

ORDINANCE NO: 2026-04

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VADER, WASHINGTON,
APPROVING ANNEXATION OF UNINCORPORATED
TERRITORY IN THE URBAN GROWTH AREA AND
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH LEWIS COUNTY,
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE ANNEXATION,
PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND CORRECTIONS, AND
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Lewis County designated an urban growth area for the City of Vader as required by the Growth Management Act (GMA) pursuant to RCW 36.70A; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.110(7) states, "An urban growth area designated in accordance with this section may include within its boundaries ... potential annexation areas designated for specific cities and towns in the county."; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vader is a non-charter code city incorporated under the Optional Municipal Code, pursuant to RCW 35A, and has authority under RCW 35A.14 to annex property within its urban growth area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vader desires to annex (the "Annexation") the designated Vader Annexation Area (hereinafter referred to as "VAA") as shown in Exhibit A, Interlocal Agreement (the "Interlocal Agreement"), utilizing the annexation by interlocal agreement method provided in RCW 35A.14.296; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.14.296 allows the City of Vader and Lewis County to enter into the Interlocal Agreement to annex the VAA, and the Interlocal Agreement does not create or authorize the creation of a separate legal or administrative entity but instead is an agreement for joint or cooperative action; and

WHEREAS, the Annexation is exempt from compliance with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act pursuant to RCW 43.21 C.222; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Vader passed Resolution 07-2025 on August 20, 2025, directing City staff to negotiate the Interlocal Agreement with Lewis County for the Annexation; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 25-252 on August 26, 2025, directing County staff to negotiate the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Vader for the Annexation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.14.296(2), the City of Vader provided written notice (“Notice”) of the proposed Annexation and the draft Interlocal Agreement to Cowlitz-Lewis Fire Protection District No. 20, the fire protection district serving the VAA on April 24, 2026. Cowlitz-Lewis Fire Protection District No. 20 had thirty (30) days to provide written notice of its interest in being a party to the Interlocal Agreement. In response to the Notice, Cowlitz-Lewis Fire Protection District No. 20 confirmed on April 28, 2026 that it had no objection to the annexation and did not express a desire to be a party to the Interlocal Agreement. The time period for requesting to be a party to the Interlocal Agreement expired on May 24, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vader published notices of public hearing on May 13, May 20, May 27, and June 3, 2026, in the legal newspaper of record, as required by RCW 35A.14.296; and

WHEREAS, both the City of Vader and Lewis County have provided for broad public dissemination of materials and information pertaining to the Annexation through publication of the Interlocal Agreement on each jurisdiction's respective website for four consecutive weeks, with required notice in the legal newspaper of record, and as hard copy provided by request; and

WHEREAS, after effective notice was given, a public hearing was held by the City Council of the City of Vader legislative body on June 10, 2026 concerning the adoption of the Interlocal Agreement, as required by RCW 35A.14.296 (1), with the opportunity for written public comments and consideration and response to public comments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Vader has approved the descriptions of the land to be annexed as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vader and Lewis County have coordinated the transfer and maintenance of infrastructure in the annexation area, as well as having evaluated the potential for revenue sharing agreements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered this matter at a special meeting called and noticed pursuant to RCW 42.30.080 on June 10, 2026 during which the City Council held a public hearing which was duly noticed in the legal newspaper of record on May 13, May 20, May 27, and June 3, 2026, as required by RCW 35A.14.296; and

WHEREAS, following the review of the Interlocal Agreement, consideration of the annexation, and following the public hearing, the City Council of the City of Vader finds the Interlocal Agreement, Exhibit A, is consistent with the City of Vader Comprehensive Plan and is in the public interest; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VADER, WASHINGTON, DOES
HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Interlocal Agreement Authorized. The Vader City Council desires to move forward with the annexation and hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the Interlocal Agreement in substantially the form as is attached to this Ordinance as Exhibit A. By this action, the Vader City Council approves the annexation and the Interlocal Agreement.

Section 2. Effective Date for Annexation. Upon the Effective Date, as defined in the Interlocal Agreement, the VAA shall be, and the same hereby is, annexed to the corporate limits of the City of Vader, Washington.

Section 3. Zoning Applicable to VAA. Upon the Effective Date, as defined in the Interlocal Agreement, the City of Vader Zoning Ordinance, and the Official Zoning Map contained therein shall be, and the same hereby are, amended to include the VAA as presently zoned, consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Section 4. Publication of Interlocal Agreement Required. Following the execution of the Interlocal Agreement by the Mayor as authorized by Section 1 and by Lewis County, the City Clerk is directed to publish the fully signed and executed Interlocal Agreement as required by law.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

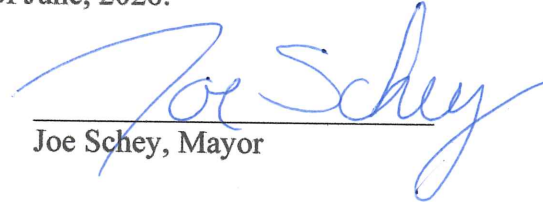
Section 6. Corrections. Upon the approval of the city attorney, the city clerk, and/or the code publisher is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

Section 7. Publication. This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

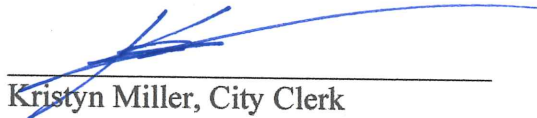
Section 8. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective five days after publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Vader and attested by the City Clerk in authentication of such passage on this 12th day of June, 2026.

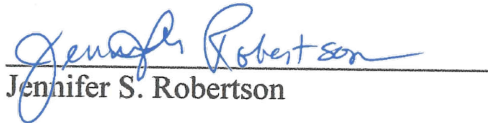
APPROVED by the Mayor this 12th day of June, 2026.


Joe Schey, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


Kristyn Miller, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Office of the City Attorney


Jennifer S. Robertson

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 6/12/26
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 6/12/26
PUBLISHED: 6/17/26
EFFECTIVE DATE: _____
ORDINANCE NO: 2026-04

Attachment:

Exhibit A - Interlocal Agreement for Annexation

