

**ORDINANCE NO. 1457**

**A ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON DECLARING AN INTENT TO ANNEX THE CITY OF WOODLAND TO CLARK COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT AND REQUESTING CLARK COUNTY AND COWLITZ COUNTY CALL AN ELECTION ON THE ANNEXATION AND PLACING THE SAME ON THE AUGUST 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT AND AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION BY SUMMARY.**

**WHEREAS**, local municipalities, including the City of Woodland, have experienced increased expenditures and declining revenues along with demands for services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Woodland currently contracts with Clark County Fire and Rescue for fire and emergency services and pays for this service with property tax collection; and

**WHEREAS**, the fire service contract with the District will exceed the City's property tax collection revenues by 2021, causing cuts in other city services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has studied several options and determined that the public interest will be served by the City annexing to Clark County Fire and Rescue District to provide fire and emergency services in a more efficient and sustainable manner; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 52.04.061 and RCW 52.04.071 provide the statutory authority and process by which the legislative authority of a city can declare its intent to annex into a fire protection district and, upon the concurrence of the Board of Commissioner of the fire protection district, transmit notification to the legislative authority of the county in which the city and fire protection district are located to call by resolution a special election in both the city and the fire protection district to vote on the proposed annexation; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 52.04.061 provides that a city located within reasonable proximity to a fire protection district may be annexed if at such time of the initiation the population of the City is less than 300,000; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 52.04.061 further provides the legislative authority of such a city may initiate annexation by the adoption of an ordinance stating an intent to join the fire protection district and finding that the public interest will be served thereby; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Woodland lies adjacent to Clark County Fire and Rescue District and is thus located within reasonable proximity to the fire district defined by RCW 51.04.061; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Woodland has a population less than 300,000 citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Woodland finds that the public interest would be served by the annexation of the City of Woodland into Clark County Fire and Rescue District; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Woodland passed Resolution No. 718 on March 2, 2020 to reduce the property rate tax from \$2.47/\$1,000 of Assessed Value (AV) to \$0.99/\$1,000 AV if annexation is successful to help reduce the cost to citizens; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby adopted as findings and conclusions of the City Council of the City of Woodland in support of this ordinance.

**Section 2.** Quality fire and emergency services are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Woodland. The current fire service contract will exceed the City's property tax collection revenues by 2024. This puts emergency service levels at risk and is why the City is asking property owners to consider annexing to Clark County Fire and Rescue.

**Section 3.** The City Council hereby declares its intent to join and be annexed into Clark County Fire and Rescue.

**Section 4.** The City Council of the City of Woodland finds that the public interest would be served by the annexation of the City of Woodland into Clark County Fire and Rescue.

**Section 5.** If the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark County Fire and Rescue District shall concur in the proposed annexation of the City of Woodland, notification thereof shall be transmitted to the Clark County and Cowlitz County Commissioners as specified in RCW 52.04.061.

In the event this occurs, in accordance with RCW 52.04.071, the City Council of the City of Woodland requests the Clark County Board of County Commissioners and Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners by resolution call a special election to be held in the City of Woodland and Clark County Fire and Rescue District on the first Tuesday in August, 2020 as provided by RCW 29A.04.321. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall the City of Woodland be annexed to and be part of Clark County Fire and Rescue?

YES ..... [ ]

NO ..... [ ]


The City Council also requests the Cowlitz County Auditor and Clark County Auditor cause notice of the election to be given as provided for in RCW 29A.04.355 and conduct the election in accordance with all election laws of the state.

**Section 6.** This ordinance, not being subject to initiative or referendum, shall take effect five (5) days from adoption.

**ADOPTED IN OPEN MEETING THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.**

CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON


Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William A. Finn, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mari E. Ripp, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:

  
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Frank F. Randolph, City Attorney

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1457  
OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON**

On March 16, 2020 the City Council of the City of Woodland, Washington, approved Ordinance No. 1457 the main point which may be summarized by its title as follows:

**A ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON DECLARING AN INTENT TO ANNEX THE CITY OF WOODLAND TO CLARK COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT AND REQUESTING CLARK COUNTY AND COWLITZ COUNTY CALL AN ELECTION ON THE ANNEXATION AND PLACING THE SAME ON THE AUGUST 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT AND AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION BY SUMMARY.**

The full text of this Ordinance will be mailed upon request.

APPROVED by the City Council at their meeting on March 16, 2020.

  
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Mari E. Ripp, Clerk-Treasurer

Published: April 15, 2020  
Effective: April 20, 2020