

RESOLUTION NO. 595
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BRIER, WASHINGTON CALLING FOR A
SPECIAL ELECTION CONCERNING ANNEXATION INTO THE SOUTH
SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY (“SOUTH
COUNTY FIRE”)

WHEREAS, since 2005, the City has received fire and emergency medical services (“Fire and EMS”) from South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority (“South County Fire”); and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2022, South County Fire provided the City with a notice of termination of its contract for Fire and EMS services; and

WHEREAS, after exploring available options and conferring with South County Fire, including evaluating proposals for annexation and/or service contracts from surrounding entities; and

WHEREAS, in February, March, May, June, August, September and November 2022, the City Council held multiple study sessions regarding future Fire and EMS service and concluded that the costs for services from any provider that maintains Fire and EMS service levels will be substantially higher than the expiring South County Fire contract cost; and

WHEREAS, based on information provided, the City Council has determined South County Fire will be able to deliver the most reliable Fire and EMS services over the long term to City taxpayers at a cost lower than other available options; and

WHEREAS, RCW 52.26.300 sets forth the procedure for elections concerning the annexation of a city into a regional fire protection service authority; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2022, the Brier City Council adopted Resolution No. 592, requesting annexation into South County Fire subject to the provisions of RCW 52.26.300(3) and voter approval; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2023, the Governing Board of South County Fire adopted Resolution No. 01101023-01, amending its Regional Fire Authority (“RFA”) Plan to provide for the annexation of the City of Brier subject to the approval by the voters of the City of Brier pursuant to RCW 52.26.300(3); and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2023, the Brier City Council adopted Resolution No. 594, stating that it was in the City’s best interest to approve annexation into South County Fire and approving the RFA Plan as required by RCW 52.26.300(3); and

WHEREAS notification of intent to annex is being transmitted to the Snohomish County Auditor;

NOW, THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIER RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.300, the City of Brier requests that the Snohomish County Auditor place a proposition on the special election ballot to be held on April 25, 2023, for the voters in the City of Brier to approve or reject the annexation of the City of Brier to be part of the South County Fire effective August 1, 2023, with the following potential ballot title:

Name of Jurisdiction: City of Brier

Proposition Number: Proposition No. 1

Short Title: Brier Seeks Voter Approval to Annex into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority

Ballot Title: Shall the City of Brier be annexed into and be a part of the South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority, effective August 1, 2023, per Brier City Council Resolution No. 595?

YES _____

NO _____

Section 2. A local voters' pamphlet is requested and language for the explanatory statement is attached as Exhibit 1.

Section 3. The City Attorney is authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of the ballot measure and/or the explanatory statement as may be recommended by the Snohomish County Auditor, as long as the intent of the measure remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Resolution as approved by the City Council.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of February, 2023 by a vote of 7 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

APPROVED:


DALE KAEMINGK, MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


PAULA SWISHER, CITY CLERK

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 02/14/2023

Attachments: Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Brier Resolution No. 595 seeks voter approval to annex the City into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority (“South County Fire”). The City’s contract with its current fire and emergency medical service (“Fire and EMS”) provider is ending and cannot be renewed without substantial cost increases. All options maintaining Fire and EMS service levels will cost more. City Council determined the lowest cost solution that maintains Fire and EMS service levels is annexation into South County Fire.

South County Fire serves Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Edmonds, Brier, and Mountlake Terrace.

If annexation is approved, the City’s EMS levy will not be renewed. If annexation is not approved, the City must raise taxes to pay for Fire and EMS contract services or substantially cut other City services.

If annexation is approved, Brier Fire Station 18 would be staffed with a minimum of three firefighters/paramedic crews. Brier residents will be eligible to vote for and serve as Fire Commissioners on South County Fire’s governing board that decides property taxes and fees for Fire and EMS services.

More information is available at www.ci.brier.wa.us.

(188 words—below maximum allowed)