

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11-034

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON RELATING TO THE LEVYING OF TAXES AND ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED IN 2021 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, 2020 to discuss the annual 2021 property tax levy and revenue estimates; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham City Council desires to levy a regular property tax levy for 2021 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 previous year's actual regular property tax levy was \$25,025,589.29, which included \$41,683.66 in refunds; and

WHEREAS, the 1% limit on increases to property tax is calculated on the actual levy less the refund amount which is known as the previous year's levy and equates to \$24,983,905.63; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. The Ad Valorem and Forest excise taxes for the City of Bellingham for the 2021 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 2021 tax year. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be \$194,825.40, which is a percentage increase of 0.77850% 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 2021 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.

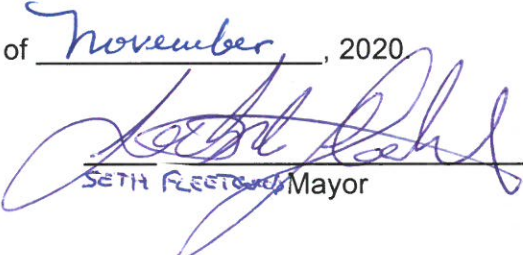
Section 2. The city's property tax levy is to be distributed as shown in "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference herein.

PASSED by the Council this 23rd day of November, 2020



Gene Knutson, Council President

APPROVED by me this 24th day of November, 2020

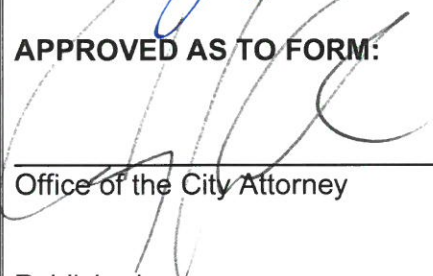


SETH FLEETWOOD Mayor

ATTEST: 

Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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