

Julia Fahl  
Mayor

Beth Asaro  
Council President



Wardell Sanders  
Councilman

Julia Taylor  
Councilwoman

Madeline Urbish  
Councilwoman

# City of Lambertville

18 YORK STREET | LAMBERTVILLE, NJ 08530

To: Lambertville City Mayor & Council

From: Cynthia A. McBride-Tax Collector

RE: Estimated Tax bills Third Quarter 2020.

Under normal circumstances, the City would issue the Final/2020/Preliminary2021/ tax bills sometime in July, after the State of New Jersey has passed their budget (must pass a budget by 6/30/20) and can allocate State Aid. The County would then receive the State Aid figures and then they would certify the City's tax rate. With a certified tax rate, the Tax Collector can issue the Final 2020 tax bill for the balance of the 2020 and the Preliminary bill for 2021.

As we know, this is not a normal year as we are operating under a State of Emergency. Under this same State of Emergency, the Governor recently enacted "Covid-19 Fiscal Management Act". This Act moved the State's budget deadline from 6/30 to 9/30. As explained in the first paragraph, without a State Budget the City cannot get a certified tax rate from the County. Without a certified tax rate, the Tax Collector is not authorized to issue the 2020 Final tax bill/2021 preliminary bill.

Unable to issue the Final tax bill for 2020/2021 Preliminary until sometime in October 2020 would severely impact the City's cash flow as well as our Statutorily mandated payments to each of the other government entities we act as a "pass thru" for such as the Schools, County and Fire District.

In addition, this request to authorize the issuance of Estimated third quarter 2020 tax bills is relying on the strong recommendation from the Division of Local Government Services, Dept. of Community Affairs per the Local Finance Notice 2020-7. This same recommendation is a direct result of the New Jersey State budget deadline being moved from June 30th to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. in legislation recently signed by Gov. Murphy entitled "Covid-19 Fiscal Management Act".