

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-03-026

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE SOLID WASTE UTILITY, AMENDING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.76, TO INCREASE THE SOLID WASTE UTILITY TAX RATE IN ORDER TO FUND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP OF THE CITY'S LANDFILL SITES.

WHEREAS, the current tax rate imposed on garbage collection and disposal activities is 7%;
and

WHEREAS, the City is one of the potentially liable parties under the Model Toxics Control Act for the cleanup of historic landfills and is therefore legally required to clean up the landfills; and

WHEREAS, the City will need additional revenue to cover the legally mandated cleanup costs; and

WHEREAS, the landfills are contaminated as a result of the garbage collected from garbage customers; and

WHEREAS, by increasing the tax rate to 11.5% sufficient funds will be generated to cover the City's portion of the cost of the landfill cleanups; and

WHEREAS, 11.5% is the rate currently charged on the City's water, wastewater and stormwater utilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Section 4.76.020 – Rate in Bellingham Municipal Code will be amended as follows:

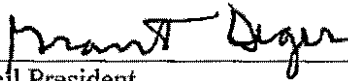
The rate of tax imposed by this chapter shall be **11.5%** of the gross income from garbage collection and disposal activities conducted in the city.

Section 2. The effective date of these changes will be for the period starting May 1, 2005.

City of Bellingham
CITY ATTORNEY
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
Telephone (360) 676-6903

Section 3. The Finance Director will notify City Council when the bonds issued to finance the landfill cleanups have been repaid in full, so that City Council may review the tax rate at that time.

PASSED by Council this 21st day of MARCH, 2005.

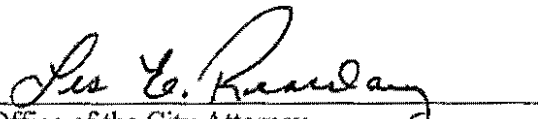

Council President

APPROVED by me this 25th day of March, 2005.


Mayor

ATTEST: 
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

Published: MARCH 25, 2005

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