

ORDINANCE 2022-05

The following ordinance was Introduced for first reading at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on February 7, 2022. It is now being further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said governing body being held in the Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, in said County, on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of this meeting copies of the full ordinance have been available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who have requested the same.

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION AND FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN AND 150 NORTH URBAN RENEWAL, LLC

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented (the “**Act**”), provides a process for municipalities to participate in the redevelopment and improvement of areas in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Act, the Borough Council (the “**Borough Council**”) of the Borough of Dunellen (the “**Borough**”), acting as the Borough's redevelopment entity pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-4, designated certain properties identified on the Borough's tax map as Block 69, Lots 1, 1.01, 2, 2.01 and 3; Block 70, Lots 13 and 13.01; Block 85, Lots 1 and 2; Block 83, Lot 1; Block 1, Lots 14, 15.01, 15.02, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23; Block 2, Lots 10, 11.01, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; Block 32, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.01, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 24.01, 25, 26, 27 and 28; Block 33, Lots 14, 14.01, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23; Block 34, Lots 10.01, 22, 23, 24, 24.01, 25, 26, 27.01, 27.02, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 38.01 and 38.02; Block 48, Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28; Block 49, Lots 25, 26, 27.01, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39.01, 39.02, 40, 41, 43 and 44; Block 50, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Block 51, Lots 1, 2 and 3 (NJ Transit Property); Block 65, Lot 1; Block 66, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.01, 7, 8, 9, 10.01, 10.02, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.01, 15.02, 16, 17, 17.01, 18, 19 and 20; and Block 86, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 4.02, 4.03 and 5 as an area in need of redevelopment under N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 (collectively, the “**Redevelopment Area**”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7, the Borough Council adopted by ordinance on May 16, 2016, the Restated and Amended Dunellen Downtown Redevelopment Plan, Phase 1, and subsequently amended by ordinance on November 6, 2017, September 4, 2018, October 1, 2018 and June 7, 2021 (the “**Redevelopment Plan**”) for the Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, 150 North Urban Renewal LLC (the “**Entity**”) is the owner of certain parcels within the Redevelopment Area commonly known as 150 North Avenue and identified on the Borough’s official tax map as Block 1, Lot 14 (the “**Property**”); and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, the Borough Council passed a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of that certain Redevelopment Agreement (the “**Redevelopment Agreement**”), which sets forth the respective obligations for the Borough and the Entity (as successor to its affiliate, Communipaw Associates LLC) with respect to the redevelopment of the Property in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Agreement provides for, *inter alia*, the construction of a three-story, mixed-use commercial/residential project consisting of approximately 1,578 square feet of ground floor commercial space, fourteen (14) rental residential units (two of which shall be Affordable Units) and related improvements (collectively, the “**Project**”); and

WHEREAS, the Project as set forth in the Redevelopment Agreement conforms to the Redevelopment Plan and the master plan of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, improvements to property located within an area in need of redevelopment may qualify for long term tax exemptions under the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 *et seq.* (the “**LTTE Law**”); and

WHEREAS, the Entity is authorized to do business as an urban renewal entity under the laws of the State of New Jersey pursuant to the provisions of the LTTE Law; and

WHEREAS, despite the Entity’s substantial investment of equity and borrowed funds, such amounts are insufficient to pay for all of the costs associated with the development and construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Act and such other statutes as may be sources of relevant authority, if any, authorize the Borough to accept, in lieu of real property taxes, an annual service charge paid by the Entity to Borough as set forth in such laws; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance the economic viability of and opportunity for a successful project, the Entity has submitted an application for the approval of a long term tax exemption for the Project (the “**Exemption Application**”), attached hereto as Exhibit A, and a form of financial agreement (the “**Financial Agreement**”), attached hereto as Exhibit B, to the Borough, all in accordance with the LTTE Law; and

WHEREAS, the mayor of the Borough has provided his recommendations with respect to the Exemption Application to the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the proposed Project, the Exemption Application and the Financial Agreement, the Borough has made the following findings with respect to the Project pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-11:

1. The development and construction of the Project, including infrastructure improvements as set forth in the Redevelopment Agreement and the Redevelopment Plan will be beneficial to the overall community; will achieve the goals and objectives of the Redevelopment Plan; will help revitalize the Property; will improve the quality of life for the community; will serve as a catalyst for further private investment in areas surrounding the Property; will facilitate the remediation of environmental contamination and the revitalization and productive reuse of land currently in a blighted, stagnant, unproductive and fallow condition; will enhance the economic development of the Borough by alleviating existing blight conditions of the Property; and will further Redevelopment Plan objectives and contribute to the economic growth of the Borough in general and specifically the Property;
2. The Project will result in the creation of two (2) units of affordable housing;
3. The aforesaid benefits of the Project exceed the cost, if any, associated with granting the tax exemption provided by the Financial Agreement;
4. The Financial Agreement is a material inducement to the Entity to undertake the Project in the Borough and facilitate the redevelopment of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is agreeable to granting a long term tax exemption to the Entity for the Project and, in connection therewith, the Borough and the Entity will utilize the Act and such other statutes as may be sources of relevant authority, if any, to facilitate financing of the Project; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the LTTE Law, the Borough desires to approve the Project, the Exemption Application and the Financial Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Recitals are incorporated by reference as if set forth in full.

Section 2. The Exemption Application submitted by the Entity is hereby approved in accordance with Section 8 of the LTTE Law.

Section 3. The Mayor, in consultation with counsel to the Borough, is hereby authorized to execute the Financial Agreement following the execution thereof by the Entity and prepare, amend or execute any other agreements necessary to effectuate this ordinance, subject to modification or revisions, as deemed necessary and appropriate, with such execution to occur only simultaneous with the full execution of a redevelopment agreement for the Project.

Section 4. The Clerk of the Borough is hereby authorized and directed, upon execution of the Financial Agreement by the Mayor, to attest to the signature of the Mayor and to affix the corporate seal of the Borough upon such document.

Section 5. An exemption from taxation as set forth in the Financial Agreement is hereby granted to the Entity, with respect to the Project for the term set forth in the Financial Agreement; provided that in no event shall the term of the Financial Agreement exceed the earlier of (i) thirty-five (35) years from the date of execution of the Financial Agreement or (ii) thirty (30) years from the Annual Service Charge Start Date, as said term is defined in the Financial Agreement, and only so long as the Entity remains subject to and in compliance with the Financial Agreement and the LTTE Law.

Section 6. The executed copy of the Financial Agreement shall be certified by and filed with the Office of the Borough Clerk. Further, the Clerk shall file certified copies of this ordinance and the Financial Agreement with the Tax Assessor of the Borough and the Director of the Division of Local Government Services with the Department of Community Affairs, in accordance with Section 12 of the LTTE Law. Further, the Borough Clerk shall, within ten (10) days of the later of (i) the effective date of this Ordinance, or (ii) execution of the Financial Agreement, transmit certificated copies of this Ordinance and the Financial Agreement to the chief financial officer of, and legal counsel for, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

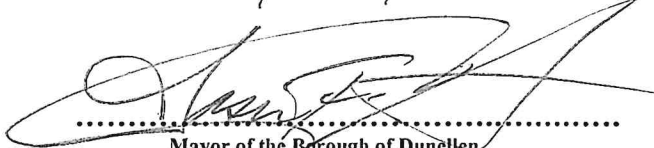
Section 7. The Project shall conform with all federal, state and Borough laws, ordinances, regulations, the Redevelopment Plan and the Redevelopment Agreement relating to its construction and use.

Section 8. The Entity shall, in the operation of the Project, comply with all laws so that no person of race, religious principles, color, national origin or ancestry will be subject to discrimination.

Section 9. Without limiting the terms of the Financial Agreement, the Entity shall submit Auditor's Reports to the Borough in accordance with Article V of the Financial Agreement.

Section 10. This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with all applicable laws.

Approved 2/22/2022

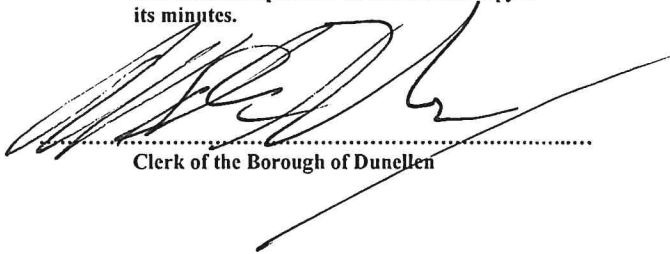


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Mayor of the Borough of Dunellen

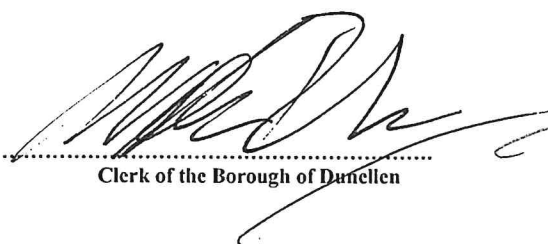
I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct abstract of a resolution regularly passed at a meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Dunellen, held

2/22/22

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and in that respect a true and correct copy of its minutes.



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Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen



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Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen

EXHIBIT "A"

FIRST AMENDMENT TO REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT