

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Livingston was held via Livestream from Facebook @facebook.com/LivingstonTownshipNJ on the above date at 11:00 a.m.. The Mayor stated that notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Law", and that Annual Notice was faxed to the West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger on January 2, 2020, and that "48-hr. notice" was faxed and emailed to these same publications and posted on the Livingston Township website (livingstonnj.org) on April 29, 2020.

Present (via Livestream): Mayor Fernandez, Deputy Mayor Klein, Councilmember Anthony, Councilmember Meinhardt, Councilmember Vieira, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Township Clerk Turtletaub, Deputy Township Clerk Mazzucco,

Absent: None

Mayor Fernandez asked everyone to stand for a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Township Manager Lewis explained the rationale for R-20-118 and R-20-119, and their benefit to taxpayers. There were no questions from the public.

Resolutions

a) R-20-118 Extending Grace Period on 2nd Quarter Property Taxes to June 1, 2020

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented itself as both a public health emergency and an economic crisis of unprecedented proportions; and,

WHEREAS, many residents and taxpayers of the Township of Livingston have been adversely impacted by the economic downturn resulting from this crisis; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council is desirous of providing relief to taxpayers who have been adversely impacted wherever legally permissible and economically practical for the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 54:4-67.a, adopted Resolution #20-117 on April 27, 2020, lowering the interest rate on delinquent 2nd quarter taxes, which was at that time the only available method for the Township to provide relief; and

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 on and effective April 28, 2020 granting New Jersey municipalities with calendar year budget cycles the option of extending second-quarter 2020 property tax grace periods until June 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Livingston operates under a calendar year budget cycle with second-quarter 2020 property taxes due May, 1 2020 and with a statutory grace period for payment of such second-quarter taxes ending May 11, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council in its continuing effort to provide relief to taxpayers from the ongoing economic hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic, has determined that it is in the best interests of the Township to invoke the permissive authority granted by Executive Order No. 130 and extend the grace period for payment of second-quarter 2020 property taxes within the Township of Livingston until June 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Livingston, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that it does hereby extend the grace period for the payment of second-quarter 2020 property taxes within the Township of Livingston through and including June 1, 2020 pursuant to Executive Order No. 130 issued by Governor Philip D. Murphy on and effective April 28, 2020; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that payments made after June 1, 2020 shall be considered delinquent and shall be subject to the 6% rate of interest provided in Resolution #20-117, as amended in Resolution #20-119, retroactively from May 1, 2020 and thereafter for the duration of any 2nd quarter taxes delinquency.

b) R-20-119 Amending R-20-117 Establishing Rate of Interest on Delinquent 2nd Quarter Property Taxes

WHEREAS, as authorized by NJ.S.A. 54:4-67a, the Township Council adopted Resolution #20-117 on April 27, 2020 lowering the rate of interest on delinquent 2nd quarter property taxes to 6% for taxes paid after May 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 on and effective April 28, 2020 granting New Jersey municipalities with calendar year budget cycles the option of extending second-quarter 2020 property tax grace periods until June 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Resolution #20-118 on May 1, 2020 extending the grace period on 2nd quarter property taxes through and including June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the extended grace period necessitates an amendment to Resolution #20-117 to include the new extended grace period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Livingston in the county of Essex that the rate of interest for taxes unpaid after June 1, 2020 is fixed at 6% on all delinquent 2nd quarter property taxes from May 1, 2020 and thereafter for the duration of the 2nd quarter property tax delinquency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rate of interest for taxes unpaid shall be calculated from date of the quarterly payment until the date of actual payment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the official newspaper of the Township of Livingston and a copy of this adopted Resolution forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs and notice shall be served upon all taxpayers as required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-67a.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective August 1, 2020 the rate of interest for taxes unpaid after August 1, 2020 is fixed at 8% on the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount of taxes in excess of \$1,500.00, which rates shall apply to all taxes due after that date.

On roll call vote of R-20-118 and R-20-119, all members present voted YES.

Township Clerk Turtletaub and Deputy Clerk Mazzucco read questions received via email from Township residents directed to the Council, and each was responded to by the Council and Township officials.

Jeffrey Grabell, 81 Irving Ave., commended the Council and Township Manager Lewis “for the tremendous job they are doing during these trying times of COVID-19.” Mr. Grabell suggested the Township hold Pop Up Drive in Movie nights, and offered to lead or co-chair an ad hoc committee on the issue. Councilmember Klein noted another resident had suggested the same idea, and stated he would put Mr. Grabell in touch with that resident. Councilmember Anthony thanked Mr. Grabell for his comments, and Councilmember Meinhardt stated the town would give a response by a week from Monday.

Helen Engel, thanked the Council for keeping the community advised on Covid cases arising in nursing homes, and asked whether those homes needed PPE. Manager Lewis responded and will follow up with Health Officer Anello.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

RUFINO FERNANDEZ, Jr. Mayor
GLENN R. TURTLETAUB, Township Clerk