolution R-22-121 as part of the Greenbelt Buy-Protect-Sell acquisition framework. While the City prepares the criteria for sale of the property, City staff have deemed it in the best interest of the property to put it into organic production to preserve and improve the soil. Lee Maulbetsch farmed the property prior to its acquisition by the City and has agreed to farm it in accordance with USDA organic farming regulations.

The term of this lease is May 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. The lease may be renewed for the entire year of 2024 upon mutual agreement of the City and lessee.

Budget/Fiscal Impact: The value of conducting organic farming on the land to benefit soil quality is deemed sufficient to serve as compensation to the City for the lease. Therefore, the City will not charge any monetary rent.

Since the total amount of the lease requires the City to pay less than \$50,000.00, an appraisal is not required by section 1:321 of City Code

Prepared by: Rosie Pahl Donaldson, Land Acquisition Supervisor

Reviewed by: Christopher Frost, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Approved by: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

RESOLVED, That City Council approves a lease with Lee Maulbetsch to farm the Maisel Property from May 1-December 31, 2023 with an optional 1-year renewal for 2024;

RESOLVED, That the lessee shall keep the land in cultivation in accordance with USDA organic farming regulations, and the benefits arising therefrom are deemed sufficient compensation to the City for the lease;

RESOLVED, That the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the lease after approval as to substance by the City Administrator and approval as to form by the City Attorney;

RESOLVED, That, per Section 1:321 of City Code, an appraisal is not necessary for leases requiring the City to pay a total of less than \$50,000.00; and

RESOLVED, That the City Administrator is authorized to take all appropriate actions to implement this resolution, including to determine whether to renew or terminate the lease under its terms, if the City Administrator determines it is in the best interest of the City.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Radina