

## Mayor and Council 400 Witherspoon Street Princeton, NJ 08540

## **RESOLUTION 20-167**

## Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Property Taxes for Block 2001, Lot 22 in the Municipality of Princeton for the Remainder of 2020

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2019 the Princeton Council adopted a resolution authorizing the municipality's participation in the purchase of Block 2001, Lot 22 (the "Property"), consisting of 3± acres of open space, along with the Watershed Institute, the Friends of Princeton Open Space, and the Ridgeview Conservancy, all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020 Princeton acquired title to the Property along with the Watershed Institute and the Friends of Princeton Open Space, and immediately thereafter conveyed its interest in the Property to the Watershed Institute, the Friends of Princeton Open Space, and the Ridgeview Conservancy, (the "Consortium"); and

WHEREAS, the Consortium simultaneously executed a permanent conservation easement for the Property that was approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Green Acres Program, thereby preserving it as open space for conservation and recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium of non-profit organizations shall own, steward, and maintain the Property in perpetuity on behalf of Princeton and for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium shall make an application for an exemption from real property taxes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.64 before August 1, 2020, which shall be applicable for property taxes beginning January 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, without tax exempt status, real property taxes will be due on the Property from April 4, 2020 through December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium has requested that Princeton waive such taxes because the Property will be tax exempt in the future and the Property is being owned and maintained on behalf of Princeton and the public;

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Princeton Council as follows:

- 1. The preamble to this resolution is hereby incorporated as if more fully set forth herein.
- 2. Property taxes for Block 2001, Lot 22 in the amount of \$2,579.55, representing the taxes for the second quarter of 2020 are hereby waived.
- 3. Property taxes for the third and fourth quarters of 2020 for Block 2001, Lot 22, still undetermined, are hereby waived.
- 4. The Consortium shall file for tax exempt status on or before August 1, 2020 for exemption from future real property taxes.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X			X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Pirone Lambros		X	X		X			
Ms. Niedergang		X						X
Ms. Sacks		X		X	X			
Mr. Williamson		X			X			
Mayor Lempert		X					148	

I, Delores Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held on April 27, 2020.

Delores Williams, RMC, Municipal Clerk