



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
Special City Council and Fire District 3 Joint Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
Jason Hartmann
Jim Ransier
Patty Fink
David Lindley

Fire District 3 Commissioners:

Thomas Montag
Robert Connor
Charles Virts

City Staff Present:

Marla Keethler, Mayor
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer
Troy Rayburn, City Administrator
David Schultz, City Attorney

Fire District 3 Staff Present:

Rosalind Plumb, FD3 Secretary
Wes Long, FD3 Fire Chief

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Call to order at 7:00 PM
City of White Salmon Council
KCFD3 Commissioners – Agenda Approved

II. Business Item

A. West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Final Draft Plan – Planning Committee Selection and to Approve Final Plan.

- The city council, Fire Commissioners, and WKRFA committee discuss the final draft plan for a regional fire authority. There were concerns about rushing the timeline and a proposal was made to push the vote to the November election to gather more feedback and fine-tune the budget. The talks included the possibility of delaying the implementation of the Regional Fire Authority (RFA) to allow for more time to get feedback and buy-in from the community and volunteer fire force. It was also discussed the effective date of the RFA and the need for a mandated master plan before any changes are made.
- The city council, Fire Commissioners, and WKRFA committee discussed concerns about the RFA plan, including the makeup of the governing board and the possibility of it not passing with voters. They considered options such as pausing for the November election and the consequences of multiple failed attempts to pass the plan. It was discussed the possibility of an RFA and the concerns raised by volunteers. The City Council and Fire Commissioners considered the option of pushing the vote to November and setting an effective date of September 30th, 2024, to allow more time for discussion and addressing concerns.

- The city council and WKRFA committee discussed the timeline and process for forming a new fire authority. They acknowledged the need for more time and input from the community and firefighters before finalizing the plan. They talked about the timeline for finalizing the plan for a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) and putting it on the ballot. There were concerns about rushing the process and the need for more time to ensure the plan is fully vetted, but ultimately, they decided to push for a November ballot date and prioritize building trust among all constituents.
- The city council and WKRFA committee discussed the possibility of regionalizing and creating a West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority but had concerns about the financial implications and the need for more time to communicate with volunteers and constituents. They ultimately decided to table the current plan and meet again within the next 14 days to establish a new schedule with the goal of being ready for the August 1st deadline.

B. Joint Resolution 2023-10 / 2023-05-562 Providing for the Submission to of the WKRFA for the August 1, 2023, Election pursuant to RCW 52.26.

No action was taken to move this ballot measure forward for the August 1, 2023 election.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer