

RESOLUTION NO. 22-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WASHINGTON PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AT A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022 OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN THE CITY OF ONE THENTH OF ONE PERCENT (.01%) ON THE SELLING PRICE TO FUND PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES; SETTING FORTH THE TEXT OF THE BALLOT PROPOSITION, DIRECTING CITY OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY; INCLUDING A SEVERABILITY PROVISION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.450(2) authorizes city legislative authorities to adopt a Resolution providing for the submission of a proposal to the voters for a sales and use tax at the next primary or general election; and

WHEREAS, purpose of tax is to be used solely for fire protection purposes;

WHEREAS, the City has experienced significant increases in the use of public safety resources, including fire protection services, due to storms and wildfires occurring in the City (affecting health and safety); and

WHEREAS, the City desire to make funds available for investment in fire related staffing, equipment and technology to provide for better response times, and higher service levels, which investments include but are not limited to increased volunteer and/or career staffing, training, needed personal protective equipment, vehicle upgrades or replacements (including purchase of a new fire apparatus), and potential renovation of the fire station; and

WHEREAS, the City is expected to experience significant residential and commercial growth over the next several years, and City staff have expressed concerns regarding the City's ability to adequately provide for public safety services to the increased population; and

WHEREAS, to sustainably fund these potential fire protection and public safety related services investments, the City must either identify new revenues or significantly

significantly reprioritize existing general fund programs such as code enforcement, parks maintenance, or street maintenance, which rank as high priorities with City residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have reviewed the Resolution and proposed ballot measure have determined that adoption of the same is in the best interest of the citizens of the City; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings & Purpose. The City Council has determined it to be in the public interest to fund, at minimum, the following fire protection and criminal justice or public safety related services as soon as practicable:

1. Purchase of a new fire vehicle or apparatus;
2. Purchase of updated personal protective equipment and other tools and equipment for fire personnel
3. Investment in training and recruitment for staff and volunteer fire personnel

The amounts collected pursuant to the sales tax increase authorized shall be used solely for fire protection (public safety) purposes, which may include but are not limited to personnel and related costs of purchasing vehicles and equipment (including in particular a fire apparatus), recruiting, hiring, training, equipping and contracting for other public safety professionals, and to pay other related public safety expenses as authorized by RCW 82.14.450. The City Council reserves the right, in accordance with its budget process, to determine the levels of service to be provided within the categories described in this Resolution and within the available revenues collected from this increase. If revenues are sufficient, the City Council reserves the right to use such additional funds to contract for, or pay personnel and related costs of recruiting, hiring, training, equipping and employing additional personnel in other capacities authorized by RCW 82.14.450.

Section 2. Calling of Election. Calling of Election. It is hereby found that the best interests of the inhabitants of the City of Bridgeport require the submission to the qualified electors of the City for approval or rejection at the general election to be held on November 6, 2022 of a proposition authorizing an additional sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) on the selling price in the case of a sales tax or the value of the article used in the case of a use tax pursuant RCW 82.14.450(2)(a). Douglas County Elections, as ex officio supervisor of elections in the City, is hereby requested to assume jurisdiction of and to submit to the qualified electors of the City the proposition hereinafter set forth.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed, not later than August 2, 2022, to certify the proposition to Douglas County Elections in substantially the following form, prepared pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071:

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PROPOSITION 1
ADDITIONAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR
FIRE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Bridgeport City Council adopted Resolution No. 22-14 concerning a proposition for funding enhanced fire protection, and community safety related services. If approved, this proposition would increase the sales and use tax rate by one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) to provide ongoing funding for the public safety purposes permitted under RCW 82.14.450. These would include new or additional fire apparatus and equipment, and related public health and safety services. The increase would become effective in 2023.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED?

REJECTED?

For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the City hereby designates its City Attorney (Julie Norton, 509-662-1954, jnorton@omwlaw.com) as the persons to whom such notice shall be provided

Section 4. Voters' Pamphlet "For" and "Against" Statement Committees. The City Council authorizes preparation and distribution of a local voters' pamphlet, including an explanatory statement and statements in favor of and in opposition to the ballot measure, if any. The preparation of explanatory statement, the appointment of pro/con committees and the preparation of statements in favor or and in opposition to the ballot title 296 shall be in accordance with chapter 29A.32 RCW and the rules and guidelines of the King County Elections Office. The Mayor shall appoint up to three members each to the "for" statement and "against" statement committees.

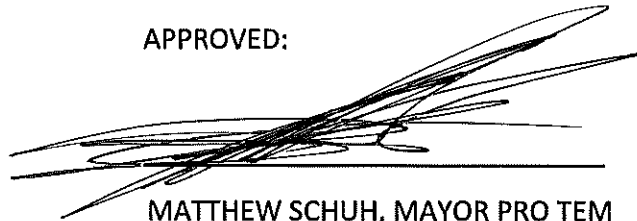
Section 5. The Clerk of the City is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 6. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution.

Section 7. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage by the City Council.

APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Bridgeport, Washington at an Open Public Meeting the 20th day of July, 2022

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Schuh', written over a horizontal line.

MATTHEW SCHUH, MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Brown', written over a horizontal line.

JUDY BROWN, CITY CLERK/TREASURER

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

Proposition No. 1

Sales and Use Tax Increase for Public Safety

Explanatory Statement

If approved by voters, Proposition 1 would authorize an increase in the city sales tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for ten years beginning on April 1, 2023, to fund certain public safety uses as authorized by RCW 82.14.450. State law requires that the additional sales tax revenues may only be spent for fire protection and criminal justice (i.e. public safety) purposes as identified by the City Council. In recent years, requests for fire protection and public safety services have increased due to natural conditions (i.e. storms and wildfires) and population growth. Proceeds will enable the City to maintain or improve the existing level of fire protection now provided by its Volunteer Fire Department and Fire District 15 the cost of which is expected to increase due to the need to replace aging vehicles and equipment (including purchase a new fire apparatus and personal protective equipment), and increase fire (including, volunteers, paid staff, and contracted services). This tax would be paid by anyone who makes a taxable purchase in the City, including non-residents.

This statement prepared by Julie Norton, Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC.