

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Library Expansion/Renovation Ballot Passes”

Norfolk citizens voted to fund a \$7.4 million library expansion and renovation project at the ballot box Tuesday, November 4. The project will add about 16,000 square feet of space to the current library and be funded with a half-cent sales tax that would expire after 36 months. That sales tax increase won't be evident to Norfolk shoppers for a while.

“The Norfolk City Council will first need to pass an ordinance to impose the sales tax authorized by the voters. The Nebraska



Department of Revenue then needs to have the sales tax information filed with them at least 120 days before it can be enacted and it can only go into effect at the start of a calendar quarter. That would mean it would be April of 2015 until the half cent tax would be added to sales,” said Randy Gates, City of Norfolk Finance Officer.

The City of Norfolk wouldn't begin to receive those funds until June 2015. As no bonds are being issued to fund the library project, expenses will be paid only as the tax proceeds come in which means that engineering and

architectural work can't begin until the spring 2015.

Gates estimated that construction of the library will begin in the summer of 2016 when plans are completed and funds have accumulated to pay for building costs. Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Library Director is okay with the wait as it means an improved library facility be available to the public in the next few years.

“It's an exciting project and we're thankful that the citizens of Norfolk recognized our space needs at the library and want to continue to invest in our community,” said Chamberlain.