



---

Township Clerk, RMC  
Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 7-0.

**R-20:05-106**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDING OF TAXES**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester to authorize the refunding of the following credit balances:

<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>NAME AND ADDRESS</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>
11105	9	Lereta Tax Service 901 Corporate Center Dr. Pomona, CA 91768 Attn: Refund Dept.	2020	\$2,976.98	Overpayment
13502	28	Anthony Dominick 1730 Williamsburg Place Clementon, NJ 08021	2020	\$1,288.36	Duplicate Payment
18903	21	Lereta Tax Service 901 Corporate Center Dr. Pomona, CA 91768 Attn: Refund Dept.	2020	\$2,350.64	Overpayment

**ADOPTED:** May 27, 2020

---

President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

---

Township Clerk, RMC  
Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 7-0.

**R-20:05-107**

**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW DISABLED VETERAN OR OTHER EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS FOR TAX YEAR 2020 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CREDIT TAXES AND REFUND ANY OVERPAYMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the following names are owners and residents of property in the Township of Gloucester, and

**WHEREAS**, they have made proper application for Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disability tax exempt status on their property designated with the block and lots listed below and,

**WHEREAS**, they have submitted proper evidence of Total and Permanent Disability rating from the U.S. Veterans Administration in accordance with State Regulations.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the Tax Collector is authorized to grant said exemption, credit property taxes as stated 2020 second quarter and refund any resulting credit balances.

Block Lot	Name	Comment	Amount to be Credited
18306 6	Frank Gray	Add Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption As Of 07/01/19	2019 – 5,629.83 2020 – 5,629.83 Assessment – 280,300

Adopted: May 27, 2020

---

President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

---

Township Clerk, RMC  
Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 7-0.

**R-20:05-108**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TAX COLLECTOR TO GRANT SENIOR CITIZEN, DISABLED, OR VETERAN DEDUCTION FOR THE YEAR 2020 AS INDICATED AND TO ADJUST ANY BALANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the following applicants are the owners of a residential property located in the Township of Gloucester, and,

**WHEREAS**, they have properly filed an application for a Senior Citizen, Disabled, or Veteran Deduction with proof of eligibility, and

**WHEREAS**, the Assessor has reviewed and approved said application and adjusted the records for 2020,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the Tax Collector is authorized to grant said deduction and/or adjust any resulting balances for the year 2020 and refund any balances for the amounts indicated.

Block	Lot	Name	Comment	Amount of Deduction
13505	9	Shirley Guzman	Add Veteran Deduction 2020	250.00
15001	7.21	Bernard Henry	Add Veteran Deduction 2020	250.00
16112	2	James Leheny	Add Senior Deduction 2020	250.00
17401	6	Paula McGuirl	Add Disability Deduction 2020	250.00
18311	18	Letisha Smith	Add Veteran Deduction 2020	250.00

ADOPTED: May 27, 2020

---

President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

---

Township Clerk, RMC  
Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 7-0.

**R-20:05-109**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION FOR VETERAN'S PARK GAZEBO RENTALS DUE TO COVID-19**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the following list of refunds are necessary due to Covid-19 which resulted in the cancellation of the gazebo rentals at the Veteran's Park location.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the following refunds be and are hereby authorized:

Susan Whited 12 Morning Star Ct. Sicklerville, NJ 08081	Rental Receipt #223149	\$30.00
Jennifer Benko 323 Marshall Ave Blackwood, NJ 08012	Rental Receipt #223241	\$30.00
Dawn Donaldson 23 Chiswick Dr. Lindenwold, NJ 08021	Rental Receipt #223141	\$60.00

Adopted: May 27, 2020

---

President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

ATTEST:

---

Township Clerk, RMC  
Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 7-0.

**R-20:05-110**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION R-20:05-095 ENTITLED "RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM"**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Attorney General, has awarded the Township of Gloucester a Safe and Secure Communities Program Grant (#20-0415) in the amount of \$90,000, Local Match in the amount of \$328,247.00 with a total project cost of \$418,247.00 for the purpose of partially funding the salary of four (4) police officers which foster a safer community and enable the continued implementation of the holistic Broken Windows approach from May 9, 2020 to May 8, 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Gloucester will provide "fringe benefit" matching funds, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Gloucester, Camden County, New Jersey, that the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Safe and Secure Communities Program Grant (#20-0415) in the amount of \$90,000.00 is hereby gratefully accepted.

Adopted: May 27, 2020

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 President of Council  
 Orlando Mercado

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Township Clerk, RMC  
 Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 7-0.

**R-20:05-111**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO DISALLOW THE FOLLOWING SENIOR CITIZEN OR DISABLED OR SURVIVING SPOUSE DEDUCTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020**

**WHEREAS**, the following Senior Citizens or Disabled or Surviving Spouse persons did not file an annual Post Tax Year Statement (PD-5) or,

**WHEREAS**, the Post Tax Year Statement was filed declaring income that exceeded the \$10,000 income limit or,

**WHEREAS**, the applicants entitled to this deduction have moved from the property that they resided at the time of application,

**WHEREAS**, four separate notices were mailed to these people in an attempt to have the proper forms returned in a timely manner,

**AND, WHEREAS**, all of these Senior Citizen, Disabled, or Surviving Spouse persons were mailed a Notice of Disallowance Form (PD-5) as required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.44a,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester to disallow the deduction indicated for the Tax Year 2020 as indicated.

<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>NAME DEDUCTION</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>REASON</b>
1307	2	Truempy Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
1307	10	Safko Senior Citizen		250.00	Income Over
5304	7	Vigilante Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
5401	2	Hofner Senior Citizen	250.00		Income Over
5404	1	Mulray Senior Citizen	250.00		No Form
5804	58	Perry Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	Income Over
7804	10	Dunn Disabled	250.00	250.00	No Form
8501	7	Kaleck Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form

9106	9	Benedykciuk Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
10001	6	Spalazza Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
10501	19	Jamison Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
10706	14	Velez Disabled	250.00		No Form
11302	12	Nelson Disabled	250.00		Income Over
11401	49	Cook Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
11602	21	Loscalzo Disabled	250.00		Income Over
12203	23	Sabo Senior Citizen	250.00		No Form
12506	14	Sarin Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
13002	2	Miller Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
13103	27	Wright Senior Citizen		250.00	Deceased
13201	60	Chaudery Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
13402	11	Milano Senior Citizen	250.00		Income Over
13601	91	Maslanski Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
14201	14	Cannon Disabled	250.00	250.00	No Form
15702	2	Brehm Senior Citizen	250.00		No Form
15702	22	Lawson Senior Citizen	250.00		Income Over
15702	53	White Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
15910	2	Lemon Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Return
16106	26	O'Donnell Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Return
16403	32	Mitchell Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
16604	27	Dailey Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	No Form
16703	29	Mahoney	250.00		Income Over

		Disabled			
17608	25	Doyle Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	Income Over
18502	41	Garcia Senior Citizen		250.00	New Owner
18801	20	Rivera Senior Citizen		250.00	Income Over
20203	6	Palladino Senior Citizen	250.00	250.00	Income Over

Adopted: May 27, 2020

---

President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

---

Township Clerk, RMC  
Nancy Power

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 7-0.

#### **GT E-GOV ACCESS:**

Joanne Carr of Clement Drive asked the following question:

*1. Given that many of our residents are out of work, with no money coming in, what justifies an increase in salaries and wages. Who is scheduled to receive this raise in salary with wage increase ?*

Mr. Mercado explained salary and wages introduced each budget year embody figures required by Collective Bargaining Agreements. The figures represent a realistic view of our contractual obligations and results of what contractual negotiations have settled or what they potentially will be during budget years where the CBA(s) are expired.

Patricia Brennan of Wimbledon Way asked the following question:

*1. Rumor has it that you are considering a significant tax increase for our area. Are you kidding me? People are out of work. How do you expect him to pay even more when we are already one of the highest taxed areas in the nation? How about combining a couple municipality so that every street doesn't have a mayor and the council and a police department? It's an absolute disgrace.*

Louis DiMola of Clement Drive asked the following question:

*1. Regarding this years budget. Has the Council taken into consideration the shortfall from the state and how that will impact our taxed for the next 12 months. Gov. Murphy has stated that he will have to make spending cuts on the State Level. What cuts does the council plan on making?*

Mr. Mercado explained the budget introduction date and adoption date and stated council members have been reviewing the proposed budget.

Mary Pat Condon of August Lane asked the following question:

*1. In the midst of a health and economic crisis I am told you are about to vote for a substantial (10%, seriously?) property tax increase. Obviously the easiest path is to conduct business as usual and raise taxes on homeowners to pay for whatever. Unemployment is at an all time high; retirees are watching their retirement accounts dwindle. How do you expect people to come up with this additional expense? You need to do your jobs and cut spending wherever possible. All non essential programs & projects need to be cancelled immediately. (Examples: Pumpkin Fest, billboards & electric signage, little parks that no one uses etc) You need to represent the residents of Gloucester Township even if it means working harder to do so.*

Mr. Mercado explained the 10% tax increase is only on the portion of municipal taxes, not the overall tax bill.

Marilyn Lanni of Stony Bridge Road asked the following question:

1. *"These are extraordinary times". We face a pandemic of global proportion and financial ruin of national proportion and, more appropriately, of local proportion. Many of us have had to endure pay cuts or are now unemployed through no fault of our own. Our bills go unpaid and for some of us our families are going hungry save for the long lines at the food banks. While our bank accounts go down our anxiety goes up. There are stimulus payments being made to us at the federal level. And now there is the threat of a punishing tax increase at the local level. How does this make sense?"* "These are extraordinary times"...Which call for extraordinary measures. Do the extraordinary thing and do not raise our taxes at this time. Raising taxes is a typical response for typical times and I promise you that we do not have the money. Instead, make budget cuts or at least "flatten the curve". We will understand less services or less parks or less anything. Ask the other municipalities what they are doing. I understand some are cutting taxes but I know of none who are raising them. No pay raises. The word township kinda means that we are all in this together and we are. You are our elected leaders. We are your neighbors and your friends and your constituents. Do the extraordinary thing and stand with us during these times. When history recalls what happened during these times there will be two lists of victims, those who lost their lives actually and those who lost their lives financially. Don't add any more names of Gloucester Township residents to these lists. You cannot control the former but you certainly can mitigate the latter. So I guess my question is will you stand with us?

Joyce Albinson of Upton Way asked the following question:

1. *I am writing to beg you not to approve this 10% tax increase. I've lived here for 36 years and my property taxes have increased every year. Every year! I am now retired and these continual large tax increases will force me out of this home that I love. Have some compassion for the many residents who are struggling. Our pockets are not bottomless. Cut all of these unnecessary projects, such as memorial parks, etc. Especially when so many are trying to decide whether to buy food or medicine. Has anyone reviewed the expenditures to see where cuts could be made?*

Mr. Mercado explained council has been reviewing the proposed budget and a budget subcommittee has been formed headed by Council Vice President Trotto.

Sandee Gentry of Madison Drive asked the following question:

1. *How can you justify raising taxes and salaries when many of us were/are out of work and struggling to pay our bills? Our taxes are very high enough already! As a tax paying citizen (your employer) I want it known I do not agree with your proposed tax changes and respectfully ask for no tax increases.*

Susan Clark of Merrimac Court asked the following question:

1. *We have been residents of GT since 1996. Love the neighborhood and the township. Since 1996, our taxes have more than DOUBLED. So many of our friends and neighbors had to leave the area due to foreclosure and the extranomical taxes. My own two daughters had to take up residence elsewhere because they could not afford to pay their mortgage on top of such high taxes. We would love to retire here but simply cannot afford to. I have recently lost my job and my spouse's hours have been drastically reduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. These are very trying times and to raise taxes yet AGAIN is just rubbing salt into our wounds. We are all suffering right now physically, emotionally and financially. We are all hard working residents that cannot bear the burden of another tax hike at this time! PLEASE could you have some compassion on the average, already overextended families of this township and consider NOT raising our taxes at this time? We are all in this together and some of us are just struggling to stay healthy, keep food on our tables and a roof over our heads. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING!*

Joan Dupont of Furman Drive asked the following question:

1. *I'm concerned about possible tax increase this year especially in light of COVID unemployment. We currently pay way too much.*

Kenneth Albinson of Upton Way asked the following question:

1. *Your proposed tax increase, if passed, will be the next straw on the way to breaking the back of the Township we all call home. You are elected to represent the interests of the citizens - the homeowners - of Gloucester Township. Your primary obligation is to us, and not to any of the groups who serve the Township; just as a Corporate Board's primary obligation is to it's shareholders, and not to it's customers or employees. This is a situation where you must stand-up for those who elected you in good faith. You must find ways to cut the budget - to find services that can be reduced - to find pay and benefit and capital increases that can be reduced or eliminated. You must work harder. You have not done your job yet. Just one example: We all know police overtime has ballooned beyond reason. There is no need for police to be stationed at time-and-a-half at every road construction project, at every utility project, at every pruning project that occurs. You know it; the police know it. It is your job, and now should be the time, to re-*



*open that contract negotiation and to eliminate this wasteful, wealth transfer program that provides no measurable safety benefit. I support the fine job our police do every day, and I am not picking on them. This is just one obvious example of things you need to be doing to save this Township from economic implosion before you approve a tax increase of the magnitude you are proposing. I am sure there are other similar savings that can and should be harvested. None of this is easy, but it is the job you asked to do, and we agreed you should do on our behalf. Thank you, and good luck. You can do this. You can be a hero to the citizens of Gloucester Township!*

Mr. Mercado explained the utility, construction, or pruning company pays the township for the officers.

Ashlee Caruolo-Davis of Spring Ridge Court asked the following question:

*1. What cuts are being made in the township to help off-set the salary increase and in general? What about the money that's leftover from snow removal/salting the roads? We hardly had any snow this winter. Surely there is unused money there. Schools are closed - less money being spent on utilities. So why are you increasing our taxes?? Sadly, this township only thinks of themselves. SO much waste in the township. A salary increase for you is a complete tone-deaf, slap in the face for the hard working citizens of this township who have been laid off during this pandemic.*

Mr. Mercado explained the proposed budget is being reviewed and the School Boards are separate entities from the Township. Mr. Mercado explained Council did not receive a raise and has not received raises since 2006.

Marilyn Lanni of Stony Bridge Road asked the following question:

*1. A few of my neighbors have reported that they've looked at their tax bills for the next quarter and already see the proposed tax increase effective for August 2020. Is this true and, if yes, why was it done without full public debate and the required vote? We never had a chance to meaningfully oppose, did we?*

Mr. Mercado explained the required time frame and public hearing for the budget. Mr. Cardis explained the estimated tax bills have not been released yet.

#### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

Sam Sweet of Erial inquired about the budget subcommittee. A discussion was held regarding the budget subcommittee. Mr. Sweet asked council if they were comfortable with a tax increase. Members of council responded.

Michael Dimola of Clement Drive stated the August tax bills are posted on the township website and wished to make council aware that monies and aid from the state may not be received due to state cuts.

Paul Krugg of Blackwood Estates asked council if the budget was reviewed for cost savings.

Mr. Mercado explained the budget subcommittee has not met yet.

Peter Heinbaugh of Morningstar Court inquired about the state aid considered within the budget. A discussion was held regarding state aid.

Joanne Carr of Somerdale asked if a second budget will be coming later in the year. Mr. Mercado explained the difference between the operating and capital budget. Mrs. Carr inquired about employee bargaining agreements. A discussion was held regarding bargaining agreements.

Ray Polidoro of Erial expressed his concern with the elderly and property tax increases.

Michael Connelly of Blackwood advised council to show compassion when speaking with residents regarding the budget and tax increase.

Alex Harvey of Valleybrook stated she could not find the 2020 budget on the township website.

Mr. Mercado described the location of the 2020 budget on the website.

Sam Sweet of Erial asked Mrs. Trotto to contact him regarding the budget subcommittee.

Paul Krug of Blackwood Estates also wishes to be contacted regarding the budget subcommittee. Mr. Krug discussed several line items from the budget that were presented in E Gov questions.

Mrs. Trotto read a comment from Mr. Polidoro asking council how the next meeting will be conducted due to technological inconveniences. Mr. Mercado stated council will look into alternatives.

There being no further comment, the public portion was closed.

#### **POLLING OF DIRECTORS:**

Mr. Carlamere expressed the subcommittee, a fact finding committee appointed by the governing body, is free to review information provided by the public, however opening itself up for public attendance will create issues if residents wish to attend but cannot make the meetings.

**POLLING OF COUNCIL:**

Mr. Hutchison looks forward to hearing back from the subcommittee.

Mr. Owens thanked everyone for their participation this evening. Mr. Owens thanked Chief Harkins and the men and women of the police department and first responders. Mr. Owens urged residents to complete the census.

Mrs. Stubbs thanked everyone for their genuine concern regarding the budget.

Mrs. Winters thanked everyone for their comments and concern. Mrs. Winters reminded residents to wear their masks.

Mr. Mignone thanked everyone for their comments and participation and thanked all first responders.

Mrs. Trotto thanked everyone for their comments this evening. Mrs. Trotto asked residents to send in their concerns regarding the budget.

Mr. Mercado thanked everyone for calling in to participate in this evening's meeting. Mr. Mercado thanked Chief Harkens and the honor guard. Mr. Mercado asked residents to send him emails regarding questions about the budget and he will respond.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Trotto. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Power  
Township Clerk, RMC

---

Council President  
Orlando Mercado