

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-12-031

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON AMENDING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.76 TO INCREASE THE SOLID WASTE UTILITY TAX FROM 11.5 PERCENT TO 17.25 PERCENT

WHEREAS, the City collects a solid waste utility tax upon every person or company in the business of solid waste collection and disposal in the city; and

WHEREAS, ordinance 2020-12-035 closed the Solid Waste Fund and redirected solid waste utility tax to the Environmental Remediation Fund to better align the tax revenue with the previously underfunded environmental clean-up liabilities; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2014, the Whatcom County Superior Court ordered the Consent Decree among the City of Bellingham, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Port of Bellingham, legally obligating the City to clean up the Cornwall Avenue Landfill; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the Whatcom County Superior Court ordered the Consent Decree among the City of Bellingham, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Port of Bellingham, legally obligating the City to clean up the RG Haley Site; and

WHEREAS, the current resources and revenues in the Environmental Remediation Fund are insufficient to defray anticipated long-term debt associated with remediation projects and maintain existing programming and services; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department estimates that increasing the tax will raise approximately \$1.1 million in the first year of collections; and

WHEREAS, Sanitary Services Company has requested an effective date of February 1, 2025 to allow time for implementation.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. Section 4.76.020 of the Bellingham Municipal Code is amended as follows:

4.76.020 Rate.

The rate of tax imposed by this chapter shall be ~~11.5~~ 17.25 percent of the gross income from garbage collection and disposal activities conducted in the city.

Section 2. This ordinance is effective February 1, 2025.

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

PASSED by the Council this 9th day of December, 2024.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 12th day of December, 2024.



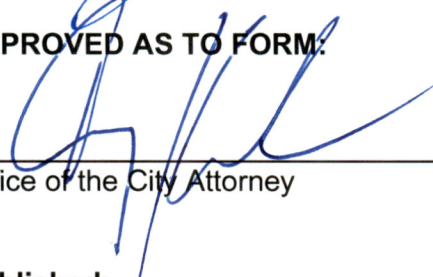
Mayor

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

Published:

December 15, 2024

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270