



# City Council Agenda Bill

# 20176

Bill Number

**Subject:** Public Hearing on City of Bellingham 2014 Revenue Projections including an increase in the Property Tax Levy.

**Summary Statement:** Mayor Linville's Budget provides for a balanced General Fund Operating Budget in 2014. As part of the Budget process, City Council will need to establish the Property Tax Levy rate for the coming year. In preparation for that decision, the 2014 revenue forecast for the city will be presented and discuss the impact of an increase in the Property Tax Levy rate.

**Previous Council Action:**

**Fiscal Impact:** The revenue forecast is used in the formation of the 2014 Adopted Budget.

**Funding Source:** All City Funds

**Attachments:** Proposed Ordinance  
Public Hearing Notice  
(No written comment was received by City Council.)

Meeting Activity	Meeting Date	Staff Recommendation	Presented By	Time
Public Hearing Council Vote Requested	04-Nov-2013	Vote to Approve	Brian Henshaw	10

**Council Committee:**

**Agenda Bill Contact:**

Brian Henshaw

**Committee Actions:**

**Reviewed By**  
Brian Henshaw, Finance

**Initials**  
BHA

**Date**  
10/29/13

**Council Action:**

Legal  
Mayor

DMC  
KL

10/29/13  
10.29.13

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON RELATING TO THE LEVYING OF TAXES AND ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED IN 2014 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 November 4, 2013 to discuss the annual 2014 property tax levy and revenue estimates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bellingham City Council desires to levy a regular property tax levy for 2014 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 2014 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 2014 tax year. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be \$208,380, 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 2014 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 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

**APPROVED** by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney

Published:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_





## BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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### **BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL** **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the **BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL** will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the **City Council Chambers, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, Washington**, to take public comment on the following:

#### **PRELIMINARY 2014 CITY OF BELLINGHAM REVENUE FORECAST INCLUDING THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY.**

Additional information can be found on the City's website at:  
<http://www.cob.org/government/budget/Index.aspx>.

Anyone wishing to comment on this topic is invited to attend; or if unable to attend, to present your comments in writing to the Council Office, 210 Lottie Street, by 10:00 a.m., October 30, 2013, and they will be included in the Council packet. Comment received after that time will be distributed to Council but not included in the published meeting materials.

FOR OUR CITIZENS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, the City Council Chambers are fully accessible. Elevator access to the second floor is available at City Hall's west entrance. Hearing assistance is available in the Council Chambers and a receiver may be checked out through the clerk prior to the meeting. For additional accommodations, please contact J. Lynne Walker at 778-8200 in advance of the meeting. Thank you.

Publication date: Friday, October 25, 2013

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