

**CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1200**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER  
2.24 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND  
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Stevenson Fire Department completed a strategic plan and task 4A3 suggested to “revise current policy to further engage the City in selecting the City Fire Chief”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stevenson City Council and Skamania County Fire District 2 Commissioners met on October 5th and November 7th, 2023, to discuss changes to the policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to amend SMC 2.24 to involve the Volunteers, Fire District Commissioners and City Council in the selection of the Fire Chief.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Stevenson do hereby ordain as follows:

**Section 1. Chapter 2.24 of the Stevenson Municipal Code Amended.** The chapter of the Stevenson Municipal Code entitled "Volunteer Fire Department," codified as Stevenson Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 2.24, is hereby amended to read as set forth on Exhibit “A” attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein:

Key: ~~Strikethrough~~ means repealed. Underlined means new.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective following passage and publication as provided by law.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Anderson, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert C. Muth  
City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leana Kinley, City Clerk

## Exhibit "A"

### Chapter 2.24 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### 2.24.010 Establishment and responsibilities of the fire department.

The city hereby creates a fire department consisting wholly of volunteer firefighters known as the volunteer fire department of the city of Stevenson. The department is authorized by law to protect life or property within its boundaries and to perform fire suppression activities and fire protection services such as performing community fire drills, inspecting structures for fire hazards, and providing community education/fire training services. The fire department shall have full control over all firefighting equipment/apparatus owned by the city and shall have full control over the fighting of fires within city limits. The fire department shall adopt and promulgate such by-laws, rules of operation or regulations as it may deem necessary to protect the safety and welfare of its members.

#### 2.24.020 City support.

On behalf of the fire department the city through its legislative body may contract and be contracted with to purchase, lease, receive, or otherwise acquire real and personal property or enter in to interlocal agreements with other entities. From time to time the city may provide clerical and administrative support to help the fire department carry out its duties. And the city shall adopt by separate resolution as allowed by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Washington State Minimum Wage Act (553.101—553.106) payment to the volunteer firefighter for expenses, reasonable benefits, a nominal fee, or any combination thereof based on a per call or training participation.

#### 2.24.030 Membership.

The fire department shall consist of no less than fifteen firefighters (RCW 41.24.050). A member is considered a firefighter only if that member has the legal authority and responsibility to direct or perform fire protection activities that are required for, and directly concerned with preventing, controlling, and extinguishing fires. Appointment to and discharge from the department shall be governed and controlled by such rules, by-laws or regulations as may be adopted by the department from time to time to protect the safety and welfare of the members. ~~The city council may by resolution approved by a two-thirds vote of the full legislative body authorize any of its council members to serve as volunteer fire fighters and receive the same compensation, insurance, and other benefits as are applicable to other volunteer firefighters, employed by the code city.~~

#### 2.24.040 Fire chief.

- A. Appointment. ~~The fire chief shall be elected by the fire department members as governed by the rules and by-laws of the department. The department shall notify the council every January who will be serving as fire chief. The Mayor of the city, with the approval of the council, shall appoint a fire chief of the fire department. The appointed fire chief shall be a current Stevenson volunteer firefighter or other qualified individual, shall be recommended by the Stevenson Fire Department volunteer membership and approved by Skamania County Fire District #2 as outlined in existing interlocal agreements.~~
- B. Duties.
1. The fire chief shall be the fire department's primary contact to the council and will be responsible to the council for the conduct and general operation of the department. The fire chief shall ensure that suitable drills and training are made available to the members and shall ensure that the members are trained in the handling of the fire equipment to protect the safety of life and property.
  2. The fire chief shall maintain the department's rules and by-laws for the conduct of the department and shall see that complete records are maintained of all fires, equipment inspections, personnel, and other information as required by law.

3. The fire chief shall submit a preliminary departmental budget to the city no later than the last day of September prior to the new budget year.
4. The fire chief or his designee shall review development plans and building permits for fire protection requirements as requested by the city.

#### **2.24.050 Emergency police powers.**

The fire chief shall also have ordinance enforcement authority as provided by city ordinance, or as delegated by the mayor.

#### **2.24.060 State laws relating to the volunteer firemen's pension and relief fund.**

The Stevenson city council hereby elects to participate in the volunteer firemen's pension and relief fund. RCW 41.24.010 et seq., as amended, in its entirety, is adopted by reference and shall have full force and effect.

#### **2.24.070 Volunteer firefighters board of trustees.**

The city shall create and establish a Stevenson volunteer firefighters board of trustees. That board shall consist of the mayor, city clerk/comptroller, one council member, the fire chief, and one member of the fire department to be elected by the members of the fire department for a term of one year. The Board shall complete the duties as set forth in RCW 41.24.080 with respect to the fire department's responsibilities to the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief fund.