

Subject: Ordinance #1552 – Adoption of Property Tax Levy for 2022

Dept. Origin: Clerk’s Office
Prepared by: Jennifer Robertson, City Attorney’s Office
Meeting Date: November 2, 2021
Exhibits: Ordinance #1552

Proposed Council Action:

This is on for First Reading. This matter will return for Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption on November 16, 2021.

Initial & Date

Concurred by Mayor: _____
Approved by City Planner: _____
Approved as to form by City Atty: JSR/10-29-21
Approved by Finance Director: CG/10-29-21
Approved by Department Head: _____

INFORMATION / BACKGROUND

As part of the budget process, Ruston will consider a budget and the revenue sources for City operations and capital expenses. As part of that process, the City is required to hold a public hearing on this topic.¹ The public hearing on revenue sources is currently scheduled to coincide with Second Reading of Ordinance No. 1552 on November 16, 2021.

Ruston is required to adopt its property tax levy in November of each year by ordinance and transmit a certified copy of the ordinance to Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer and to the Pierce County Council no later than November 30th.² A Levy Certification must also be transmitted with the Ordinance.

Adoption of this Ordinance should be scheduled on the agenda during the meeting on **November 16, 2021** following the Public Hearing.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

This levy ordinance increases the property taxes levied by Ruston by the maximum amount allowed by law (one percent plus new construction, etc.). However, the maximum amount allowed by law (\$596,566.57) is actually less than was collected in 2021 (\$597,446.89). Therefore, there ordinance shows that there is a 0% increase for 2022.

¹ RCW 84.55.120.

² RCW 35A.33.135; 84.52.020; 35A.33.135.

Prior year 2020 Levy amount was \$562,098.80, but the actual amount collected was \$597,446.89. The City will raise the statutory levy by 1%, or \$5,620.99 plus levy new construction whose assessed value is \$15,419,800 at a rate of 1.8185475828 for an additional amount of \$28,041.64. The City will also levy for refunded property taxes in the amount of \$805.14.

The total change from last year's levy amount is \$34,467.77, for a total 2022 collection of \$596,566.57. Since this is actually less than was collected last year, the ordinance reads that there will be a zero percentage increase.

RECOMMENDATION / MOTION

This is on for First Reading. No action requested. This will return for Second Reading, the required Public Hearing, and Action on November 16, 2021 in order to meet the adoption and certification deadline under State law of November 30, 2021.

ORDINANCE NO. 1552

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAXES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2022, LEVYING AN INCREASE OF THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE HIGHEST AMOUNT LAWFULLY PERMITTED, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ruston held meetings on November 2, 2021 and November 16, 2021 during which time it considered its budget and taxes for the 2022 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with RCW 84.55.120, on November 2, 2021 the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on revenue sources for the 2022 budget, including considering of possible increases in property tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was held prior to the passage of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the estimated valuation of all taxable property within the City of Ruston is \$376,666,782.00 exclusive of valuations resulting from new construction, improvements to property, or refunds made; and

WHEREAS, the City's actual levy amount from the previous year was Five Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Six Dollars and Eighty Nine Cents (\$597,446.89); and

WHEREAS, the City Council attests that the City's population is less than 10,000; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2021, the City Council held the first reading on this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2021, the City Council held a public hearing on this Ordinance after duly noticing the same; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2021, the City Council adopted this Ordinance during its meeting at second reading following the public hearing; **NOW, THEREFORE**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. An increase in the regular property tax levy is hereby authorized for the levy to the maximum allowable rate be collected in the 2022 tax year.

Section 2. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year shall be (\$0.00), which is a percentage increase of 0.00 percent over 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 3. Ordinance filing required. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this ordinance to the Office of the Auditor of the State of Washington, Division of Municipal Corporations. The City Clerk is further directed to transmit a certified copy of this ordinance to both the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer and to the Pierce County Council, Attention Clerk immediately after passage by the City Council but no later than November 30, 2020.

Section 4. Recertification authorized. The City Clerk is further directed to timely file any recertification needed after receipt of the final adjusted year-end values in December from the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer. Such recertification, if needed, shall be filed no later than the date established by the County Assessor's Office.

Section 5. Publication. This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

Section 6. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after passage and legal publication.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Ruston and attested by the City Clerk in authentication of such passage on this 16th day of November, 2021.

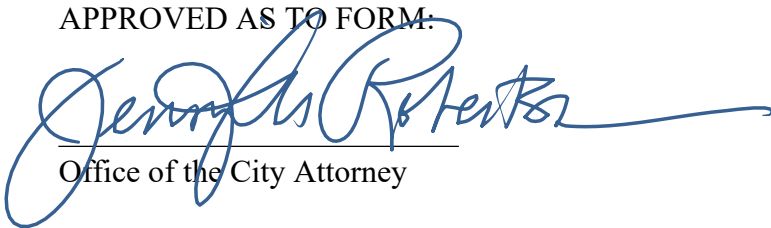
APPROVED by the Mayor this 16th day of November, 2021.

Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Judy Grams, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: _____

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: _____

PUBLISHED: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO: 1552