

Note: Complete Meeting Appears
on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_ODDIPaV9E

April 30, 2020
Wildwood Crest, NJ

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Mr. Cabrera led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Borough of Wildwood Crest, Cape May County, New Jersey, was held in the Municipal Court Room at 11:00 a.m. On roll call the following answered to their names:

Gould - Thompson - Cabrera - YES

Prior to reading the Open Public Meetings Act statement, Mr. Cabrera reminded everyone that the meeting was being streamed on Youtube, Facebook and via phone in.

Mr. Cabrera read the following statement: In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, the notice requirements have been satisfied as to the time, place and date of holding said SPECIAL meeting by posting notice on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall and by mailing, posting on the Borough's social media pages, uploading to the Borough's website and e-mailing and same to the Gazette-Leader, Herald of Cape May County and The Press on April 28, 2020.

Mr. Cabrera next announced the one-way in and the one-way out method of ingress and egress in case of emergency.

The Mayor announced the Notice of Special Meeting was published on Tuesday, April 28th and the business to be discussed was the interest rate for delinquent taxes. On Wednesday, April 29th, Governor introduced Executive Order 130, which allowed for the grace period to be extended through until June 1, 2020.

The Mayor indicated for clarity purposes that Executive Order 130 is for the Second Quarter only and the Resolution that the Board of Commissioners are presenting confirms the Governor's orders. The 2nd Quarter taxes are still due May 1st and instead of having the normal 10-day grace period (with zero interest), the Governor has extended that to June 1st with zero interest. Also, if taxes are not received by June 1st, then the delinquent interest rate kicks in and reverts to May 1st with the 8% up to \$1,500 and 18% above that amount. Furthermore, he added that the local school district and county have to be paid so there is limited flexibility.

Commissioner Thompson added that extending the grace period is definitely helping and it is the only thing the Borough can do at this time.

Commissioner Gould agreed and emphasized to stay safe at this time.

The Mayor informed everyone that there will not be any mailings as per the Governor's order. There will be a press release forthcoming. Lastly, he indicated that the governing body has been discussing this issue for 3-4 weeks and this resolution pertains only to the 2nd quarter taxes.

THE CLERK READS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-161
**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOROUGH OF
WILDWOOD CREST EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR PAYMENT OF
DELINQUENT SECOND-QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 104 enacting several "social distancing" regulations, including but not limited to, limiting public gatherings, closing educational facilities, closing various recreation and entertainment based businesses, imposed restrictions on scope of service and hours of operation for other non-essential retail, recreational, restaurant/bars and entertainment businesses; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 107 which expanded the social distancing regulations set forth within Executive Order 104, including but not limited to, directing all New Jersey residents to remain in their home or place of residence with specific limited exceptions, prohibited gatherings of any size, closed all non-essential retail businesses and identified essential businesses permitted to continue to operate subject to specific limitations, and reiterated and strengthened social distancing requirements when in public; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 2020-8 of the State Director of Emergency Management amended Paragraph 3 of Executive Order No. 108 (2020) to allow municipalities and counties to impose additional restrictions in response to COVID-19 on the ability of hotels, motels, guest houses, or private residences, or parts thereof, to accept new transient guests or seasonal tenants after the effective date of this order; and

WHEREAS, the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Resolution No. 250-20 pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2020-8 prohibited all hotels, motels, guest houses and other transient, seasonal and short-term rental businesses from lodging any new transient guests or seasonal tenant in the County of Cape May; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Wildwood Crest Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator pursuant to Proclamation 2020-1 closed all beaches and parks within the Borough of Wildwood Crest; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 130 which authorizes any governing body of a municipality with a calendar year budget cycle to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, due to the financial hardships property taxpayers are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and the State and Federal declarations of a major disaster throughout New Jersey, the prohibition on short term seasonal rentals, social distancing restrictions and the restrictions placed on restaurants and retail business establishments, the Board of Commissioners wishes to exercise that authority granted to it by Executive Order 130 and institute an extended grace period concluding on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Wildwood Crest, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order 130, hereby extends the grace period established by Borough of Wildwood Crest Resolution No. 2020-08 which shall commence on May 1, 2020 and conclude on June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes, effective May 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the official newspaper of the Borough of Wildwood Crest and a copy of this adopted Resolution forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs not later than the third business day next following the adoption of this Resolution.

Mrs. Gould motions, Mr. Thompson seconds that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Vote: Gould - Thompson – Cabrera – YES

The mayor opened the floor for public commentary.

The Mayor noted that “no other business, discussion, or public comments will be permitted at this time, except specifically with respect to the item listed above, due to the limitations imposed on this meeting by the notice authorizing same pursuant to the full provisions of the open public meetings act.”

On the conference call, Tim Keough, 407 Monterey Avenue, asked for the mechanism to get something on a future agenda. The Mayor indicated to contact the Clerk and she would forward to the governing body and that to make an agenda, it would need to be received the Thursday before the scheduled meeting. Mr. Keough explained that he left a comment on the Facebook page and the Mayor indicated the Public Information Officer would forward to the Clerk.

No further comments from the conference line or from Facebook or Youtube were received.

Hearing nothing further from the public, Mrs. Gould motioned and Mr. Thompson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All commissioners were in favor. The time was 11:12 a.m.

Dated: May 20, 2020

Patricia A. Feketics, Borough Clerk

