

CALL TO ORDER

Special Meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council held on May 4, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Kilpatrick at 6:04 P.M. followed by a salute to the flag.

STATEMENT OF NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Municipal Clerk Morelos announced that this Special Meeting has been advertised and posted in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 by advertising in the Home News Tribune, notifying the Star Ledger and the Sentinel Publishing Co., posting on the bulletin board and filing with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call: Councilpersons Dalina(telephone), Enriquez, Maher(telephone), McGill(telephone), Novak(telephone), Roberts

Absent: None

Others Present: Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick
Jessica Morelos, Municipal Clerk
Nicole Waranowicz, Asst. Municipal Clerk
Business Admin. Frankel (telephone)
C.F.O./Treasurer Biancamano (telephone)
Borough Attorney DuPont (telephone)

Others Absent: Borough Engineer (not required to be in attendance)

Mayor Kilpatrick stated that we are having this meeting to discuss Executive Order 130 as it relates to tax extensions for the May 1st quarter. She stated that residents are going through some difficult times. Mayor stated that there are three options they have which is they can accept the executive order, not follow the executive order, or a hybrid situation to this which relates to our needs and the residents. She stated that it would extend the tax deadline to June 1st but certain entities such as banks, mortgage processors or other financial companies that collected tax escrows from property owners are excluded.

CFO Biancamano stated she does have some concerns because there is some uncertainty. She stated we are receiving tax payments daily. CFO Biancamano stated she does agree with the mortgage companies being excluded because they are a large portion of the tax dollars. She stated that she thinks the Borough will be able to hang in there if the resolution is passed. She stated that she may have to pull in the investments from different financial institutions.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she is very proud of the taxpayers for stepping up. She stated that she completely agrees with this as long as the mortgage processors make their payment. She stated that this is really mean for people who are struggling and need this extension.

Councilman Enriquez agrees wholeheartedly with this resolution and to move forward with this.

Councilwoman Roberts thanked the Mayor for drafting this resolution because she was under the impression that it had to be applied equally.

Council President Novak stated she is happy this isn't all or nothing because she would have voted no on it. She questioned the CFO about the bigger industries that are not experience this and apply it them as well.

CFO Biancamano stated that she will have to defer this to the Borough Attorney.

MAY 4, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING

Borough Attorney DuPont responded the problem you come into is what is considered a big company. He stated that the problem with narrowing or expanding it is that you potentially come into some issues that you don't want to deal with. Mr. DuPont recommended to leave it as is.

Council President Novak questioned that we wouldn't be breaking any interest on these accounts.

CFO Biancamano responded that there aren't any accounts tied up in CD's and they are all money market accounts.

Council President Novak stated that 25 extra days to someone that isn't receiving a pay check doesn't mean anything. She asked if there is something we can do with another resolution for those people at a later date.

Mayor responded that the executive order stated the municipalities don't have the right to extend it past what the executive order states.

Borough Attorney DuPont confirmed that.

Council President Novak questioned if we can reach out to the County or Board of Education to delay the payments to those entities.

Mayor stated there was a bill regarding that but that it stalled.

Borough Attorney DuPont stated that bill was not passed and we do not have the right to delay it.

Council President Novak thanked the Mayor for working hard on this.

Municipal Clerk Morelos read Resolution #2020-106 in full.

READ IN FULL

RESOLUTION #2020-106

**RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR
PAYMENT OF CERTAIN SECOND QUARTER
PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), second-quarter property taxes are due May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, property taxpayers in the Borough may be suffering from one or more financial hardships caused by or related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to a substantial loss of or drop in income and additional expenses such as those relating to necessary healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused substantial disruption for many property taxpayers in the Borough, making it difficult for many residents to meet the May 1, 2020 due date for timely payment of real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), local governments may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for second-quarter property taxes in the case of municipalities on a calendar year budget cycle; and

MAY 4, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 allowing a governing body of a municipality with a calendar year budget cycle adopt a resolution extending the grace period for the payment of second-quarter property taxes to a date no later than June 1, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Sayreville, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that grace period for the second quarter 2020 property taxes due May 1, 2020 is hereby extended to June 1, 2020 as permitted by Executive Order No. 130; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that banks, mortgage processors or other financial companies that have collected tax escrows from property owners are excluded from the extension of the grace period, and must submit payments by May 1, 2020 with a ten (10) day grace period until May 11, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Borough Clerk shall notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this resolution not later than the third business day next following the adoption of said resolution.

/s/Donna Roberts, Councilwoman
(Admin. & Finance Committee)

Reviewed by the Borough Attorney and is approved as to form and the Resolution satisfies all of the legal requirements for the Mayor's signature.

/s/Michael R. DuPont, Borough Attorney

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF SAYREVILLE

/s/Jessica Morelos, RMC
Municipal Clerk

/s/Victoria Kilpatrick
Mayor

At this time Mayor Kilpatrick opened the meeting up to the public for questions or comments on this resolution.

Those appearing:

Layla Tadros, 42 Iroquois Dr.

Ms. Tadros asked if there were any funds that residents can contribute to help those in need.

Mayor Kilpatrick suggested that she reach out to the Police Dept.

Borough Clerk read into record comments she received via email from the following:

- Jim Robinson, 11 Borelle Square

I know that more than 70% of the money the town collects in taxes goes to the Board of Education and Middlesex County and the town hasn't been given a waiver to delay making those payments on time.

While I think I would be wonderful to extend the day taxes are due to June, I don't know how the town could do that and still pay the county, the schools and its own bills.

I do think however, that since so many people, especially seniors without mortgages, usually pay their taxes by coming to Borough Hall, and can no longer do that, the \$1.05 fee for paying on line should be waived for at least this quarter. Thank you very much for all the town is doing and for the opportunity to comment. Stay safe.

MAY 4, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor stated that residents can pay using the drop box or the mail. She stated the \$1.05 fee is not a fee the borough receives and they can't waive it.

Councilwoman Roberts moved the public portion be closed. Seconded by Councilwoman Novak.

Roll Call: Councilpersons Roberts, Dalina, Enriquez, Maher, McGill, Novak, all Ayes. Carried.

Councilwoman Roberts moved the resolution be adopted on roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman Enriquez.

Roll Call: Councilpersons Roberts, Dalina, Enriquez, Maher, McGill, Novak, all Ayes. Carried.

No Further business. Councilman Enriquez made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Roberts.

Roll Call: Councilpersons Enriquez, Dalina, Maher, McGill, Novak, Roberts, all Ayes.

Time 6:33 PM

SIGNED:

Jessica Morelos, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Date Approved