



**CLARK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE
RESOLUTION NO. 200312-2**

MAY 08 2020

**A RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE REQUEST OF THE CITY OF
WOODLAND TO ANNEX TO CLARK COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE AND TO CALL A
SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE ANNEXATION**

WHEREAS, Clark County Fire & Rescue (the "District") and the City of Woodland (the "City") both have the power, authority and responsibility to provide fire protection services within their respective boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the District and the City have an existing Service Agreement to provide fire and EMS services, the term of which expires December 31, 2043; and

WHEREAS, the District and the City have contiguous boundaries and are authorized by Chapter 52.04 RCW to cause an election to be held in order for the voters of the City and the District to decide whether or not the City should be annexed to and become part of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Woodland City Council passed Ordinance No. 1457 on March 2, 2020 declaring its intent to annex to the District pursuant to RCW 52.04.061; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to concur in the determination of the City Council to annex the City to the District;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clark County Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The Board finds that the public interest will best be served by the annexation of the City of Woodland, Washington to Clark County Fire & Rescue. Therefore, the Board concurs in such annexation as requested by the City of Woodland in Ordinance No. 1457 passed by City Council on March 2, 2020. This Resolution constitutes the Clark County Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioner's official concurrence with the annexation pursuant to RCW 52.04.061.
2. The District Secretary is authorized and directed to cause a notice of intention for the annexation of the City of Woodland to the District to be filed with the Clark County Council and to cause a copy of this Resolution to be filed with the Clark County Council and Clark County Auditor.
3. The Board of Fire Commissioners requests that the Clark County Council call a special election in Clark County Fire & Rescue in conjunction with the State Primary Election on August 4, 2020, on the question of whether the City of Woodland should be annexed to Clark County Fire & Rescue. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

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


Yes []
No []

4. The District Secretary is authorized to make necessary corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors and references.


ADOPTED by the Clark County Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners in Ridgefield, Washington, at a regular meeting of said Board on the 12th day of March, 2020, the following Commissioners being present and voting.



Commissioner Stanley Chunn



Commissioner James R. Johnson



Commissioner Larry Bartel



Commissioner Ken Ayers



Commissioner David Town



Attest: District Secretary

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 []

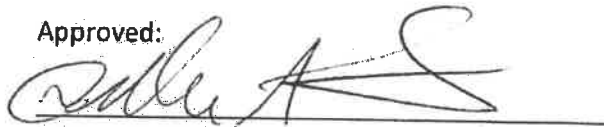
The City Council also requests the Cowlitz County Auditor and Clark County Auditor cause notice of the election to be given as provided for in RCW 29A.04.355 and conduct the election in accordance with all election laws of the state.

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

ADOPTED IN OPEN MEETING THIS 16th DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

CITY OF WOODLAND, WASHINGTON

Approved:




William A. Finn, Mayor

Attest:


Mari E. Ripp, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:


Frank F. Randolph, City Attorney