CITY OF BATTLE GROUND
RESOLUTION NO. 19-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, RESOLVING TO CAUSE AN ORDINANCE TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD REDUCING THE CURRENT WATER, SEWER, AND STORM DRAINAGE UTILITY TAX RATE UPON VOTER APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S ANNEXATION INTO CLARK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.82.020, the City of Battle Ground has the authority to establish taxes, fees, and charges for services provided by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Battle Ground currently imposes a twenty-two (22%) utility tax on the sale, delivery, distribution, and furnishing of water, sewer, and storm drainage services within the City limits and on such services outside the City limits when provided by the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2018-12, the City of Battle Ground set the current utility tax rate based upon the need to support public safety services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Battle Ground currently contracts with Clark County Fire District No. 3 for fire service 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Battle Ground may request voters to consider annexing into Clark County Fire District No. 3 during the February election in 2020; and

WHEREAS, without annexation, emergency service levels would have to be reduced for the City to maintain a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, if the annexation is approved by the voters, property owners within the City would pay the fire levy amount directly to the District commencing in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the fire levy rate paid by property owners within the City would be the same rate paid by District property owners; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Battle Ground desires to provide an offset to reduce the taxes paid by City property owners pursuant to the annexation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered different offsets available and has determined a reduction in the current water, sewer, and storm drainage utility tax will provide the most benefit to the citizens of Battle Ground; and

WHEREAS, the City of Battle Ground will utilize a portion of the funds retained to fund stronger policing efforts, better streets, and park maintenance as such goals were prioritized by the citizens of Battle Ground in the Community Vision project; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Battle Ground, Washington as follows:

Section 1. Quality fire and emergency services are essential to the health and well-being of the City of Battle Ground. The current fire service contact will exceed the City's property tax collection revenues by 2021. This puts emergency service levels at risk and is why the City may ask property owns to consider annexing to the District.

Section2. In the event the voters of the City of Battle Ground and the voters of Clark County Fire District No. 3 vote to approve the City's annexation into the District, the City Council will cause an ordinance to be brought forward reducing the current water, sewer, and storm drainage utility tax rate by 10% to offset the taxes paid by property owners within the City. This 10% utility tax rate reduction would take effect January 1, 2021, the same year in which property owners would begin paying the fire tax levy directly to the District.

DONE IN OPEN MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON HELD THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.

Approved:
CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON

Mike Dalesandro, Mayor

Attest:

Kay Kammer, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Christine Hayes, City Attorney