



AGENDA

CITY OF CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

June 18th, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.

Honorable Curtis Jenkins, President
Honorable Marilyn Torres, Vice President
Honorable Victor Carstarphen
Honorable Sheila Davis
Honorable Angel Fuentes
Honorable Felisha Reyes-Morton
Honorable Shaneka Boucher

Honorable Francisco “Frank” Moran, Mayor

Michelle Spearman, City Attorney
Howard McCoach-Acting Counsel to Council

Luis Pastoriza, Municipal Clerk



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2020 – 12:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

NOTICE OF MEETING

RESOLUTIONS

Department of Administration

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF INTEREST AND ADVERTISING COSTS ON TAXES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 54:4-99

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Please note summary of Public Decorum rules below.

Rule XVII: Decorum

Any person who shall disturb the peace of the Council, make impertinent or slanderous remarks or conduct himself in a boisterous manner while addressing the Council shall be forthwith barred by the presiding officer from further audience before the Council, except that if the speaker shall submit to proper order under these rules, permission for him to continue may be granted by a majority vote of the Council.

City Council meetings shall be conducted in a courteous manner. Citizens and Council members will be allowed to state their positions in an atmosphere free of slander, threats of violence or the use of Council as a forum for politics. Sufficient warnings may be given by the Chair at any time during the remarks and, in the event that any individual shall violate the rules of decorum heretofore set forth, the Chairperson may then cut off comment or debate. At the discretion of the Chairperson, light signals may be used to display the commencement of the time for speaking and a warning light may be flashed to show that the appropriate time has passed. A red light will signal that there is no longer time.

Please note: Since the City of Camden remains under a Declaration of a Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 virus, City Hall is closed. Therefore, this Special Meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting via a remote conferencing platform; Zoom. Instructions on accessing this virtual Special meeting can be found on the City of Camden's website: <https://www.ci.camden.nj.us/>.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF INTEREST AND
ADVERTISING COSTS ON TAXES PURSUANT TO NJSA 54:4-99**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a horror of death and economic devastation on our state, our nation and the world and communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by this terrible disease in terms of higher mortality rates and job losses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Camden has been particularly impacted with the City having more than 2000 positive cases of COVID-19, twice as many as any other municipality in Camden County and an unemployment rate of over 15%; and

WHEREAS, at the end of April, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 to provide economic relief to the beleaguered taxpayers of New Jersey who were facing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic which Executive Order allowed municipalities with a state fiscal year to extend the grace period for the payment of 2nd quarter taxes from May 11 to June 1st but also provided that any municipality which extended the grace period could not hold an accelerated (June) tax sale; and

WHEREAS, the City wanted to provide relief to its residents, however it could not in good conscience and potential contravention of its Transitional Aid MOU with the Division of Local Government Services, extend the grace period and forego the accelerated tax sale without causing extreme financial harm to the city as the City collects approximately 25% of its annual taxes at the accelerated tax sale; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and City Council acknowledge that the news was full of reports about the Governor extending the due date for local real estate taxes to June 1st and unfortunately, many of the City taxpayers were confused by the news reports and mistakenly believed that the grace period for their 2nd quarter taxes had been extended, when in reality that was not the case; and

WHEREAS, NJSA 54:4-99 authorizes a governing body of a municipality to "make such abatement, revision, alteration, adjustment and settlement of any past due taxes, assessments and other municipal charges, both of principal and any and all interest and penalties thereon, as it shall deem equitable and just and be for the best interest of the municipality..."; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the confusion surrounding the expiration of the grace period and the great medical and economic hardships suffered by the residents of the City of Camden as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Mayor and City Council believe that it is equitable, just and in the best interest of the City of Camden to abate the interest and advertising costs imposed on any taxpayer that made payment between May 11, 2020 and June 1, 2020, provided however, to the extent that Camden County Municipal Utility charges were included in the charges then the interest on such CCMUA charge and the advertisement charge shall remain unchanged.

WHEREAS, the abatement will be effectuated by way of a credit of the full interest and advertisement charged to each taxpayer's account; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Camden that the Director of Finance is hereby authorized to abate the interest and advertising costs imposed on any taxpayer that made payment between May 11, 2020 and June 1, 2020, provided however, to the extent that Camden County Municipal Utility ("CCMUA") charges were included in the charges then the interest on such CCMUA charge and the advertisement charge shall remain unchanged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such abatement shall be effected by way of a credit to the next quarter's taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27BBB-23, a true copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State Commissioner of Community Affairs, who shall have ten (10) days from the receipt thereof to veto this Resolution. All notices of veto shall be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Date of introduction: June 18, 2020

The above has been reviewed
and approved as to form.



MICHELLE BANKS-SPEARMAN
City Attorney

CURTIS JENKINS
President, City Council

ATTEST:

LUIS PASTORIZA
Municipal Clerk

CITY OF CAMDEN
CITY COUNCIL REQUEST FORM

Council Meeting: June 18, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Jason J. Asuncion, Esq., Business Administrator

Department Making Request: Administration

TITLE OF RESOLUTION:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF INTEREST AND
ADVERTISING COSTS ON TAXES PURSUANT TO NJSA 54:4-99.**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a horror of death and economic devastation on our state, our nation and the world. Communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by this terrible disease in terms of higher mortality rates and job losses. The City of Camden has been particularly impacted. The City has more than 2000 positive cases of COVID-19, twice as many as any other municipality in Camden County. Since the pandemic started the City's unemployment rate has risen to over 15%.

At the end of April, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 to provide economic relief to the beleaguered taxpayers of New Jersey who were facing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. EO No. 130 allowed municipalities with a state fiscal year to extend the grace period for the payment of 2nd quarter taxes from May 11 to June 1st. The EO also provided that any municipality which extended the grace period could not hold an accelerated tax sale. While the City wanted to provide relief to its residents, it could not in good conscience and potential contravention of its Transitional Aid MOU with the Division of Local Government Services, extend the grace period and forego the accelerated tax sale without causing extreme financial harm to the city. The City collects approximately 25% of its annual taxes at the accelerated tax sale.

The news was full of reports about the Governor extending the due date for local real estate taxes to June 1st. Unfortunately, many of the City residents were confused by the news reports and mistakenly believed that the grace period for their 2nd quarter taxes had been extended, when in reality that was not the case.

NJSA 54:4-99 authorizes a governing body of a municipality to "make such abatement, revision, alteration, adjustment and settlement of any past due taxes, assessments and other municipal charges, both of principal and any and all interest and penalties thereon, as it shall deem equitable and just and be for the best interest of the municipality..." Approximately 2126 accounts were paid between May 11 and June 1, 2020. In light of the confusion surrounding the expiration of the grace period and the great medical and economic hardships suffered by the residents of the City of Camden, the Mayor and City Council believe that it is equitable, just and in the best interest of the City of Camden to abate the interest and advertising costs imposed on any taxpayer that made payment between May 11, 2020 and June 1,

Please note that the Contact Person is the point person for providing pertinent information regarding request.

If request is a walk-on, the Contact Person will be responsible for picking up the Council request(s) from the City Attorney's Office to make necessary copies for Council Meeting.

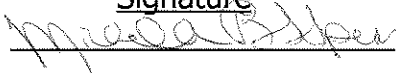
******Please attach all supporting documents******

2020, provided however, to the extent that Camden County Municipal Utility charges were included in the charges then the interest on such CCMUA charge and the advertisement charge shall remain unchanged. The abatement will be effectuated by way of a credit of the full interest and advertisement charged to each taxpayer's account.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT TO BE CHARGED:

AMOUNT OF PROPOSED CONTRACT:

☐ **Waiver Request Form Attached for State DCA/DLGS Approval - (If applicable)**
For Example: **Form "A"** - Request for approval of Employees Requiring Advice and Consent of Governing Body, **Form "D"** - Contract Request, **Form "E"** - Creation/Extension of Services, **Form "G"** - Grant Approval, **Form "H"** - Bond Ordinance or Contract Request, **Form "I"**, "Best Price Insurance Contracting" Model Ordinance

	Date	Signature
Approved by City Attorney:	2/16/20	
Approved by Grants Management:		(If applicable)
Approved by Finance Director:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAF –Certifications of Availability of Funds		
Approved by Business Administrator:	6-16-20	Jason J. Asuncion

(Name) Please Print (Extension #)

Prepared By: _____

Contact Person: _____

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****Please attach all supporting documents****