

City of Falls Church

Meeting Date: 04-13-20	Title: (TO20-14) EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE BUSINESS RELIEF DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO EXTEND THE DUE DATE OF THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE 2020 REAL ESTATE TAX FROM JUNE 5, 2020 TO JULY 6, 2020 AND TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND PAYMENTS OF MEALS AND TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX	Agenda No.: 6(c)	
Proposed Motion: MOVE to adopt (TO20-14) on an emergency basis, and grant first reading to that ordinance, schedule a public hearing and second reading for a meeting to be scheduled before May 31, 2020, and authorize advertisement of the same according to law when meeting date has been determined.			
Originating Dept. Head: Wyatt Shields 703.248.5004	Lead Staff:	Disposition by Council:	
City Manager: Wyatt Shields 703.248.5004 FWS 4-10-2020	City Attorney: Carol McCoskrie 703.248.5010 CWM 4-10-2020	CFO: Kiran Bawa 703.248.5092 KB 4-10-2020	City Clerk: Celeste Heath 703.248.5014 CH 04-10-20

2 **REQUEST:** Council is requested to consider (TO20-14), an emergency ordinance to extend by
 3 30 days the payment due date of the second installment of the 2020 real estate property tax
 4 payment from June 5, 2020 to July 6, 2020 and to temporarily suspend payments of meals and
 5 transient occupancy taxes until June 1, 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic.

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 7 **RECOMMENDATION:** The City Manager recommends adoption of (TO20-14).
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9 **BACKGROUND:** The COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in unprecedented challenges
 10 for the entire community. Staff has been participating in meetings and discussions with the
 11 business community to identify potential solutions that can help alleviate the financial pressures
 12 facing businesses that have been significantly impacted by orders to close, as well as social
 13 distancing, and the virtual elimination of the travel and tourism industry.

14
 15 Staff has examined the various taxes that are remitted by the business community and the timing
 16 of the payments and filing of tax forms to determine the most effective way to quickly provide
 17 assistance to the business community. The following temporary changes to tax deadlines are
 18 recommended:

- 19
 20 1) Thirty-one (31) day extension for real estate property tax payment due on June 5, 2020 to
 21 July 6, 2020. Falls Church City Code §40-283.
 22 2) Sixty-one (61) day extension for applications to be considered for tax relief for seniors
 23 and people with disability from April 15, 2020 to June 15, 2020. Falls Church City Code
 24 § 40-135

25 3) Temporary suspensions of payment of monthly meals and transient occupancy tax until
26 June 1, 2020, at which time payment of all such taxes collected during the period of
27 suspension shall be paid. Falls Church City Code §§40-185 and 40-230.
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29 **FISCAL IMPACT:** Extension of real estate tax payment and temporary suspension of Meals
30 and Transient Occupancy Tax payments could have potential impact in cash flow, but based on
31 data available, staff expects no harm for the City resulting from 31 days extension in the
32 payment of the second installment of 2020 real estate property taxes. The City has sufficient
33 financial resources to accommodate the timing of this payment moving from June 5, 2020 to July
34 6, 2020.

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36 **TIMING:** Immediate.

(TO20-14)

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE BUSINESS RELIEF DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO EXTEND THE DUE DATE OF THE
SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE 2020 REAL ESTATE TAX FROM JUNE
5, 2020 TO JULY 6, 2020 AND TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND PAYMENTS
OF MEALS AND TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

WHEREAS, an emergency exists and Declarations of Emergency have been issued due to
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, residents are required to stay at home causing an extreme hardship to families and
businesses; and

WHEREAS, during this time, City Council believes that providing assistance to City
businesses and residents is in the best interests of the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, immediate temporary relief from the regular schedule for payment of taxes is
necessary to address the current emergency and the City is authorized by City
Charter section 4.11 to adopt an emergency ordinance;

THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA, HEREBY ORDAINS THAT the City
Code of the City of Falls Church is amended on a temporary emergency basis, effective for the
duration of the emergency as declared by the City on March 16 and April 6, 2020 as follows:

- 1) The June 5 due date for payment of real property taxes, as contained in Falls Church City
Code §40-283, is extended for thirty one (31) days, until July 6, 2020.
- 2) The due date for applications to be considered for tax relief for seniors and people with
disabilities, as set forth in Falls Church City Code § 40-135 is extended for a period of
sixty one (61) days from April 15, 2020 to June 15, 2020.
- 3) Monthly payment of meals and transient occupancy taxes, as set forth in Falls Church
City Code §§40-185 and 40-230 is suspended until June 1, 2020, at which time all such
taxes collected during the period of suspension shall be paid; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that an emergency exists due to the COVID 19 pandemic and
that this ordinance shall be effective immediately and will expire sixty (60) days after its
adoption unless it has been adopted again after a public hearing advertised in accordance with
the City Charter.

Reading: ____

Adoption: _____

(TR20-14)