

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Enterprise Zone – Local Incentives

In addition to the incentives offered by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Hopewell offers the following local incentives to attract businesses to locate or expand within the Enterprise Zone area:

1. Waiver of fees for building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits.
2. Waiver of Land Development fees: Rezoning, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision, Site Plan and Land Disturbance Review Fees.
3. Exemption/ reduction of business and professional occupational license fees to new firms locating in the Enterprise Zone: An existing business relocating in the zone does not qualify for this incentive, must qualify for state incentives first, then the following applies:
 - First Year– 100%
 - Second Year– 75%
 - Third Year– 50%
 - Fourth Year– 25%
 - Fifth Year– 0%
4. Accelerated Development Processing– Fast track plan review and approval processing for major development activities within the zone.
5. Fire Safety Education – Educational seminars will be conducted to improve safety and reduce potential fire damage.
6. Crime Prevention Education and Security Risk Assessments – Seminars and Security Audits conducted to improve business environment, reduce potential costs and enhance sense of safety in the zone.
7. Waiver of sewer tap connection fee.
8. Five (5)-year partial tax exemption on the increase in assessed property value resulting from certain rehabilitation/revitalization/replacement of commercial or mixed-use real estate
9. Three (3)-year partial tax exemption equal to 30% of the increase in assessed value of machinery and tools tax resulting from new construction, expansion or replacement of existing machinery and tools.

10. ARTICLE III. TAX ON PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN MACHINERY AND TOOLS

Sec. 34-41. Accrual; when payable.

Beginning with tax year 2006, and for subsequent tax years, taxes accruing to the city from public service corporations and on all tangible personal property, other than machinery and tools, subject to taxation by the city shall accrue annually, at the beginning of the tax year, on January 1, and shall be paid in full to the city treasurer no later than February 15 of the following year. Taxpayers shall be provided payment options for the payment of taxes accruing to the city on all tangible personal property, other than machinery and tools, which options shall include payment through monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual installments, or in one (1) lump sum. However, taxpayers in arrears for previous years' taxes shall not be afforded such payment options, but must pay annually in a lump sum.

Sec. 34-42. Penalty for nonpayment.

In the event any tax covered under this article is not paid on or before the date it is due and payable, there shall be added a penalty of ten (10) percent of the tax past due, or the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00), whichever shall be greater; provided, however, that the penalty shall in no case exceed the amount of tax due.

Sec. 34-43. Interest on principal and penalty.

Both principal and penalty for nonpayment of taxes under this article shall bear interest at the maximum rate allowed by law from the first day following the day such taxes are due.

Sec. 34-44. Treasurer's statement.

The city treasurer shall, at least fifteen (15) days before any penalty attaches for nonpayment of taxes under this article, mail a statement showing the total amount of taxes due for the current year by public service corporations, and on tangible personal property other than machinery and tools, to such taxpayers. The form of such statement shall be prepared by the city treasurer.

Sec. 34-45. Response vehicle used by active member of city emergency crew; separate classification.

One (1) motor vehicle which is regularly used by each active member of the Hopewell Emergency Crew to respond to calls shall be specially classified as a separate classification for personal property taxes.

In January of each year, each such member shall furnish the commissioner of revenue a certification by the head of the Hopewell Emergency Crew that he/she is an active member who regularly responds to calls for the emergency crew, that the motor vehicle is regularly used for such purposes, and that as of January 1 the vehicle identified by year, make, and identification number was titled in the name of the members.

Sec. 34-46. Proration of certain personal property taxes.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 34-41 above for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2002 and ending on December 31, 2002, and for each and every calendar year thereafter, each and every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and boat which acquires a situs in the city after the tax day of January 1 of each year shall be taxed for the balance of the tax year. Such tax shall be prorated on a monthly basis, and for the purpose of proration a period of more than one-half (1/2) of a month shall be counted as a full month and a period of one-half (1/2) or less than one-half (1/2) of a month shall not be counted.

(b) Both mobile homes and motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers with a gross vehicle weight of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or more used to transport property for hire by a motor carrier engaged in interstate commerce shall be excluded from property subject to proration of personal property tax.

(c) When any person after the tax day acquires a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat with a situs in the city, a tax shall be assessed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat as provided above in subsection (a) for that portion of the tax

year during which the new owner owns the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat and it has a situs in the city.

(d) When any person after the tax day or situs day sells or otherwise transfers ownership or title to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat having a situs in the city, the tax thereon shall be relieved on a monthly prorated basis as provided above, and the appropriate prorated amount of any tax already paid shall be refunded or credited by the city treasurer, at the option of the tax payer, against the tax due on any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat owned by the taxpayer during the same tax year except that no refund shall be made if the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat acquires a situs in the commonwealth in a nonprorating locality.

(e) Any refund made or credit given under subsection (c) above shall be made or given within thirty (30) days of the date such tax is relieved. No refund of less than five dollars (\$5.00) shall be issued to a taxpayer unless specifically requested by the taxpayer.

(f) Any person who moves from a nonprorating locality in the commonwealth to the city in a single tax year shall be entitled to a property tax credit in the city if the person was liable for personal property taxes on a motor vehicle and has paid those taxes to such nonprorating locality.

(g) Any person who moves from a nonprorating locality in the commonwealth to the city in a single tax year shall be entitled to a property tax credit in the city if the person replaces the original motor vehicle upon which taxes are due to such nonprorating locality for the same tax year. The city shall provide a credit against the total tax due on the replacement vehicle in an amount equal to the tax paid to such nonprorating locality for the period of time commencing with the disposition of the original vehicle and continuing through the close of the tax year in which the person incurred tax liability to such nonprorating locality for the original vehicle.

(h) Any person who owns a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or boat which acquires a situs in the city after the tax day of January 1 of any year and before December 16 of that year shall file a return thereof with the commissioner of the

revenue on or before the later of May 1 of that year or thirty (30) days after such property acquires a situs in the city.

(i) All personal property taxes assessed for a portion of the tax year pursuant to this section shall be billed to the tax payer on or after December 16 of each year and shall be payable on or before thirty (30) days after the date of such tax bill.

Secs. 34-47--34-60. Reserved

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