

RECEIVED

JANUARY 25, 2023

**CITY OF DUPONT
WASHINGTON ORDINANCE
NO. 22-1120**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DUPONT, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 25, 2023 OF A PROPOSITION REAUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LEVY REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED IN RCW 84.52.069 TO CONTINUE THE CITY'S CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICES; SETTING FORTH THE TEXT OF THE BALLOT PROPOSITION; DIRECTING PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER PROPERLY RELATED MATTERS.

The City Council (the "Council") of the City of DuPont, Washington (the "City"), hereby makes the following findings and determinations:

WHEREAS, the City in 1999 received approval by qualified electors of an emergency medical services ("EMS") levy as an additional regular property tax in an amount equal to fifty cents (\$.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed value of property; and

WHEREAS, the EMS levy was renewed in 2005 for a six-year period which expired on December 31, 2011; was renewed again in 2011 for a six-year period which expired in 2017; and was renewed again in 2017 for a six-year period expiring on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City's actual levy amount from the previous year (2022) was \$863,576.90; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.52.069 authorizes taxing districts to impose additional regular property tax emergency medical care and service levies in an amount equal to \$0.50 or less per \$1,000 of the assessed value of property in the taxing district, for a period of (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for 10 consecutive years, or (c) permanently; and

WHEREAS, subsequent approvals of a six-year or ten-year tax levy under RCW 84.52.069 must be authorized by a majority of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the City, that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the City to maintain control over the basic emergency medical and care services provided to the City and to continue the current level of basic emergency medical services provided to the citizens of DuPont; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue financing the costs of operations and maintenance

of the City's existing basic emergency medical services at current levels of service, to continue to meet the need for emergency medical services and to meet the emergency medical needs arising from continued growth within the community, to satisfy personnel and equipment needs, to raise revenues adequate to pay costs attributable to providing adequate emergency medical services, the City deems it advisable to ~~seek voter approval~~ to renew the current six-year EMS levy for an additional six-years.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUPONT, WASHINGTON DO HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Calling of Election. Based on the foregoing, the City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City to submit to the qualified voters of the City, at the special election to be held on April 25, 2023, a proposition authorizing the City to continue an increase its regular property tax levy for collection in 2024 by an amount greater than otherwise permitted under chapter 84.55 RCW and as amended for the purpose described in Section 3. If this proposition is approved, the City Council will be reauthorized to adopt, in accordance with its regular budget process, the increased regular property tax as described in Section 3.

Section 2. Purpose and Description of Ballot Proposition. For the purposes identified below, the City Council seeks voter approval to renew a six-year EMS levy ballot proposition under RCW 84.52.069, as amended. If approved, the proposition would reauthorize the City's regular property levy rate for collection beginning in 2024 to remain at the current level of \$0.50 per \$1000 assessed value for an additional six years (expiring on December 31, 2029). The amounts collected shall continue to be used solely to provide funding for maintaining the current level of basic emergency medical services as authorized in RCW 84.52.069.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The Pierce County Auditor (the "Auditor"), as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, is hereby requested to call a special election and place on the ballot for the April 25, 2023, election, in the manner provided by law, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the City, a proposition in substantially the following form:

Renewal of Six-Year Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy

DuPont City Council adopted Ordinance 22-0000 regarding the continuation of a regular property tax levy for emergency medical services (EMS). If approved, this proposition would renew the City's regular property tax levy of \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for an additional six years (for collections beginning in 2024), to provide current levels of emergency medical services.

Approved? Rejected?

Section 4. All-Mail Ballot Proposition: Notices Relating to Ballot Proposition. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates: (a) the City Clerk Karri Muir (kmuir@dupontwa.gov, 253-964-8121), and (b) City Attorney, Gordon P. Karg (gkarg@dupontwa.gov, 253-912-5214) as the persons to whom such notice should be provided.

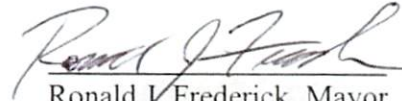
Section 5. Local Voters' Pamphlet. The preparation and distribution of a local voters' pamphlet providing information on this ballot proposition is hereby authorized. The pamphlet shall include arguments advocating approval and disapproval of the ballot proposition prepared by committees appointed in accordance with RCW 29A.32.280. Each committee shall be composed of not more than three persons, and the committee advocating approval shall be composed of persons known to favor the ballot proposition and the committee advocating disapproval shall be composed of persons known to oppose the ballot proposition. Committees shall be appointed in accordance with Section 6.

Section 6. Authorization to Deliver Ordinance, Appoint For/Against Committees and Perform Other Necessary Duties. The City Clerk is authorized and directed, to certify a copy of this ordinance to the Auditor and to perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described herein should appear on the ballot for the April 25, 2023 election.

The City Administrator is authorized and directed to seek out the names of persons interested in serving on a committee to prepare an argument advocating approval and a committee to prepare an argument advocating disapproval of the ballot proposition and to submit those names to the Auditor in accordance with the schedule established by state law and County rule. If more than three persons volunteer to form a committee for or against, the City Administrator shall draw names by lot to determine the composition of such committee, and the City Council shall approve such names by motion. If three or fewer persons volunteer for each committee, then the City Council hereby authorizes submission of those names, without need for further action by Council.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions, or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized herein.

Section 8. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and five days following its publication, as required by law PASSED by City Council and approved by the Mayor, this 22 day of November 2022.


Ronald J. Frederick, Mayor

Attest;


Karri Muir, CMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Gordon P. Karg, City Attorney

Ordinance No.: 22-1120

Published Date: 11/29/2022

Effective Date: 12/4/2022

EMS Levy Explanatory Statement:

This proposition renews the existing EMS levy as a source of funding for EMS services in the City of DuPont as an additional regular property tax in an amount equal to fifty cents (\$.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed value of property. If approved by voters, this proposition renews the levy for six years to continue financing the costs of operations and maintenance of the City's existing emergency medical services at current levels of service, through the DuPont Fire Department, and to continue to satisfy personnel and equipment needs for these services. If not passed, the City will be unable to meet current emergency medical service levels.

FINAL – February 22, 2023

Renewal of Six-Year Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy

DuPont City Council adopted Ordinance 22-1120 regarding the continuation of a regular property tax levy for emergency medical services (EMS). If approved, this proposition would renew the City's regular property tax levy of \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for an additional six years (for collections beginning in 2024), to provide current levels of emergency medical services.

_Approved? _Rejected?