

CITY COUNCIL BYLAW REPORT

Title

Bylaw 6483 - 2025 Property Tax and

Supplementary Property Tax Bylaw

Meeting Date April 15, 2025

Submitted By Amy Wehlage, Acting Assessment & Taxation Manager

Summary

Bylaw 6483 sets the property tax rates to be imposed upon property within the City of Lethbridge to raise required municipal revenues from property as outlined in the operating budget in accordance to Section 243 of the Municipal Government Act.

The bylaw also sets the tax rates required to raise the requisitions for the Alberta School Foundation, the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division 4, the Green Acres Foundation, and the Designated Industrial Property requisition.

The bylaw also authorizes the levying of a supplementary tax on properties completed or occupied in 2025.

In order to meet mail out requirements for tax notices, final approval of Bylaw 6483, the 2025 Property Tax & Supplementary Property Tax Rate Bylaw must pass at the April 29, 2025 Council meeting.

Recommendation(s)

That Council give first reading on April 15, 2025, and second and third reading on April 29, 2025, to Bylaw 6483, the 2025 Property Tax & Supplementary Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

Financial

Property taxes will be imposed on all property owners in Lethbridge.

Background and Prior Decisions

Each year property tax rates must be approved by Council. Once approved, tax notices are prepared and sent to all taxpayers in Lethbridge.

Notices are sent in mid May with a due date of the last business day of June.

Penalties are applied for late payments in July (7%), August (1%), September (1%), October (1%), November (1%) and December (1%) outlined in Bylaw 6470

Engagement

N/A

Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

Recommendation(s)

That Council give first reading on April 15, 2025, and second and third reading on April 29, 2025, to Bylaw 6483, the 2025 Property Tax & Supplementary Property Tax Rate Bylaw

Bylaw 6483 imposes a tax rate to be applied to all taxable properties in Lethbridge with a tax due date of June 30, 2025

Community/Citizen

- Social Property taxes fund the provision of city services.
- Economic By passing this bylaw, property taxes will be imposed on all taxable properties in Lethbridge; and
- Environmental N/A

Risk

April 29, 2025, is the last Council date that would allow enough time to prepare and mail tax notices. The risk of not meeting this timeline would impact municipal revenues and require amendments to the property tax penalty structure.

Implementation and Communication Plan

Each year property tax rates must be approved by Council. Once approved, tax notices are prepared and sent to all Lethbridge property owners.

Notices are sent in May with a due date of the last business day of June.

Advertisements are published in the Lethbridge Herald, public service announcements,

social media, Shaw TV and on the City's notification website.

Reminders are published in the Lethbridge Herald, social media, Shaw TV, on the City's electronic road signs, and through public service announcements in June.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Attachment 1: Bylaw 6483, the 2025 Property Tax & Supplementary Property Tax Rate Bylaw
- 2. Attachment 2: Transmittal Letter

Approvals

Department Director:

Darrell Mathews

City Manager:

Lloyd Brierley

BYLAW 6483

A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE TO

AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF TAX UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY SHOWN ON THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAX ROLLS AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAX ROLLS FOR THE YEAR 2025

WHEREAS pursuant to section 353 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, Council must pass a Property tax bylaw annually authorizing the Council to impose a tax in respect of Property in the municipality to raise revenue to be used toward the payment of the expenditures and transfers set out in the budget of the municipality, and the Requisitions;

AND WHEREAS, section 369 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, provides that Council must pass a supplementary Property tax bylaw annually to authorize the levying of a supplementary Property tax in respect for which supplementary assessments have been made:

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to section 243 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, a Property tax levy of \$194,145,259 including budgeted and additional growth is required for the general revenue of the City for municipal purposes during the year 2025;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 162 and 167 of the Education Act, S.A. 2012, c. E-0.3 the City of Lethbridge is required to levy a tax to pay the Requisition from the Province for the Alberta School Foundation Fund and the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4, which will be \$49,912,149.

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7 of the Alberta Housing Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. A-25, the City of Lethbridge is required to levy a tax to pay the Requisition of \$2,490,946 from the Green Acres Foundation.

AND WHEREAS, section 297 of the Act provides that the assessor must assign one or more of the following assessment classes to the Property, including: Residential, Non-Residential, Farm Land and Machinery and Equipment;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to section 359.3 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, the City of Lethbridge is required to levy a tax of \$24,008 to recover the costs incurred for matters relating to the assessment of Designated Industrial Property and any other matters related to the provincial assessor's operations;

AND WHEREAS, section 359.3 of the Act provides that the tax rate for the purposes of the Requisition defined in section 326(1)(a)(vi) of the Act must be set by the Minister;

AND WHEREAS, the assessed value of all Property for the purpose of this Bylaw in the City of Lethbridge as shown on the 2025 assessment roll is:

	Total Assessment	Non-Taxable Assessment	Taxable Assessment
MUNICIPAL			
Residential	13,985,781,180	55,972,300	13,929,808,880
Multi-Family Residential	944,293,480	239,661,500	704,631,980
Farm Land	2,351,870	0	2,351,870
Non-Residential	6,298,776,360	2,791,380,910	3,507,395,450
Machinery & Equipment	382,903,530	0	382,903,530
	21,614,106,420	3,087,014,710	18,527,091,710
EDUCATION			
EDUCATION Residential	13,985,781,180	56,468,300	13,929,312,880
	944,293,480	291,638,600	652,654,880
Multi-Family Residential	2,351,870	291,030,000	2,351,870
Farm Land		•	
Non-Residential	6,298,776,360	2,845,838,940	3,452,937,420
Machinery & Equipment	382,903,530	0	382,903,530
	21,614,106,420	3,193,945,840	18,420,160,580
GREEN ACRES			
Residential	13,985,781,180	56,468,300	13,929,312,880
Multi-Family Residential	944,293,480	291,638,600	652,654,880
Farm Land	2,351,870	0	2,351,870
Non-Residential	6,298,776,360	2,845,838,940	3,452,937,420
Machinery & Equipment	382,903,530	0	382,903,530
- ' '	21,614,106,420	3,193,945,840	18,420,160,580

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

PART I - TITLE, PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

1 (1) This Bylaw may be cited as the 2025 Property Tax & Supplementary Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

Purpose

- 2 (1) The purpose of this Bylaw is to establish:
 - (a) municipal Property tax rates for the 2025 annual Property taxes;
 - (b) municipal Property tax rates for the 2025 supplementary taxes;
 - (c) authority to collect the Green Acres Foundation Requisition;
 - (d) authority to collect the Education Requisition; and
 - (e) authority to collect the Designated Industrial Property Requisition.

Definitions

- 3 (1) In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) "Act" means the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000 c. M-26;
 - (b) "Designated Industrial Property" shall be defined as in 284(1)(f.01) of the Act:
 - (c) "Farm Land" means land used for farming operations as defined in the regulations passed under the Act;
 - (d) "Machinery and Equipment" has the same meaning as in section 284(1)(l) and 297(4)(a.1) of the Act;
 - (e) "Minister" has the same meaning as set out in section 1(1)(o) of the Act;
 - (f) "Multi-family Residential" shall have the meaning given to the term "Multi-family Residential" in Bylaw 6386;
 - (g) "Non-Residential" has the same meaning as in section 297(4)(b) of the Act;
 - (h) "Property" has the same meaning as in section 284(1)(r) of the Act;
 - (i) "Requisition" has the same meaning as in section 326(1)(a) of the Act; and
 - (i) "Residential" has the same meaning as in section 297(4)(c) of the Act.

PART II - LEVY

4 (1) The City Treasurer of The City is hereby authorized to impose the following rates of taxation on the assessed value of all taxable Property as shown on the 2025 assessment roll of The City:

	Tax Amount	Taxable Assessment	Tax Rate
MUNICIPAL			
Residential	\$110,799,093	13,929,808,880	0.0079541
Multi-Family Residential	\$8,799,515	704,631,980	0.0124881
Farm Land	\$18,707	2,351,870	0.0079541
Non-Residential	\$74,527,944	3,507,395,450	0.0212488
Machinery & Equipment	\$0	382,903,530	0
Subtotal Municipal Portion	\$194,145,259	18,527,091,710	
EDUCATION			
EDUCATION Alberta Sabad Foundation Fund on	d Halv Cairit Damas Cathe	olio Concrete Begional Division 4:	
Alberta School Foundation Fund an	d Holy Spirit Roman Catho \$34,849,748	13,929,312,880	0.0025019
Residential	\$34,649,746 \$1,632,877	652,654,880	0.0025019
Multi-Family Residential	\$5,884	2,351,870	0.0025019
Farm Land	•	3,452,937,420	0.0023019
Non-Residential	\$13,423,640 \$0		
Machinery & Equipment		382,903,530	0
Subtotal Education Portion	\$49,912,149	18,420,160,580	
GREEN ACRES			
Residential	\$1,923,638	13,929,312,880	0.0001381
Multi-Family Residential	\$90,132	652,654,880	0.0001381
Farm Land	\$325	2,351,870	0.0001381
Non-Residential	\$476,851	3,452,937,420	0.0001381
Machinery & Equipment	\$0	382,903,530	0
Subtotal Green Acres Portion	\$2,490,946	18,420,160,580	
Designated Industrial			
Designated Industrial	\$24,008	342,484,040	0.0000701
Designated Industrial Property	Ψ2Ψ,000	072,707,040	0.0000701
TOTAL TAX AMOUNT	<u>\$246,572,362</u>		

For the purposes of collecting the portion of the Requisition defined in section 326(1)(a)(vi) of the Act, the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to impose the tax rate of 0.0000701 on the assessed value of all taxable Designated Industrial Property shown on the 2025 assessment roll of the City, as set by the Minister in Ministerial Order No. MAG:004/25.

This Bylaw shall come into force and effect on the date of final passing thereof. READ A FIRST TIME this Sday of April , A.D. 2025 MAYOR CITY CLERK READ A SECOND TIME this day of April , A.D. 2025

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

MAYOR

READ A THIRD TIME this 29 day of ____

Department: Finance & Corporate Performance

April 15, 2025

For Submission to April 29, 2025 Council Meeting

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Re: 2025 Taxation Requirements

2025 Assessment and Taxation Highlights

Submitted for City Council's consideration is Bylaw No. 6483 to establish the 2025 tax rates for taxation purposes. Some of the 2025 assessment and taxation highlights include:

- 1. 2025 property assessments consistent with the Municipal Government Act, the 2025 property assessments reflect the market value of property as of July 1, 2024. The assessments were prepared using mass appraisal practices, which utilizes information from property sales, rental income surveys and cost estimates to determine market value. All market conditions that may affect the property's value such as location, size, shape, replacement cost, age and the condition of the buildings have been taken into account. Property sales from the preceding three years establish a range of sale prices. Assessed values reflect the sales in the middle of this range of prices. This is the reason why assessments may be slightly higher or lower than the selling price. The purpose of an assessment roll is not to reflect one sale price or an opinion of value, but to assess all similar properties at similar values so that taxation is fairly and uniformly shared.
- 2. Taxation bylaw on November 29, 2022, City Council approved the four-year operating budget (for the years 2023 2026). Although the approved budget includes a 5.10% increase in revenue requirements in each of the four years, City Council must approve its taxation bylaw on an annual basis.
- 3. 2025 Provincial education tax levy pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, the City is required to levy a tax to pay the education requisition. The 2025 combined education requisition increased over the 2024 requisition by a net amount of approximately \$6,050,340 or 13.79%. The portion of the combined tax levy related to the residential class increased by about \$4,293,300 or 13.34% and the tax levy related to the combined non-residential (commercial / industrial) class increased by about \$1,757,000 or 15.06%.
- 4. 2025 Green Acres tax levy increased by a net amount of about \$94,000 or 3.92%. The increase is required to adequately fund affordable housing for senior citizens, and is responsive to the needs of seniors, their families and the community.
- 5. Market value the non-residential, single family and multi-family taxation property categories all experienced market value increases in the past year. Administration estimates that there were increases in residential category by about 8.0%, non-residential increased by 3.4% and multi-family by 2.6%.
- 6. Impact of changes in market value as noted in 2 above, budget requirements were established by City Council when they approved the 2023-2026 Operating Budget. Changes in market values do not have any impact on the budget requirements. For example, it is sometimes assumed that when overall assessments (property values) increase as they have in the past year, there is a corresponding increase in property taxes. That is not the case. Once the budget is approved, only sufficient taxes are levied to satisfy the budget requirements.

7. Supplementary assessment - it should be noted that this bylaw also authorizes the tax levy on the supplementary assessment and tax roll for the year 2025.

Single-Family Residential Property Illustration

For example purposes only, the following illustration is a tax analysis based on the average of the single family residential category with the rounded assessments of \$359,000 (2024: \$332,300).

	2025	2024	Increase (Decrease)
	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal levy	2,855.52	2,716.98	138.54	5.10%
Education requisition	898.18	799.91	98.27	12.29%
Green Acres requisition	49.58	47.78	1.80	3.77%
Combined property tax levy	3,803.28	3,564.67	238.61	6.69%

Comparative Analysis of 2025 Taxation Requirements (Exhibit 1 attached)

In addition to collecting taxes for its own municipal purposes, the City of Lethbridge also collects tax levies on behalf of the Green Acres Foundation and for Provincial educational purposes. The total tax dollars to be collected in 2025 on behalf of all taxing authorities is estimated to be \$246,572,362. The allocation of these tax dollars between the City of Lethbridge and other requisitioning authorities is illustrated on Exhibit 1 (attached).

Analysis of 2025 Tax Rates (Exhibit 2 attached)

Exhibit 2 provides a breakdown by requisitioning authority of the 2025 tax rates for single family residential, multi-family residential and non-residential (commercial/industrial) property classifications. The 2025 municipal and combined tax rates have increased for all tax classifications.

As discussed in point 5 above, the market values for the single-family residential, multi-family, commercial categories all had an increase. It should be noted that when computing the impact on homeowners and businesses, the respective tax rates are applied against any changes in the properties' market values in arriving at the 2025 tax levies.

The basis for establishing the 2025 municipal tax rates is to apply the budgeted increase in taxation requirement (5.1% for 2025).

As noted in point 5 on the prior page, market values for all classes, single family, multi-family and non-residential have all increased. As a result, ratios between classes have only changed slightly. The non-residential to single family residential ratio increased to 2.67 to 1 (2024: 2.56 to 1) and the multi-family residential to single family ratio increased to 1.57 to 1 in 2025 (2024: 1.49 to 1).

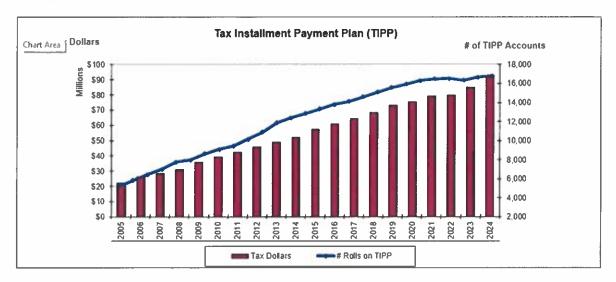
Assessment / Taxation Notices

In 2025, Property Assessment Notices for all property types (single family residential, multi-family residential and non-residential) were mailed on January 2, 2025. Property owners not satisfied with the Assessment Department's justification of the estimate of market value had 68 days after the mailing date (i.e. to March 11, 2025) to formally appeal their assessment.

Tax notices for all properties will be mailed on May 13, 2025. The 2025 property taxes are due no later than the last business day in June (i.e. June 30, 2025). Penalties will apply to late payments.

Tax Installment Payment Plan

The Tax Installment Pre-Payment Plan (TIPP) Bylaw 6482 establishes a discount rate of 1.00% for taxpayers wishing to electronically pay their taxes by installments. The third reading of this bylaw will be submitted for an approval at the City Council meeting of April 29, 2025. A chart showing the history of the TIPP plan is shown below.



Property owners wanting to take advantage of the plan can pick up an application form at City Hall, visit the City's website http://www.lethbridge.ca or request one by phoning the Taxation Department at (403) 320-3950. Taxpayers already enrolled in the 2025 TIPP plan will automatically be carried forward to the 2026 plan. Any 2025 TIPP credits will be carried forward to reduce 2026 monthly installment amounts.

Policies and Programs

Under the City's **Tax Deferral Program**, property owners facing a tax increase of greater than 10% when compared to their "annualized" 2024 property taxes can defer the excess (i.e. the portion exceeding the 10% threshold). A form is attached to the Incentives for Prepayments, Penalty and Tax Deferral Bylaw 6470 that explains the two options for deferral. Application for this program must be made by June 30, 2025.

The Alberta Government's Seniors Property Tax Deferral program allows eligible senior homeowners to defer all or part of their property taxes through a low-interest home equity loan. Program details and application forms can be found on the Province of Alberta Seniors website at http://www.seniors.alberta.ca/seniors/property-tax-deferral.html, or call the Alberta Supports Contact line at 1-877-644-9992.

For further information regarding 2025 assessment and taxation, property owners are encouraged to review the "Property Taxes Information Brochure" sent with their notices, or visit the city's website under Property Taxes https://www.lethbridge.ca/property-taxes/ (under Property Tax Brochure)" or for specific information about your property click "Property Assessments" and "Online Assessment".

Recommendation

Administration is recommending that the proposed Property Tax Bylaw 6483 to establish the 2025 tax rates for taxation purposes be given second and third reading on April 29, 2025, so that property tax notices can be mailed by May 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Jerred, CPA, CA

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Controller

D Mather

Darrell Mathews, CPA, CMA, CIA

City Treasurer

Lloyd Brierley City Manager

CITY OF LETHBRIDGE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF 2025 TAXATION REQUIREMENTS

	Municipal	Green Acres	Designated	¥	ASFF	Se	Separate		;
	Purposes	Foundation	Industrial	Residential	Non-Residential	Residential	Non-Residential	lential	Total
Gross 2025 taxation requirements	\$ 194,145,259	\$ 2,495,583	\$ 24,008	32,023,692	\$ 12,561,771	\$ 4,504,512	\$ 816,058	\$ 850	246,570,883
Plus (minus) prior year's collection adjustment	N/A	(4,637)	0	141,623	26,711	(181,318)	19,	19,100	1,479
Adjusted 2025 taxation requirements Per By-Law 6483	194,145,259	2,490,946	24,008	32,165,315	12,588,482	4,323,194	835,158	,158	246,572,362
Less 2024 taxation requirements	182,730,043	2,396,987	25,010	28,224,558	10,896,690	3,970,658	769,904	8	229,013,850
Net dollar increase in taxation requirements	\$ 11,415,216	\$ 93,960	\$ (1,002)	3,940,757	\$ 1,691,792	\$ 352,536	\$ 65,	65,254 \$	17,558,512
Percentage increase	6.25%	3.92%	-4.01%	13.96%	15.53%	8,88% %	œ	8.48%	7.67%
Municipal increase due to: 2025 revenue requirement increase (as amended) Growth in assessment Total increase	5.10% 1.15% 6.25%	اعدامد مد							

CITY OF LETHBRIDGE ANALYSIS OF 2025 MILL RATES

	:				2025 MILL RATE		
	2025		2025				
	Assessments		Requirements	Single ramily Residential	Munt-ramily Residential	Non- Residential	Designated Industrial
General Taxation							
Single family residential	13,932,160,750	↔	110,817,800	7.9541			
Multi-family residential	704,631,980		8,799,515		12.4881		
Commercial / Industrial	3,507,395,450	I	74,527,944			21.2488	
Green Acres Foundation	18,037,257,050		2,490,946	0.1381	0.1381	0.1381	
Designated Industrial Non residential	342,484,040		24,008				0.0701
School Tax - residential	14,584,319,630		36,488,509	2.5019	2.5019		
School Tax - non residential	3,452,937,420 18,037,257,050		13,423,640			3.8876	
		\$ ∥	246,572,362				
2025 Combined mill rate				10.5941	15.1281	25.2745	0.0701
2024 Combined mill rate				10.7273	14.7455	24.5853	0.0765

BYLAW 6217

A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPPLEMENTARY ASSESSMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 313 of the *Act*, Council may pass a Bylaw to authorize the preparation of supplementary assessments for improvements other than designated industrial property within the City;

AND WHEREAS Section 325.1 of the Act provides that bylaws enacted under s. 313 remain in force after the year in which they are enacted and apply in respect of subsequent years until they are repealed;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to pass this Supplementary Assessment Bylaw to allow for the taxation of certain improvements;

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Supplementary Assessment Bylaw".
- The purpose of this bylaw is to provide for the ongoing preparation for supplementary assessments for all improvements in each year until the repeal of this bylaw.
- 3. In this Bylaw, including this section:
 - (a) "Act" means the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26.
 - (b) "Assessed Person" means a person who is named on the assessment roll in accordance with section 304 of the Act.
 - (c) "Assessment" means a value of property determined in accordance with Part 9 of the Act and the regulations.
 - (d) "Assessor" means the person who has the qualifications set out in the regulations and is appointed by City Council to the position of designated officer to carry out the duties and responsibilities of an assessor under this Act and includes any person to whom those duties and responsibilities are delegated by the person.

- (e) "City" means the corporation of the City of Lethbridge or the area contained within the boundaries of the City as the context requires.
- (f) "Improvement" means
 - (i) a structure,
 - (ii) anything attached or secured to a structure, that would be transferred without special mention by a transfer or sale of the structure,
 - (iii) a designated manufactured home, and
 - (iv) machinery and equipment
- (g) "Supplementary Assessment" means the assessment made pursuant to this Bylaw, Part 9, Division 4 of the Act and the regulations.
- 4. Subject to the provisions of section 314 of the Act, a supplementary assessment shall be prepared for all improvements, except designated industrial property, for the purpose of imposing a tax in the same year under Part 10 of the Act.
- 5. Subject to the provisions of section 314 of the Act, the Assessor must prepare a supplementary assessment:
 - for machinery and equipment used in manufacturing and processing if those improvements are completed or begin to operate in the year in which they are to be taxed;
 - (b) for other improvements if they are completed in, if they are occupied during all or any part of, or if they moved into the City during the year in which they are to be taxed;
 - (c) reflecting the value of an improvement that has not been previously assessed, or the increase in the value of an improvement since it was last assessed;
 - (d) for a designated manufactured home that is moved into the municipality during the year in which it is to be taxed, despite that the manufactured home will be taxed in that year by another municipality;

- (e) in the same manner as the assessments are prepared under Part 9,
 Division 1 of the Act, prorated to reflect only the number of months during
 which the improvement is completed, occupied, located in the municipality
 or in operation, including the whole of the first month in which the
 improvement was completed, was occupied, was moved into the
 municipality, or began to operate.
- 6. A supplementary assessment roll must be prepared in accordance with section 315 of the Act.
- 7. A supplementary assessment notice must be prepared and sent to the Assessed Person in accordance with section 316 of the Act.
- 8. Bylaw 6168 is hereby repealed.
- 9. This Bylaw shall come into force and effect on the date of final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST TIME this day of MAYOR	March, A.D. 2020 Some Lately CITY CLERK
READ A SECOND TIME this 33 day of MAYOR	March, A.D. 2020 Romin J. Helverl CITY CLERK
READ A THIRD TIME this 33 rd day of	March, A.D. 2020 Bruin Halful CITY CLERK