

**CITY OF LOCK HAVEN
SESSION OF 2020
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF 2020 REAL ESTATE TAXES
DUE TO THE CITY OF LOCK HAVEN IN INSTALLMENTS DUE TO THE
FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF COVID--19**

- WHEREAS The City of Lock Haven is reliant on real estate taxes as its primary source of revenue to provide for general governmental operations including the provision of police and fire services, financial administration to pay our local suppliers and contractors, emergency street repairs, street lighting and traffic control devices, and stormwater and flood protection services; and
- WHEREAS The Local Tax Collection Law), 72 P.S. § 5511.10(a), directs that if the whole amount of real estate tax billed is paid within two months after the date of the tax notice, a discount of at least two percentum (2.00%) from the amount of such tax shall apply; and
- WHEREAS The real estate taxes in the City of Lock Haven eligible for this discount must be paid on or before May 4, 2020; and
- WHEREAS The Local Tax Collection Law, 72 P.S. § 5511.10(a), further provides that if paid within four months after the date of the tax notice, no penalty may be imposed and said taxes shall not be considered delinquent; and
- WHEREAS The real estate taxes in the City of Lock Haven due at “face value” without penalty being applied must be paid on or before July 4, 2020; and
- WHEREAS The Local Tax Collection Law 72 P.S. § 5511.10(a), further provides that the additional percental to be added as penalty for taxes not paid on or before four months after the date of the tax notice shall be up to ten percentum (10.00%); and
- WHEREAS The assessment for real estate taxes due in the City of Lock Haven provides that taxes paid on or after July 5, 2020 shall incur a penalty of ten percentum (10.00%); and
- WHEREAS The Local Tax Collection Law, 72 P.S. § 5511.11, permits City Council to provide, by Ordinance, for the waiver of the discount and penalty period if taxes are instead paid in not more than four (4) installments; and,
- WHEREAS It is the wish of the City Council of Lock Haven to provide the option of installment payment to its property owners unable to make payment in full by the last day of the discount period due to inability to pay in full because of financial effects of COVID-19 State of Emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED THAT the City Council of Lock Haven does encourage all property owners to take advantage of a reduction in total tax due by making payment in full on or before May 4, 2020 and receiving the 2.00% discount; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT the City Council of Lock Haven does direct Tax Collector Paula Dickey and her Deputy Tax Collector Berkheimer Tax Associates to print and issue to all property owners an option to pay real estate taxes in quarters with the following being the due dates:

May 4, 2020	25% of total tax due plus any adjustment (rounding up or down) to equal original face value
Jul 4, 2020	25%
Sep 4, 2020	25%
Nov 4, 2020	25%; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT those property owners who fail to make their first installment payment on or before May 4, shall be held to the terms of the originally issued March 4, 2020 tax bills including applicable discount, face and penalty periods; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT any property owner who makes their first installment payment on or before May 4 but fails to meet the deadline for any installment payment thereafter shall then forfeit the installment payment program and instead be held to the terms and conditions of the originally issued March 4, 2020 tax bill including applicable penalty on all unpaid portions of taxes due.

As permitted by the Third Class City Code, this Ordinance shall be advertised in the newspaper of record, and due to a properly issued declaration of a State of Emergency, shall become effective seven (7) days after said publication, provided the second reading and passage of this Ordinance takes place as required by the Third Class City Code not earlier than three days after the first reading but prior to seven days after the publication in the newspaper of record.

Introduced by Council Member
Passed Council First Reading March 23, 2020
Passed Council Second Reading March

ATTEST:

CITY OF LOCK HAVEN

Gregory J. Wilson, City Clerk

Joel Long, Mayor