ORDINANCE 5651

AN ORDINANCE OF ALBANY, LINN AND BENTON COUNTIES, OREGON, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF RENEWING A LEVY AT \$.95 PER \$1,000 ASSESSED VALUE FOR AMBULANCE, FIRE, AND POLICE OPERATIONS BEGINNING IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 FOR FIVE YEARS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Budget Committee of the City of Albany found that revenues are needed to enhance essential services provided for everyone's use and protection beginning in the fiscal year 2003-2004 and recommended that a five year public safety operating levy be submitted to the legal voters of the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Albany supports the value of continuing to provide quality services to the citizens of the city;

NOW THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Section 1.</u> <u>Date of Election.</u> A levy election with the question set forth in Section 2 of this ordinance shall be submitted in the manner prescribed herein to the legal voters residing within the City of Albany, on the 7th day of November 2006.

<u>Section 2.</u> Form of Question. Shall City of Albany continue to impose \$.95/\$1,000 assessed value for Ambulance, Fire, and Police operations for five more years.

Section 3. Project Description. The City plans to use tax revenue from this measure to continue funding for six Firefighter/EMTs to staff one additional ambulance, a Deputy Fire Marshal and a Fire Life/Safety Educator who manage fire prevention and public education programs; four Police Officers, three Civilian Community Service Officers, whose duties help make sworn officers available to handle emergencies; a Police Dispatcher, a Crime Analyst, and for equipment and training related to all of those positions. Taxes will also continue to be used to pay inflationary operating costs for the Fire and Police Departments and for enhanced security in City parks.

<u>Section 4.</u> Hours of Election. The election shall be conducted as a mail-in election.

Section 5. Notice of Election. Notice of the levy election shall be given by the County Clerks and City Elections Officer, as provided in the general election laws of the State of Oregon and the Charter of the City of Albany.

<u>Section 6.</u> <u>Ballot Form</u> The City Attorney shall cause to be delivered to the City Elections Officer a Notice of Levy Election and Ballot Title in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

<u>Section 7.</u> Inasmuch as this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, and safety of the City of Albany, Oregon, an emergency is hereby declared to exist. This ordinance will be in full force and effect immediately upon passage by the Council and approval by the Mayor.

Passed by Council: August 9, 2006

Approved by the Mayor:

Effective Date: August 9, 2006

ATTEST:

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EXHIBIT "A"

CAPTION

Renewal of the Ambulance, Fire, and Police Local Option Tax

QUESTION

Shall Albany renew a tax of \$.95/\$1,000 assessed value for Ambulance, Fire, and Police operations for five more years? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY

Albany Ambulance, Fire, and Police operations continue to experience a significant increase in the number of calls for service. When the original levy was requested in 2002 the Fire Department was responding to more than 4,900 calls for service, and the Police Department handled more than 62,000 calls. In 2005-2006 the Fire Department responded to 5,996 emergency calls and the Police Department handled 68,159 calls.

The City plans to use tax revenue from this measure to continue funding for six Firefighter/EMTs who staff an additional ambulance; a Deputy Fire Marshal and a Fire Life/Safety Educator who manage fire prevention and public education programs; four Police Officers; three Civilian Community Service Officers, whose duties help make sworn Police Officers available to handle emergencies; a Police Dispatcher; a Crime Analyst; and for equipment and training related to all of those positions. Taxes will also continue to be used to pay inflationary operating costs for the Fire and Police Departments, and for enhanced security in City parks.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$2,392,000 in 2008-2009, \$2,512,000 in 2009-2010, \$2,638,000 in 2010-2011, \$2,769,000 in 2011-2012 and \$2,908,000 in 2012-2013, for a total of \$13,219,000.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessors at the time of the estimate.