

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-11-046

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON RELATING TO THE LEVYING OF TAXES AND ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED IN 2016 ON THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Statute (RCW 84.52.020), the City is required to submit to the County an ordinance setting the annual property tax levy on or before November 30th of each year; and

WHEREAS, the assessed valuation including the impacts of new construction and improvements, annexations, and changes in the state assessed utilities are not available from the County Assessor at the time of preparation of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the statutes require the adoption of the ordinance prior to the information being available from the County Assessor; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 26, 2015 to discuss the annual 2016 property tax levy and revenue estimates; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham City Council desires to levy a regular property tax levy for 2016 that will include a 1% increase from the previous year, plus collect the value of new construction and improvements, the value of annexations, and changes in the state assessed utility valuations; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2012, City of Bellingham voters approved a seven-year levy, generating approximately \$3,000,000 annually, that will fund housing and housing services for people with low or very low incomes, including those with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and families with children.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. The Ad Valorem and Forest excise taxes for the City of Bellingham for the 2016 budget are subject to the following levies:

- A. An increase in the regular property tax levy is hereby authorized for the levy to be collected in the 2016 tax year. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be \$220,000, which is a percentage increase of 1% from the previous year. This increase is exclusive of additional revenue resulting from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, any increase in the value of state assessed property, any annexations that have occurred and refunds made.

- B. An increase in the Affordable Housing property tax levy is hereby authorized for the levy to be collected in the 2016 tax year. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be \$0, which is a percentage increase of 0% from the previous year. This increase is exclusive of

additional revenue resulting from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, any increase in the value of state assessed property, any annexations that have occurred and refunds made.

Section 2. Upon issuance of the final assessed valuation figures from the Whatcom County Assessor, the estimated computations will be corrected administratively to reflect the legislative direction provided and attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference herein.

PASSED by the Council this 16th day of November, 2015




Council President

APPROVED by me this 19th day of November, 2015.




Mayor

ATTEST



Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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