

RESUME:

September 12, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND “THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA,” BY AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING §§ 78-96 THROUGH 78-100 TO ADD AN EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF A VEHICLE LICENSE FEE FOR CERTAIN FORMER COUNTY VOLUNTEERS AND TO CHANGE REFERENCES FROM “REGISTRATION FEE” TO “LICENSE FEE.”

§ 46.2-752 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, allows Prince George County to exempt from payment of the annual license fee vehicles owned by any of the following persons who have served at least 10 years in the county:

- a) former members of volunteer emergency medical services agencies,
- b) former members of volunteer fire departments,
- c) former auxiliary police officers or auxiliary sheriff’s deputies, and
- d) former volunteer police chaplains.

Formerly known as a “County Decal” the annual license fee normally ranges from \$18.00 to \$29.00 and the Commissioner of the Revenue estimates the annual lost revenue to be minimal. At the request of Chairman Robertson, the County Attorney’s Office has prepared an ordinance amendment to provide for this exemption for a single vehicle owned by the retiree. (See attached draft ordinance.) The proposed ordinance also changes Code references from registration fee to license fee to be consistent with state law, as well as making other minor language or grammatical amendments.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND “THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA,” BY AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING §§ 78-96 THROUGH 78-100 TO ADD AN EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF A VEHICLE LICENSE FEE FOR CERTAIN FORMER COUNTY VOLUNTEERS AND TO CHANGE REFERENCES FROM “REGISTRATION FEE” TO “LICENSE FEE.”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Prince George County:

(1) That the Code of the County of Prince George, Virginia, 2005, as amended, is amended and re-enacted as follows:

DIVISION 3. - COUNTY LICENSE REGISTRATIONFEE

Sec. 78-96. - Required.

The term "resident," as used in this division, ~~shall be construed to embrace~~ means any person having a ~~place of above residence~~ in the county, other than upon a military installation reservation, ~~irrespective of any intention on the part of such person to return to, or to establish, a residence outside of the county at some future time.~~ The term "resident" shall also mean be ~~construed to embrace~~ any corporation or firm having an office or place of business in the county.

Sec. 78-96.1. - Vehicles subject to payment of license registration fee.

The annual county ~~license registration fee provided for by this division~~ shall be payable in full for any motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer normally garaged in the county on January 1 of any taxable year, and for any motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer subsequently garaged in Prince George County. Such license registration fee shall be nonrefundable and shall not be pro-rated.

Sec. 78-97. - Required; exceptions.

- (a) An annual license registration fee is ~~hereby~~ imposed upon every motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer normally garaged, stored or parked in the county.
- (b) The provisions of this article shall not apply to the following:
 - (1) Any vehicle exempted by the provisions of ~~Code of Virginia, §§ 46.2-663—46.2-683, and Code of Virginia § 46.2-755~~ Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended;
 - (2) Any vehicle licensed pursuant to ~~Code of Virginia § 46.2-750~~ Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; or
 - (3) Any vehicle otherwise exempted by state law.

(c) A license registration-fee will not be charged on:

(1) Any vehicle displaying special permanent plates as approved and issued by the department of motor vehicles pursuant to ~~Code of Virginia~~ § 46.2-739 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to veterans with service-connected disabilities; and

(2) Any vehicles owned or leased by:

- a) an active member or active auxiliary member of a volunteer rescue squad,
- b) a volunteer fire department, or an auxiliary police unit; provided that the member submits to the treasurer a certification, signed under oath by the chief or head of the member's volunteer organization, certifying the member's active membership for the six-month period prior to the license registration-fee being due and payable. ~~However, o~~

Only one vehicle owned by the member may qualify for the exemption provided by this subsection.

(3) Every person on active duty in the military service, absent from his state of residence or domicile solely by reason of compliance with military or naval orders, who is the sole owner of a motor vehicle which is regularly housed or stored in the county and used or intended to be regularly operated upon the streets or highways in the county, whose motor vehicle is licensed and registered in the state or in any other jurisdiction.

(4) Any vehicle owned by any of the following persons who have served at least 10 years in the county:

- a) former members of volunteer emergency medical services agencies,
- b) former members of volunteer fire departments,
- c) former auxiliary police officers or auxiliary sheriff's deputies, and,
- d) former volunteer police chaplains.

(d) Fees under this article shall appear as a charge on the owners' personal property tax bills, and shall be payable as such taxes are payable.

Sec. 78-98. - Grace periods.

(a) Purchasers of new or used motor vehicles are allowed a 60-day grace period, beginning with the date of purchase, during which to pay the license registration-fee imposed under this article.

(b) New residents of the county are allowed a 60-day grace period, beginning with the date of residence in the county, during which to pay the license registration-fee imposed by this division-article.

Sec. 78-99. - Vehicle license registration fee year.

The vehicle license registration year shall commence on January 1 of each year. The annual license registration fee shall be payable June 5 of every year. The license registration fee shall be collected as taxes are collected.

Sec. 78-100. - Schedule of license registration fees.

The annual motor vehicle license registration fee shall be as follows:

(1) Schedule for passenger vehicles:

- a. Passenger car; private school bus or bus used exclusively for transportation to and from a religious service Sunday School or church, for the purpose of divine worship or exercise of religion; motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer kept or used for rent or for hire or operated under lease, without chauffeur, for transportation of passengers; common carriers excepted; other passenger-carrying vehicle.

1. 4,000 pounds and under \$23.00

2. 4,001 pounds and over \$27.00

b. Trailer or semitrailer designed for use as living quarters for recreational purposes which also requires a state license \$23.00

c. Motorcycle \$18.00

d. Any one motor vehicle owned and used personally by any member of a volunteer rescue squad, any member of a volunteer fire department, or any county auxiliary police officer in answering calls for police assistance; any one motor vehicle owned and used personally by any disabled veteran, as defined in ~~Code of Virginia § 46.2-739~~ Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended \$0.00

e. Any motor vehicle that does not display license plates issued by the Commonwealth and that are not exempt from such requirement to display license plates. Such fee shall not be applicable to motor vehicles used for restoration or repair \$50.00

(2) Schedule for vehicles not designed for transportation of passengers:

- a. Pickup or panel truck; motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer; in the case of a combination of a tractor truck and trailer or semitrailer, each vehicle constituting a part of such combination shall be licensed as a separate vehicle and separate license plates shall be issued ~~therefor~~ each.

1. 4,000 pounds gross weight and under \$23.00

- 2. 4,001 pounds gross weight to 6,500 \$27.00
- 3. 6,501 pounds gross weight and over \$29.00
- b. One- or two-wheeled trailer of a cradle, flatbed or open pickup which has a body width not greater than the width of the motor vehicle to which it is attached at any time of operation, which is pulled or towed by a passenger car or station wagon or pickup or panel truck, and which is used for carrying property not exceeding 1,500 pounds at any one time, and for all trailers designed exclusively to transport boats; nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying to fees for trailers or semitrailers designed for use as living quarters for human beings or to those trailers or semitrailers operated under lease or rental agreement, or operated for compensation \$6.50
- c. Well-drilling machinery and specialized mobile equipment as defined in ~~Code of Virginia, § 46.2-700~~ Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended \$15.00

~~The registration fee specified by this section shall apply to the registration year ending December 31, 2007, and to each year thereafter.~~

(2) That this ordinance shall be effective on January 1, 2018 for the 2018 tax year.

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY OF PRINCE
GEORGE**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Prince George County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, Third Floor of the County Administration Building, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia, (located at the intersection of Laurel Springs Road and Courts Drive in the County Government Complex) pursuant to Section 15.2-1415, Code of Virginia of 1950, concerning the following request:

Adoption of an Ordinance to amend "The Code of the County of Prince George, Virginia," by amending and re-enacting §§ 78-96 through 78-100, to add an exemption from payment of a vehicle license fee for certain former County volunteers and to change references from "Registration Fee" to "License Fee."

Adoption of an Ordinance to amend "The Code Of The County Of Prince George, Virginia," 2005, as amended by adding § 2-264 to authorize employee bonuses under certain conditions.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review in the Office of the County Administrator/Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.; Tel. 722-8600. All interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

Percy C. Ashcraft
County Administrator