

R1:05/04/20 SP

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, by way of Executive Orders, Governor Philip D. Murphy declared the concurrent invocation of both a State of Emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. App.A.:9-33 et seq. and a Public Health Emergency as contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., which action invoked the authority and powers contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-3, the Emergency Health Powers Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Carolyn Solon, the Emergency Management Coordinator of the Borough of Watchung and Mayor Keith Balla declared a local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), second-quarter property taxes are due May 1, 2020 for municipalities on a calendar year budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), the Borough of Watchung by way of prior Resolution provided for a grace period 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; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 allowing a governing body of a municipality with a calendar year budget cycle to adopt a resolution extending the grace period for the payment of second-quarter property taxes to a date no later than June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers 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 taxpayers making it difficult for residents to meet the May 1, 2020 due date for timely payment of real property taxes; and

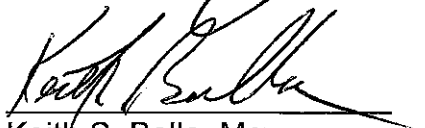
WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are aware of some of the personal financial hardships the Pandemic has caused and desire to take whatever steps are legally possible to provide temporary relief to Watchung taxpayers.

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the State and Federal declarations of a major disaster throughout New Jersey, the Council of the Borough of Watchung has determined to authorize the extension of the grace period for Watchung taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Watchung, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey that it hereby extends the grace period for the payment of the second quarter property taxes to June 1, 2020 as provided for in Executive Order No. 130; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to extend the grace period for the second quarter tax payment of 2020 to June 1, 2020, as per NJ State Statute provisions, with the third quarter tax payment remaining due on the established dated of August 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Municipal 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.


Council
Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Date: May 4, 2020

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c: B. Hance, D. Gaebele

5/12/20