

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
May 5, 2020
6:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL
2. READING OF MINUTES
3. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR & HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES AND CITY CLERK'S NOTES
 - 3.A EMERGENCY DECLARATION ISSUED BY MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED APRIL 30, 2020 EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY TO MAY 15, 2020.

[Emergency Declaration by Mayor Cagnetti 4-30-2020 State of Emergency to May 15, 2020.pdf](#)
 - 3.B PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED APRIL 28, 2020 EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

[Proclamation issued by Mayor Cagnetti 4-28-2020 Extending State of Emergency.pdf](#)
 - 3.C DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STREET CLEANING PROGRAM 2020.

[DPW 2020 Street Cleaning Schedule.pdf](#)
 - 3.D SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT 2019-2020 YEAR TO DATE APRIL 30, 2020.

[Single Tax Office City Funds Distributed April 2019-2020.pdf](#)
 - 3.E RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY WAIVING THE LATE PENALTY FEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 COUNTY AND

LIBRARY REAL ESTATE TAXES.

[Lackawanna County Commissioners Resolution 4-24-2020.pdf](#)

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

5. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS,
APPOINTMENT AND/OR RE-APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS &
COMMISSIONS MOTIONS & REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

5.A MOTIONS.

5.B NO BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES - READING BY TITLE

6.A NO BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

7. FINAL READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

7.A NO BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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EMERGENCY DECLARATION
EXTENSION TO MAY 15, 2020

OFFICE OF CITY
COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

WHEREAS on Sunday, March 15, 2020 the City of Scranton issued an Emergency Declaration for a period of thirty (30) days, or until rescinded or extended, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affecting the health, welfare and safety of residents of the City of Scranton, on the basis that a public health emergency exists whereby the Mayor, and/or her designees, were authorized to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of the public health emergency, and to provide essential services deemed necessary to respond to this emergency requiring personnel, equipment, property, services, and supplies.

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of Health issued an Order to Stay at Home for all counties in Pennsylvania, providing:

All individuals residing in the Commonwealth are ordered to stay at home except as needed to access, support, or provide life-sustaining business, emergency, or government services. For employees of life-sustaining businesses that remain open, the following child care services may remain open: group and family child care providers in a residence; child care facilities operating under a waiver granted by the Department of Human Services Office of Child Development and Early Learning; and, part-day school age programs operating under an exemption from the March 19, 2020, business closure Orders.

WHEREAS, this Order has been extended to remain in effect until May 8, 2020 as the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread and the number of cases continues to increase throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Scranton.

WHEREAS, Lackawanna County has issued a State of Emergency presently set to expire on May 15, 2020.

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency continues to have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population of the City of Scranton; and

WHEREAS, it remains critical to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed cases

of COVID-19 in the City of Scranton and to implement measures to mitigate its spread; and

WHEREAS, the City, during this emergency, continues to need to procure goods, property, and services to continue its operations and to respond rapidly to this health crisis; and


WHEREAS, Section 6-14(a) of the Administrative Code of the City of Scranton requires bidding for the purchase, leasing or renting of goods, properties, services or supplies, for all contracts in the amount of \$21,000.00 or in excess thereof; and

WHEREAS, upon application of Section 6-14(e)(1) of the Code, the aforesaid advertising and bidding requirements for the purchasing, leasing, maintenance, or renting of goods, properties, services, or supplies may be waived; and

NOW THEREFORE, I do hereby declare that on Thursday, April 30, 2020, the Emergency Declaration shall be extended to expire on May 15, 2020 in conformity with Lackawanna County, or until rescinded or extended, due to the pandemic affecting the health, welfare and safety of residents of the City of Scranton, that a public health emergency exists and hereby authorize the Mayor, and/or her designees, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of the public health emergency, and to provide essential services deemed necessary to respond to this emergency requiring personnel, equipment, property, services, and supplies. In accordance with the Administrative Code of the City of Scranton and this Emergency Declaration, the bidding requirements are hereby waived and thereby payment may be made for any other emergency services performed as is necessary.


Mayor Paige G. Cognetti

I hereby certify and concur in the above emergency.


John J. Murray, City Controller

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**A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OFFICE OF CITY
OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL/CITY CLERK
EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON**

Pursuant to the City of Scranton Home Rule Charter and executive powers vested in the Mayor, in order to prescribe order in the City of Scranton, I, Paige G. Cognetti, Mayor of the City of Scranton, do hereby **PROCLAIM AND DECLARE** the **STATE OF EMERGENCY** enacted on March 15, 2020 as a result of the public health emergency related to the potential spread of the Coronavirus [COVID-19], that exists in the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the City of Scranton, as extended to April 30, 2020, shall be further extended to May 15, 2020, or until rescinded or extended.

AND FURTHERMORE, I do, for the period of this **STATE OF EMERGENCY**, hereby continue to restrict public access to the following city properties:

- City Hall, 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503,
- All City of Scranton Fire Stations throughout the City,
- Weston Field, 892 Providence Road, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18505, and
- Weston Park, 127 Spring Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18508.

AND FURTHERMORE, I hereby declare that the following city properties shall remain available for public access during the period of this **STATE OF EMERGENCY**:

- Scranton Police Department Headquarters, 100 South Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509, and
- Department of Public Works, 101 West Poplar Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509.

Provided that while the above facilities remain accessible for essential business, all members of the public are requested, and urged, to refrain from accessing them unless necessary.

AND FURTHERMORE, the following temporary modifications to the use of City facilities are made during the period of this extension of the **STATE OF EMERGENCY** to ensure continued service to the public:

- Scranton Police Department Headquarters shall serve as the temporary location for pick up and drop off of all Licensing, Inspections, and Permits business, and
- The Department of Public Works shall serve as the temporary location for all Department of Treasury business.

Remote accommodations will be developed and implemented for public use as they become available.

AND FURTHERMORE, City parks shall remain accessible to the public during the period of this **STATE OF EMERGENCY**; however, those who utilize the parks should, as a matter of public health and safety, refrain from use of playground equipment and continue to practice social distancing.

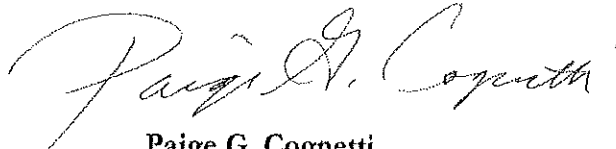
AND FURTHERMORE, all non-essential hearings and meetings, including for boards, commissions, and authorities, for purposes of official city business shall remain postponed during the period of this **STATE OF EMERGENCY**. For some meetings and hearings, arrangements for remote accommodations may be made, and made available to the attendees. This provision does not apply to City Council meetings, which shall be set solely by City Council.

AND FURTHERMORE, I urge all residents, businesses, organizations and visitors to abide during the period of this **STATE OF EMERGENCY** by recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control, as well as guidance issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and to continue to refrain from all

nonessential travel, gatherings, and business so as to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus [COVID-19] and, in turn, this public health emergency.

AND FURTHERMORE, this extension of the State of Emergency shall remain in effect until May 15, 2020, or until rescinded or extended.

DONE UNDER MY HAND in the **CITY OF SCRANTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**, this 28th day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paige G. Cognito". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paige G. Cognito
Mayor of the City of Scranton

STREET CLEANING PROGRAM 2020
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

North Scranton Area
May 11 to May 15
Greenbush St. to Market St.

North Scranton Area
May 18 to May 22
Market St. to Ravine St.

Lower West Scranton Area

May 26 to May 29

West Scranton Area

June 1 to June 5
Oram St. to Washburn St.
(including all avenues and streets)
Tripp Section, Dickens St. to Gibson St.

Green Ridge Area

June 8 to June 12
Greenridge St. to Fairfield St.
(Including all avenues and streets)

East Scranton Area

June 15 to June 19
Arthur Ave. to Taylor Ave.
(including all streets and avenues)

East Scranton Area

June 22 to June 26
Bunker Hill Section
(Wheeler Ave. to Mathew Ave.)
(Including Oakmont Section)

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South Scranton Area

June 29 to July 3
Minooka Section
Saginaw St. to Vipond Ave

Upper W. Scranton Area

July 7 to July 10
Rundelet St. to Washburn St.
(including all streets and avenues)

South Scranton Area

July 13 to July 17
Cherry St. to Breck St.
(including all streets and avenues)

E. Mountain Area

July 20 to July 24
All streets and Avenues

Green Ridge Area

July 27 to July 31
Deacon St. to Finn St.
New York St. to Mineral Ave.
(including all streets and avenues)

West Mountain Area

August 3 to August 7
All streets and avenues in upper W. Mountain Ave.
Including lower Keyser Valley area

East Scranton Area

August 10 to August 14
N. Webster Ave. to Madison Ave,
(including all streets and avenues)

South Scranton Area

August 17 to August 21
Hemlock St. to Locust St.
(including all streets and avenues)

**SINGLE TAX OFFICE
CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
COMPARISON 2019 - 2020**

	<u>YTD</u> <u>4/30/2019</u>		<u>YTD</u> <u>4/30/2020</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Real Estate	\$22,648,056.13	\$	22,733,184.96	\$85,128.83	0.38%
Delinquent Real Estate	\$904,493.09	\$	691,777.65	(\$212,715.44)	-23.52%
LST/EMS	\$1,688,147.26	\$	1,620,537.50	(\$67,609.76)	-4.00%
Bus Priv/Merc	\$1,939,357.43	\$	1,204,990.21	(\$734,367.22)	-37.87%
	\$27,180,053.91		\$26,250,490.32	(\$929,563.59)	

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MAY - 1 2020
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COUNCIL/CITY CLERK



Lackawanna County

Commissioners
Jerry Notarianni • Debi Domenick, Esq. • Chris Chermak

Jerry Notarianni
Debi Domenick, Esq.
Chris Chermak
Commissioners

Lackawanna County Government Center
123 Wyoming Avenue, 6th Floor
Scranton PA 18503
t (570) 963-6800 f (570) 963-6812
www.LackawannaCounty.org

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MAY - 1 2020

OFFICE OF CITY
COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

April 29, 2020

Dear Municipal Official:

The Purpose of the letter is to inform you of Resolution 20-0091 passed by the Lackawanna County Commissioners on April 24, 2020, waiving the late penalty fee for this calendar year as it pertains to real estate/property and library real estate taxes. All taxes must be paid in full by December 31, 2020 to qualify.

Governor Wolf signed into law Act 15 of 2020 which provides local governing bodies the ability to waive any fee or penalty for late payment of real estate taxes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a debilitating effect on families and businesses nationwide. Our area and its residents have been significantly impacted. Many small business owners have closed and a significant number of people are out of work.

As noted above, this action pertains to property taxes only. It does not apply to school, mercantile, amusement or any other assessments.

Based on the hardships our community is facing, we encourage all municipalities to follow suit. In doing so, you would have to draft and pass a similar Resolution within 30 days from April 20, 2020.

If you have any questions on the process or need assistance, please feel free to contact Brian Jeffers, Chief of Staff, at 570-963-6800 or email him at jeffersb@lackawannacounty.org.

Thank you for your interest in this vital matter. It is imperative to help-out our residents and communities in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Jerry Notarianni
Commissioner

Debi Domenick, Esq.
Commissioner

Chris Chermak
Commissioner



County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County
Government Center
at The Globe
123 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, Pennsylvania
18503

Certified Copy

Resolution: 20-0091

File Number: 20-0091

Waiving the Late Penalty Fee for FY 2020 County and Library Real Estate Taxes

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY
WAIVING THE LATE PENALTY FEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 COUNTY AND LIBRARY
REAL ESTATE TAXES**

WHEREAS, Lackawanna County imposes an annual tax on assessed value of real property located within the county; and

WHEREAS, the face value period for said real property tax is set to expire of June 30, 2020, at which time a ten (10%) percent penalty is imposed; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is operating under a State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 6, 2020; and the Board of Commissioners of Lackawanna County Declared a Disaster Emergency in Lackawanna County on March 16, 2020, resulting from the continuing COVID-19, coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Legislature passed Act 15 of 2020, which was signed into law by the Governor on April 20, 2020, allowing political subdivisions of the Commonwealth to waive any fee or penalty associated with the late payment of said property tax in paid in full by December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, believes it is in the best interests of the residents of Lackawanna County to waive the late penalty on taxes imposed on the assessed value of real estate for the 2020 fiscal year.

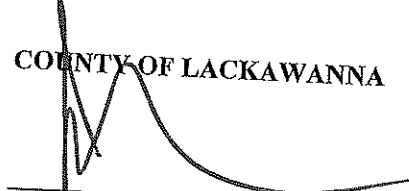
NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Lackawanna County does hereby resolve the following:

1. The ten (10%) percent penalty for taxes imposed on the assessed value of real property located in Lackawanna County is hereby waived if the taxes are paid in full by December 31, 2020.

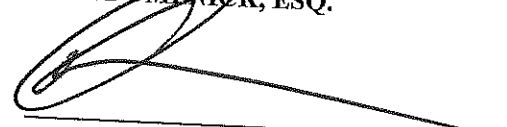
ADOPTED at a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Lackawanna County

held on April 24, 2020.


COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA


JERRY NOTARIANNI



DEBI DOMENICK, ESQ.


CHRIS CHERMAK

ATTEST:


BRIAN JEFFERS
CHIEF OF STAFF

Approved as to form and legality:


FRANK RUGGIERO
COUNTY SOLICITOR

CHAPTER 57
COVID-19 DISASTER EMERGENCY

Subchapter

- A. Preliminary Provisions
- B. Property Tax Relief
- C. Educational Tax Credit
- C.1. School contractors
- D. Notarial Acts
- E. Local Government Meetings

SUBCHAPTER A
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Sec.

5701. Definitions.

§ 5701. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"COVID-19 disaster emergency." The duration of the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020) and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

SUBCHAPTER B
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Sec.

5711. Scope of subchapter.

5712. Definitions.

5713. Real property tax relief.

§ 5711. Scope of subchapter.

This subchapter provides temporary authority to a taxing district to deal with the taxation of all real property made taxable by the laws of this Commonwealth during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

§ 5712. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Tax collector." An individual or entity elected, appointed or otherwise required to collect a tax for a taxing district.

"Taxing district." Any of the following entities that is authorized under the laws of this Commonwealth to impose a tax on the assessed value of real property:

- (1) City of any class in this Commonwealth.
- (2) County of any class in this Commonwealth.
- (3) Borough, town or township of any class in this Commonwealth.

- (4) Incorporated town.

§ 5713. Real property tax relief.

(a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any other law and subject to subsection (b), a taxing district may, by majority vote of the taxing district's governing body, do any of the following for the collection of a tax imposed on the assessed value of real property that would otherwise be due by December 31, 2020:

(1) Collect the tax at the taxing district's prescribed discount rate, if any, no later than August 31, 2020.

(2) Waive any fee or penalty otherwise associated with the late payment of the tax if paid in full by December 31, 2020.

(b) Resolution required.--Any taxing district electing to exercise a power under subsection (a) shall do so by delivering a resolution of the governing body to the tax collector for the taxing district within 30 days of the effective date of this subsection.