

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Agenda
April 21, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Mary Jane Canose
Council Member John Donahue
Council Member Jeffrey Hammond
Council Member Jena McCredie
Council Member Chad McQueen
Council Member Thomas O’Dea
Council Member Christine Zamarra

2. **STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News, Courier News and the Star Ledger, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on April 18, 2020.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **OPEN SESSION**

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor & Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 3 minutes. If reading from a prepared statement, please provide a copy and email a copy to the Clerk’s Office after making your comments so it may be properly reflected in the minutes.

5. **RESOLUTIONS**

#20-128 ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

6. **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

6A. Boxcar Request for Drive Thru Grocery Program at the Train Station Parking Lot

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
RESOLUTION 20-128**

**A RESOLUTION LOWERING THE INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT
BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAXES**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 54:4-67 provides in relevant part that:

“The governing body may . . . fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes . . . 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 payable. The rate so fixed shall not exceed 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, to be calculated from the date the tax was payable until the date that actual payment to the tax collector is made. . . .”; and

WHEREAS, at its annual reorganization meeting held on January 2, 2020, the governing body adopted Resolution 20-13 which fixed the rate of interest for delinquent taxes at, “8% per annum on the first \$1500 of the delinquency, 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1500 **BOTH TO BE INCREASED**”; and **TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY LAW IN THE EVENT OF AN INCREASE IN THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM**”; and

WHEREAS, many Borough residents have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a result, may be unable to pay their taxes on time; and

WHEREAS, the governing body wishes to ease the burden on those taxpayers by lowering the interest rate on delinquent taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of Borough of Bernardsville, in the County of Somerset, State of new jersey, as follows:

1. Commencing with the 2nd quarter 2020 taxes, due on May 1, 2020, the interest rate for delinquent taxes shall be lowered to _____% per annum on the first \$1500 of the delinquency, _____% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1500.
2. Accordingly, the relevant section of Resolution 20-13 is amended to read as follows:

FOR TAXES NOT IN ARREARS, 0% for nine days following the due date. Taxes not paid during this ten day period shall be deemed to be in arrears as of the said first day of the month.

*FOR TAXES IN ARREARS, § _____% per annum on the first \$1500 of the delinquency, 18 _____% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1500 **BOTH TO BE INCREASED TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY LAW IN THE EVENT OF AN INCREASE IN THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM.***

3. In all other respects, Resolution 20-13 shall remain in full force and effect.
4. This Resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the *Bernardsville News*, the official newspaper of the Borough of Bernardsville and a copy of this adopted Resolution forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately

I, Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Bernardsville, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a duly convened meeting held on April 21, 2020.
