THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: Agreement with Buncombe for Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Services

Staff Resource(s): Chief Scott Burnette, Asheville Fire Department and Abigail Riley, Financial Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buncombe County for fire protection and ambulance and rescue services.

Background:

- The Asheville Special Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Service District of Buncombe County was established and created effective July 1, 2016.
- It comprises the Biltmore Estate property, and portions of the Haw Creek District.
- It is served by the Asheville Fire Department for fire protection, ambulance, and rescue services.
- The Biltmore Estate has been served by the City of Asheville Fire Department since 1995 and Haw Creek has been served by the City of Asheville Fire Department since 2009 through contracts with Buncombe County.
- The County levies a special tax in the Asheville Special Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Service District and appropriates those funds to the City of Asheville.
- The funds collected by the County as a result of the tax collected and the corresponding sales tax revenue due the District will be paid to the City by the last day of each month in twelve equal monthly installments.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the County will reconcile the monthly payments made to the City and the actual amounts collected to make a final adjusted payment in July of the following fiscal year.
- The Asheville Fire Department will furnish fire protection and other emergency services as part of the Buncombe County EMS System in the Asheville Special Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Service District and will provide the necessary equipment and personnel.
- The term of the current agreement will end June 30, 2021, and the new agreement will begin July 1, 2021 for a term of three years.

Council Goal(s):

- Connected and Engaged Community

Pro(s):

- Adds capacity and resources that are shared between the City of Asheville and adjacent communities.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- The agreement has an overall positive fiscal impact on tax revenues received by the city.
- In FY19-20, property, sales, and DMV tax revenues generated by the district and appropriated to the City were $398,801.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buncombe County for fire protection and ambulance and rescue services.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-293 to install and maintain water mains, pipes, hydrants, buildings and equipment outside its corporate limits, and may send its firemen and equipment outside its corporate limits to provide fire protection to rural or unincorporated areas pursuant to agreements between the City and the County; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville Special Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Service District of Buncombe County was established and created effective July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Biltmore Estate has been served by the Asheville Fire Department since 1995 and Haw Creek has been served by the Asheville Fire Department since 2009 through contracts with Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, the County levies a special tax in the Asheville Special Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Service District and appropriates those funds to the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville Fire Department will furnish fire protection and other emergency services as part of the Buncombe County EMS system; furthemore it will provide the necessary equipment and personnel; and

WHEREAS, the funds collected by the County as a result of the tax collected and the corresponding sales tax revenue due the District will be paid to the City by the last day of each month in twelve equal monthly installments; and at the end of the fiscal year, the County will reconcile the monthly payments made to the City and the actual amounts collected to make a final adjusted payment in July of the following fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Buncombe County until June 30, 2024, for fire protection and ambulance and rescue services, and is further authorized to collect funds from the County to furnish fire protection and other emergency services as part of the Buncombe County EMS System in the Asheville Special Fire Protection & Ambulance and Rescue Service District, and to provide necessary equipment and personnel.

Read, approved and adopted this the 8th day of June, 2021.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney