

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter held a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Mayor Glidden called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the following statement into the record:

“The purpose of this meeting is to consider extending the grace period for the collection of Second Quarter property taxes. Formal action may be taken. Due to the Declared State of Emergency, the meeting is being held by electronic/telephonic means in accordance with New Jersey law.”

The following information was posted with the notice on the Borough website and sent for publication in The Record and The Star-Ledger as soon as possible:

“The meeting will be open to the public and instructions on how to access the meeting, for the purposes of public comment or questions was posted below in advance of the meeting.

In addition, comments and/or questions will be accepted via e-mail at [ehynes@closternj.us](mailto:ehynes@closternj.us), prior to 3:00 p.m. on May 7, 2020.

**THOSE WHO WISHED TO ATTEND THE MEETING TELEPHONICALLY ARE INVITED TO JOIN BY DIALING:**

**TOLL FREE:** +1 646-558-8656  
**MEETING ID:** 865 3313 5000 **PASSWORD:** 736682”

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Glidden invited all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

48 Hour Notice of this Special Meeting was sent to The Record and Star Ledger on May 4, 2020 for publication as soon as possible, was posted on their respective Community Notices boards upon receipt; will be published in the Bergen Record and the Star-Ledger on May 7, 2020; is posted on the Municipal Clerk’s bulletin board, on the Borough Web Site and on the outer doors of Borough Hall and will remain posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

3. ROLL CALL

At this time, Mayor Glidden asked the Deputy Borough Clerk for a Roll Call for quorum purposes.

The following persons participated via telephone:

Mayor John C. Glidden, Jr.  
Councilpersons Scott Devlin, Alissa Latner, Dolores Witko, Joseph Yammarino,  
Jannie Chung and Victoria Amitai  
Borough Administrator, Edward Hynes  
Borough Attorney, Edward T. Rogan  
Deputy Borough Clerk, Arlene Marie Gray  
IT Coordinator, Kevin Whitney  
Borough Engineer, Nick DeNicola  
Chief Financial Officer, Joseph Luppino  
Chief of Police, Jack McTigue

The following persons were not present:

Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk

4. RESOLUTION INSTITUTING A GRACE PERIOD EXTENDING SECOND QUARTER TAX PAYMENTS TO JUNE 1, 2020 AS PER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 130 (Received from Tax Collector & Borough Attorney 5/4/20)

Mayor Glidden asked for any comments from the Council or public on this Resolution.

Michael Kafer (261 Parsells Lane), sent an email to the Mayor, Joseph Luppino, Leslie Weatherly and Ed Hynes prior to 3 p.m. and said the Mayor has it and should be able to read his questions into the record. Mayor Glidden apologized for not having same in front of him and invited Mr. Kafer to share the questions from his email.

Mr. Kafer asked what percentage of tax collections the Budget assumed and Chief Financial Officer explained the Introduced Budget assumes a 98% collection rate. In answer to what percentage has been collected for this quarter, Mr. Luppino informed the Tax Collector reported 86% has been collected because the mortgage companies paid. He explained that approximately 60-70% of people pay through their mortgage company so the funds have already been sent to the Borough. Mr. Kafer questioned if the Borough would be continuing with the 98% collection assumption or would should it be revised higher or lower. Mr. Luppino reported the Finance Committee has already met and they are in the process of making changes to the Introduced Budget to lower the revenue estimate. They expect there to be some shortages so they are looking to cut expenses but nothing has been finalized yet.

Mr. Kafer expressed his belief that the Borough wasn't going to waste a penny and explained he wasn't concerned about spending – only collection. Chief Financial Officer reminded that historically, we collect 98% or very close to 100% in a normal economy and there are concerns, but he cannot say. If the collection rate does go up then we're offsetting revenues.

Mr. Kafer said assuming there's going to be a shortfall between pre-pandemic Budget and ultimate collections; how would the shortfall be apportioned between the schools, High School and County. Mr. Luppino explained that under the Budget Law it falls onto the Borough. He said any shortfall will be absorbed through Fund Balance but we are going to be proactive; we can cut expenses to make up for it. These are untested times so we will be monitoring and watching, but this is uncharted territory.

Borough Attorney reported that Senator Paul Sarlo introduced S-2392 at 2 p.m. today, a Bill to revise the law requiring the Borough to pay the County and Board of Education if the date is extended to June 1st. There is also a provision to determine percentages based on collections. He cautioned that it has been introduced but reminded there is no guarantee it will pass; and the State is aware of the concerns of municipalities. He voiced his opinion that the announcement seemed like the tax payment date was automatically extended but the Executive Order requires Mayor and Council action for it to be enacted.

Mayor Glidden informed that every Friday there is a Mayor's call and the issue has come up at every meeting. He reassured that the Governor and the Legislature are aware of this and he is happy that Senator Sarlo introduced this Bill.

At this time, Mr. Kafer asked that when the governing body approves this extension that language is included that would urge our Senators and Congress to pass funding for local municipalities.

Councilwoman Amitai voiced her support for adding the language to our Resolution and asked the Borough Attorney if same could be done. Mr. Rogan affirmed he could add the language is the Council agreed they wanted to notify all levels of legislators to urge the federal legislature to support a package for local governments.

Mayor Glidden asked if any member of the Council wished to include Mr. Kafer's proposed amendments. Hearing no one, Mayor Glidden asked for a motion of approval.

Motion of approval was made by Councilman Yammarino, seconded by Councilwoman Amitai and declared carried by Mayor Glidden upon the affirmative vote of Councilpersons Devlin, Latner, Witko, Yammarino, Chung and Amitai.

5. OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR ANY MATTER, PER N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (a)  
(Subject to 5-minute limit per By-Laws General Rule No.11)

Michael Kafer (261 Parsells Lane), once again thanked the Mayor and Council for looking out for the Borough's finances; but he feels a solution to our problem is going to ultimately require Congress to intervene otherwise we will be unsustainable.

Mayor Glidden reported there has been a lot of discussion regarding Memorial Day. He explained that Recreation Director Jim Oettinger proposed a five (5) vehicle caravan that would go around town to place flags on the front lawns of Veterans in Closter. Chief McTigue expects the

County Executive or the Governor imminently to come out with guidance on celebrations; and he said he will wait for guidance on those matters.

Deputy Borough Clerk confirmed that the Special Meeting Notices were published today in The Record and The Star-Ledger.

6. ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH MAY COME BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:49 p.m. was made by Councilwoman Latner, seconded by Councilman Yammarino and declared unanimously carried by Mayor Glidden.

Provided to the Mayor and Council on  
May 28, 2020 for approval at the  
Regular Meeting to be held  
June 10, 2020

---

Arlene Marie Gray, RMC  
Deputy Borough Clerk

Prepared by Arlene Marie Gray, RMC  
utilizing recording and  
Deputy Borough Clerk's notes

Approved at the Regular Meeting held June 10, 2020  
Consent Agenda Item No. 12a

**BOROUGH OF CLOSTER RESOLUTION**  
**Resolution Instituting a Grace Period Extending Second Quarter Tax**  
**Payments to June 1, 2020 as per Executive Order No. 130**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to take action to minimize and mitigate additional hardships, losses or suffering by individuals and local government units as the State and its political subdivisions respond to the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, for these reasons, among others, the strict enforcement of certain statutory provisions relating to property tax grace periods is detrimental to the public welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Philip D. Murphy allows through Executive Order No. 130 for a municipality to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period concluding **on a date no later than June 1, 2020** for the payment of calendar year second quarter property taxes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter authorizes such action regarding the extension of the grace period for second quarter to June 1, 2020 **and** the Municipal Clerk notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs the next day following the municipal adoption of the resolution.

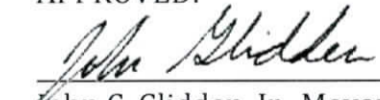
Councilperson	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Devlin			X			
Councilwoman Latner			X			
Councilwoman Witko			X			
Councilman Yammarino	X		X			
Councilwoman Chung			X			
Councilwoman Amitai		X	X			

DATE: May 13, 2020

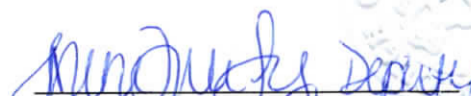
ATTEST:

  
 Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk

APPROVED:

  
 John C. Glidden, Jr., Mayor

Certified to be a true copy of Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter at the Regular Meeting held May 13, 2020.

  
 Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk

