

**FAIR HAVEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING – MAY 1, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lucarelli at 4:00 p.m. The Flag Salute was led by Councilman McCue. The following Sunshine Law Notice was read:

**THIS IS THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (NJSA 10:4-8(b)).**

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION, THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN'S MUNICIPAL FACILITIES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. THIS MEETING IS BEING PRESENTED THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM AND BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 748 RIVER ROAD, FAIR HAVEN, NJ. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 1, 2020 IS AVAILABLE BY CALL IN PHONE NUMBER OR THROUGH WEB CONFERENCE (ZOOM). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ON MUTE UNTIL PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENT TIME, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED. AT THAT TIME THE PUBLIC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION/COMMENT BY PHONE OR THROUGH ZOOM BY THE "RAISE HAND" BUTTON AND WILL BE CALLED ON AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.**

**NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC WHO REQUESTED SUCH NOTIFICATION, SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES, THE HUB AND THE STAR LEDGER ON APRIL 29, 2020. THE NOTICE WAS POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, IN CONSTANT CONTACT, ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AS REQUIRED UNDER THE STATUTE.**

**ROLL CALL**

On Roll Call the following were present via Zoom remote access: Mayor Lucarelli. Councilmembers Chrisner-Keefe, Koch, McCue, Rodriguez and Sorensen. Absent: Councilman Banahan. Others present were: Administrator Casagrande and Attorney Alfieri.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

The meeting was open to the public for comments or questions at 4:03 p.m. There being none, the meeting was closed to the public at 4:04 p.m.

**RESOLUTION**

1. Resolution No. 2020-90, Extend 2nd Quarter 2020 Property Tax Grace Period

**WHEREAS**, the Borough sets a ten (10) day grace period of Quarterly Property Tax payments by Resolution each year on January 1<sup>st</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Governor Philip D Murphy's Executive Order No. 130 signed April 28, 2020, "Any governing body of a municipality with a calendar year budget cycle may adopt a Resolution instituting a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of the second-quarter property taxes"; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body in compliance with Executive Order No. 130 will extend the grace period for payment of second-quarter 2020 property taxes to June 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, any payment received after the close of business on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, for the second quarter of 2020 (normally due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020), interest shall be charged back to the due date of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, as required by State Statute; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Haven that the grace period for the payment of the 2020 second-quarter property taxes due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, only be extended to the close of business on Monday, June 1, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** there will not be any refunds issued for taxes that have been paid to the Borough.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to Executive Order 130, the Borough is directed to notify the Director of the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs of this resolution no later than May 8, 2020 and that a certified

copy of this resolution also be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector.

Councilwoman Chrisner-Keefe asked if this resolution was an extension for Fair Haven to pay taxes to the State. She was advised that we only pay taxes to the County and School Boards. Administrator Casagrande said that she and Colleen Lapp, Chief Financial Officer, communicated with each of the school boards and we will be splitting the payments by paying them on May 15<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. The Borough is waiting to hear from the County to see if they are extending their tax grace period from May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Borough is watching the cash flow carefully. Mayor Lucarelli spoke with Freeholder Arnone in regard to any tax payment extension or lowering the interest rate (currently 6%), if not paid on time. Senator O'Scanlon was working on legislation for the grace period; we are still waiting to hear the outcome. Administrator Casagrande said that Governor Murphy acted on Executive Order No. 130 without realizing how it affects the local level of government. It was thought that it would be best to give our residents relief through this resolution which is why we called for this special meeting. Any payment received after June 1<sup>st</sup> will accrue interest back to the May 1<sup>st</sup> statutory deadline.

Councilman Rodriguez asked why type of financial impact this action will have on the Borough and if we are absorbing any ramifications. Finance is watching the Borough's spending and cash flow. The only ramification is cash flow to disburse to the County and School Boards.

Councilman Banahan joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Administrator Casagrande said that she and Colleen Lapp spoke with the School Board Administrators and Superintendents regarding their payments and we are waiting on the County to give guidance when they expect their tax payment will be due. Councilman Rodriguez asked, "are the books closed, at this point, and are we ahead of budget or behind due to COVID-19?" Administrator Casagrande said that the Borough is fine to pay its bills so far.

Councilman Banahan said that he understands that Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School wants their payment in full, however, they know how the process works and that how COVID-19 is affecting everyone is out of our control. Administrator Casagrande said the high school is relying on the disbursement we send them for their payroll and to pay their bills. The Borough has a good working relationship with the schools. There was brief discussion regarding Colleen Lapp's finance memo in which a portion addressed Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School's Debt Service.

Offered for adoption by Councilwoman Sorensen, second by Councilwoman Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Banahan, Chrisner-Keefe, Koch, McCue, Rodriguez and Sorensen  
Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

### **GOOD OF THE BOROUGH**

Mayor Lucarelli opened the meeting to the public for comments and/or questions at 4:15 p.m. There being none, the meeting was closed to the public at 4:15 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn moved by Councilwoman Sorensen, second by Councilwoman Koch with Ayes by all present.

Time of Adjournment: 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allyson M. Cinquegrana, RMC/CMR  
Borough Clerk