



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

Reviewed By	Initials	Date
Brian Henshaw, Finance	BHA	10/29/13
Legal	DMC	10/29/13
Mayor	KL	10-29-13

Committee Actions:

Council Action:

11/4/13 Public hearing held. Written comment portion of the public hearing will remain open until final action.
WFISS / KNUTSON moved approval for first and second reading. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.
CL excused.

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 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 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:

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS MADE A PART OF ORDINANCE _____, AS EXHIBIT "A"

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
COUNTY OF WHATCOM) ss

I, Brian Henshaw, Finance Director for the City of Bellingham, do hereby certify that the following is the City of Bellingham's 2014 tax levy request, as adopted on November _____, 2013, by the Bellingham City Council, on record in the Office of the Finance Director.

	<u>ASSESSED VALUATION</u>
	\$8,400,000,000
<u>REGULAR LEVY REQUEST</u>	
GENERAL FUND – Base \$1.62704 per thousand =	\$13,576,000
FIRE PENSION - Base \$0.22499 per thousand =	\$1,897,000
GREENWAYS III - Levy Lid Lift \$.54536 per thousand =	\$4,548,000
HOME FUND- Levy Lid Lift \$0.11899 per thousand =	\$1,000,000
REVENUE DEVELOPMENT AREA – LIFT \$.00293 per thousand =	\$24,000
TOTAL REGULAR LEVY \$2.5193 per thousand =	\$21,046,000
AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEVY \$.23797 per thousand (up to \$2,000,000 per year) =	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
TOTAL CITY LEVY	\$23,046,000

Dated this the 9th day of January, 2013.

Brian Henshaw, Finance Director
City of Bellingham, Washington

Copy: Mayor Kelli Linville
Bellingham City Council