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2 **Resolution Relating to**
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RESOLUTION
Sponsor(s): Councilors Shannon
Paul

Introduced: _____
Referred to: _____

Action: _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor: _____

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6 MARCH 4, 2014 ANNUAL CITY MEETING—
7 INCREASE IN MAXIMUM TAX RATE FOR
8 GENERAL CITY PURPOSES AUTHORIZED
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12 **CITY OF BURLINGTON**
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14 In the year Two Thousand Fourteen.....

15 Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

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17 That WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor have a common over-arching goal to provide quality
18 services that are reasonably affordable and achievable for all City residents and the people who work,
19 shop, and otherwise enjoy our City; and

20 WHEREAS, in its due diligence to provide reasonably affordable services, the last time the City
21 approved a General City Tax Rate increase for general city services was on March 2, 2004 for \$.0050; and

22 WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Administration has presented the City Council a plan it intends to
23 implement to avoid FY’16 property tax increases; and

24 WHEREAS, while the Mayor’s Administration is actively pursuing a variety of municipal
25 revenue-creating strategies that will substantially grow municipal revenues over the long term, in FY’15
26 we expect the historic trends of expenses rising faster than revenue streams to continue; and

27 WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Administration has carefully analyzed the City’s budget and the various
28 important and essential needs summarized in this Resolution that are required to meet this over-arching
29 goal; and

30 WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Administration and City Council are actively pursuing long-term
31 initiatives to control employee pension and health care cost increases that are the major drivers in budget
32 increases; and

33 WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Administration and City Council are actively pursuing long-term
34 initiatives to work with the Burlington School District and surrounding municipalities to collaborate on
35 reducing costs and improving services; and

36 WHEREAS, to provide quality services the City of Burlington needs to make investments in its
37 infrastructure and equipment to reduce future costs and increase accessibility for community space; and

38 WHEREAS, making financial investments to upgrade the City’s computer technology will allow
39 the City to better serve the citizens through improved, expanded, easier to find information as well as staff
40 data analysis, collection, efficiency and future expenditure reductions; and
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Resolution Relating to

MARCH 4, 2014 ANNUAL CITY MEETING—
INCREASE IN MAXIMUM TAX RATE FOR
GENERAL CITY PURPOSES AUTHORIZED

WHEREAS, City taxpayers will be best served if the City has the capability to assess and initiate long-term planning for capital, energy efficiency, and vehicle and equipment replacement; and

WHEREAS, because over the last few years the number of calls to our Police Department has increased while staffing levels have not increased, and preventing problems rather than only responding best facilitates crime prevention and serves Burlingtonians, it is therefore imperative to have a new Police Department staff member dedicated to providing regular detailed information to department leadership to better identify trends, deploy resources, and expand our communication and outreach to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, having the capacity to analyze our systems and processes to make them less cumbersome to the public will lead to greater efficiency and reduced cost; and

WHEREAS, consolidating the responsibilities and tasks of our financial, accounting, billing, and purchasing functions will result in faster recovery of money owed to the City, thereby increasing City revenues, providing simpler billing for citizens, reducing costs for the purchase of materials, and greatly improving implementation of plans to reduce costs and increase sources of new non-property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, although these steps are necessary for the future financial stability of the City, the City does not have sufficient revenue and must, therefore, raise additional revenue to meet all of the items identified in the Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Administration presented this framework to the City Council at its Budget Work Session on January 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, to build an affordable and sustainable budget to accomplish these improvements, the Mayor has proposed that the City Council place a question on the Annual City Meeting ballot asking the voters to approve a 2 ¼ cent increase in the property tax; and

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with the Mayor and the Administration that these improvements and a 2 ¼ cent increase in the property tax to accomplish them are necessary; and

WHEREAS, this budget with a 2 ¼ cent tax increase is one more step toward achieving the City's financial stability and providing quality services essential to and desired by the citizens of Burlington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following question be placed on the ballot of the Annual City Meeting to be held March 4, 2014:

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Resolution Relating to

MARCH 4, 2014 ANNUAL CITY MEETING—
INCREASE IN MAXIMUM TAX RATE FOR
GENERAL CITY PURPOSES AUTHORIZED

"Shall the maximum General City Tax Rate (one component of the overall City tax rate) pursuant to Sec. 99 of the City Charter be increased by \$0.0225 upon the dollar of the property grand list from \$0.2379 to \$0.2604, a 2.97% increase on the Fiscal Year 2014 overall City tax rate of \$0.7584, to maintain current services, invest in municipal infrastructure, and implement energy and cost savings improvements in municipal facilities?"