

JOINT RESOLUTION

CITY OF ABERDEEN
RESOLUTION NO. _____

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

CITY OF HOQUIAM
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A JOINT RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Aberdeen, the City Council of the City of Cosmopolis, and the City Council of the City of Hoquiam, providing for the submission to qualified electors of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, and Hoquiam, at the special election to be held on April 25, 2023, of a proposition that, pursuant to Chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington, approves a plan to form a regional fire protection service authority within the boundaries of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, and Hoquiam, effective January 1, 2024, and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

RECITALS

A. Providing an effective fire protection and emergency medical service system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments and the private sector.

B. There are efficiencies that can be gained by regional fire protection and emergency medical service delivery, while maintaining local control.

C. The City of Aberdeen (“Aberdeen”), the City of Cosmopolis (“Cosmopolis”) and the City of Hoquiam (“Hoquiam”) have a long history of a cooperative approach to meeting the needs of their citizens.

D. On January 25, 2019, the city councils of Aberdeen and Hoquiam formed a Planning Committee to explore the feasibility of forming a regional fire authority and to

draft a regional fire authority plan in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 52.26 RCW. On April 20, 2022, the city council of Cosmopolis voted in favor of joining the Planning Committee.

E. The Planning Committee met and prepared a Plan to create the “Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority,” and to govern and finance its operation. The Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority Plan is being formally approved and adopted by each entity pursuant to this Joint Resolution “the Plan.” A copy of the Plan is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference. Copies are also available from the administrative offices of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, and Hoquiam.

F. The authority to form a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority is established by Chapter 52.26 RCW and requires that the voters in the area affected by the Plan must approve the Plan and establish the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority.

G. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan and state law, it is appropriate to place before voters within Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam (the proposed service boundaries of the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority) at an election to be held on April 25, 2023, a proposition calling for the approval of the Plan and the creation of the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority, to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per thousand and ambulance utility fees.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSMOPOLIS, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOQUIAM DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION

SECTION 1. – *Adoption of the Plan for the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority.* The City Council of the City of Aberdeen, the City Council of the City of Cosmopolis, and the City Council of the City of Hoquiam hereby formally adopt the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority Plan, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 2. – Findings of The City Council of Aberdeen, The City Council of Cosmopolis, and The City Council of Hoquiam The City Council of the City of Aberdeen, the City Council of the City of Cosmopolis, and the City Council of the City of Hoquiam hereby find that it is in the best interests of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam to submit to the qualified electors of Hoquiam and Aberdeen at the special election to be held on April 25, 2023, a proposition to approve the Plan and to create the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority. The Plan authorizes the RFA to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per thousand and ambulance utility fees. If approved by a majority of the voters within the boundaries of the proposed Authority voting on the ballot proposition in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, this proposition would create a regional fire protection service authority as provided in chapter 52.26 RCW called the “Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority,” with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of the City of Aberdeen, the City of Cosmopolis and the City of Hoquiam, effective January 1, 2024, initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per thousand and ambulance utility fees.

SECTION 3. - Proposition for Voter Submittal. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Aberdeen, the City of Cosmopolis and the City of Hoquiam for their ratification or rejection, at the special election on April 25, 2023, the question of whether or not the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority should be created in accordance with the Plan. The City Council of the City of Aberdeen, the City Council of the City of Cosmopolis and the City Council of the City of Hoquiam hereby request the Auditor of Grays Harbor County, as *ex-officio* Supervisor of Elections, to call such election and to submit to the voters of the City of Hoquiam and the City of Aberdeen the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title, pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, as follows:

**CITY OF ABERDEEN
CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
CITY OF HOQUIAM
PROPOSITION 1**

The City of Aberdeen, The City of Cosmopolis, and The City of Hoquiam have adopted a Joint Resolution approving the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority Plan (“Plan”) concerning the creation of the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority.

This proposition would approve the Plan and create the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority, effective January 1, 2024 to provide fire protection and emergency medical services funded by a property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per thousand and ambulance utility fees.

Should the Plan to create the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority be approved?

YES []

NO []

SECTION 4. – *Authorize Continued Acts of Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee.* The City Council of the City of Aberdeen, the City Council of the City of Cosmopolis and the City Council of the City of Hoquiam hereby authorize the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee to continue operating on an as needed basis until the effective date of the Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority. The Planning Committee shall function as the governing board for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of Chapter 52.26 RCW until such time as Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority governing board is established pursuant to the Plan on January 1, 2024.

SECTION 5. - *Designation of Individuals to Receive Notices re: Ballot Title.* For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council of Aberdeen, the City Council of Cosmopolis, and the City Council of Hoquiam hereby designates the Fire Chiefs of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam, and legal counsel of each city as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

SECTION 6.- Implementation. The Fire Chiefs of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam are authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this legislation, including modifying the text of the “Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority Plan” and the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution. No substantive modifications to the ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions of any document shall be made without the approval of the city councils of each city.

SECTION 7. Copies Filed with the Grays Harbor County Auditor. The Fire Chief of Hoquiam, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than February 24, 2023, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper city officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters of the proposed Central Grays Harbor Regional Fire Authority at the April 25, 2023 election.

SECTION 8. – Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

SECTION 9. - Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

SECTION 10. - Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council of City of Aberdeen, Grays Harbor County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such city council on the ____ day of February, 2023.

Pete Schave – Mayor of Aberdeen

ATTEST:

Patricia Soule -- Finance Director

ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cosmopolis, Grays Harbor County, Washington, at an open meeting of such city council on the ____ day of February, 2023.

Kyle Pauley – Mayor of Cosmopolis

ATTEST:

Julie Pope -- Finance Director

ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council of City of Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such city council on the ____ day of February, 2023.

Ben Winkelman – Mayor of Hoquiam

ATTEST:

Corrine Schmid – Finance Director