

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-11-036

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON RELATING TO THE LEVYING OF TAXES AND ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED IN 2024 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, a public hearing was held on October 30, 2023 to discuss the annual 2024 property tax levy and revenue estimates; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Assessor has submitted a preliminary assessed valuation for the City of Bellingham of \$22,556,882,461; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham City Council desires to levy a regular property tax levy for 2024 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, the City of Bellingham's previous year's actual regular property tax levy was \$26,893,753; and

WHEREAS, the 1% limit on increases to property tax is calculated on the actual levy less the refund amount, known as the previous year's levy, and equates to \$155,810; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance must request the 1% limit as a dollar amount increase over the actual levy amount, not the previous year's levy upon which the 1% is calculated, leading to an actual percent increase less than 1%.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

The Ad Valorem and Forest excise taxes for the City of Bellingham for the 2024 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 2024 tax year. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be \$155,810, which is a percentage increase of .51718% 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 2024 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" should Proposition 2023-02 fail and "Exhibit B" should proposition 2023-02 pass. Both exhibits are incorporated by reference herein.

PASSED by the Council this 20th day of November, 2023.



Council President


APPROVED by me this 21st day of November, 2023.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

Published:

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
 COUNTY OF WHATCOM) ss

I, Andrew Asbjornsen, Finance Director for the City of Bellingham, do hereby certify that the following is the City of Bellingham's 2024 tax levy request by the Bellingham City Council, on record in the Office of the Finance Director.

REGULAR LEVY REQUEST

2023 Actual Levy	21,311,791.28
Increase in Ordinance	115,809.67
New Construction	214,730.15
Annexation	-
Administrative Refund	158,572.78
2024 Total Regular Levy Request	21,800,903.88
General Fund	17,572,382.93
Fire/Police Pension	2,843,838.49
Greenways (Refund Amount)	32,912.75
Affordable Housing	1,351,769.72

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEVY REQUEST

2023 Previous Year Levy	2,667,000.00
Increase in Ordinance	-
New Construction	-
Annexation	-
Administrative Refund	16,351.98
2024 Total Affordable Housing Levy Request	2,683,351.98

Dated this the ___ day of November, 2023.

 Andrew Asbjornsen, Finance Director
 City of Bellingham, Washington

Copy: Mayor Seth Fleetwood
 Bellingham City Council

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
 COUNTY OF WHATCOM) ss

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REGULAR LEVY REQUEST

2023 Actual Levy	26,893,753.28
Increase in Ordinance	115,809.67
New Construction	214,730.15
Annexation	-
Administrative Refund	158,572.78
2024 Total Regular Levy Request	31,137,962.00
General Fund	17,572,382.93
Fire/Police Pension	2,843,838.49
Greenways (Estimated at 0.41)	9,369,970.86
Affordable Housing	1,351,769.72

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEVY REQUEST

2023 Previous Year Levy	2,667,000.00
Increase in Ordinance	-
New Construction	-
Annexation	-
Administrative Refund	16,351.98
2024 Total Affordable Housing Levy Request	2,683,351.98

Dated this the 28 day of November, 2023.



 Andrew Asbjornsen, Finance Director
 City of Bellingham, Washington

Copy: Mayor Seth Fleetwood
 Bellingham City Council