

**RESOLUTION APPROVING, RATIFYING, AND ADOPTING CERTAIN ACTIONS OF  
THE HARRISONBURG FIRE CHIEF AND CITY MANAGER REGARDING HOSE  
COMPANY #4'S USE OF THE CITY'S ROCK STREET FIRE STATION**

**WHEREAS**, for over a century the City of Harrisonburg enjoyed a cordial, cooperative relationship with Hose Company #4, during which time Hose Company #4, along with the Harrisonburg Fire Department, provided exemplary fire protection to the residents and businesses of the City and the surrounding areas of Rockingham County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Hose Company #4 entered into an Agreement dated December 14, 1973, granting Hose Company #4 the right to use and occupy the City's Rock Street Fire Station along with the Harrisonburg Fire Department, subject to certain conditions, including that the City may assume exclusive control and occupancy of the Rock Street Fire Station if, among other things, Hose Company #4 "should cease to provide adequate fire protection for the City of Harrisonburg;" and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, Hose Company #4 began operating out of a fire station on Port Republic Road, and in 2020 Rockingham County constructed and opened a new 30,000 square foot fire station and social hall for Hose Company #4 at its Port Republic Road site; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1979, paid career firefighters from Rockingham County Fire and Rescue supplemented Hose Company #4 volunteers at the Rock Street Station, and in 2017 began providing 24 hour staffing there; and

**WHEREAS**, in November of 2022, Rockingham County completed its new North Valley Pike Fire Station, which includes some space for Hose Company #4 staff and equipment, and removed its paid firefighters from the City's Rock Street Station, indicating that it was no longer needed to provide fire protection services to County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, by letter dated March 24, 2023, following months of communications and meeting with representatives of Hose Company #4, the Harrisonburg Fire Chief, at the direction of the Harrisonburg City Manager, notified Hose Company #4 that it no longer provides adequate fire protection for the City and that the City was exercising its right under the 1973 Agreement to assume exclusive control and occupancy of the Rock Street Fire Station as of June 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Chief's letter of March 24, 2023, expressed the City's respect for and appreciation of the long relationship between the City and Hose Company #4, provided a history of that relationship, and outlined in detail the reasons for the City's decision to assume exclusive control and occupancy of the Rock Street Fire Station, including that the Harrisonburg Fire Department now provides fire protection services to the City and Hose Company #4 only provides services comparable to those provided by other County volunteer companies under mutual aid agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council agrees with the analysis, conclusions, and directives set forth in the Fire Chief's letter of March 24, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Harrisonburg City Council that:

1. Council, on behalf of itself and the residents and businesses of the City, expresses its deep appreciation to Hose Company #4 and its members, past and current, for many years of fire protection service; and

2. After due consideration, City Council hereby approves, ratifies, and adopts the Fire Chief's letter of March 24, 2023, which letter is attached to this resolution and incorporated herein, authorizes the Fire Chief, City Manager, and City Attorney to take all action necessary to secure the exclusive control and occupancy of the City's Rock Street Station, and ratifies any previous actions taken related thereto;

3. Council believes that the exclusive control and occupancy of the City's Rock Street Fire Station by the Harrisonburg Fire Department will enhance fire safety for City residents and businesses and that Hose Company #4's new, modern fire station on Port Republic Road and its shared occupancy of Rockingham County's new North Valley Pike Fire Station, located just over one mile from the Rock Street Fire Station, provide excellent locations and facilities from which Hose Company #4 can continue to provide fire protection services to the residents and businesses of Rockingham County.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.**

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Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk