

**BILL NO. 6 of 2023**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1971**

**Motion** made by Councilman Westcott, seconded by Councilman Pintola, and carried unanimously to approve the **Final Reading of ORDINANCE 1971 BILL NO 6 of 2023 TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1836 of 2010, NOW SECTION 325-41 OF THE CITY CODE, LIMITING THE AREA FOR AVAILABILITY OF THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX ABATEMENT OFFERED THEREIN AND CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.**

***WHEREAS***, City Council for the City of Washington deems that it is in the best interest of the citizens and residents of the City of Washington to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 1971 BILL NO. 6 of 2023.**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon FINAL PASSAGE and shall be applicable for the year 2023.

**FIRST READING: 9-14-23**

**FINAL READING: 10-5-23**

**CITY OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
BY:**



**Scott J. Putnam, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



**Michelle R. Sperl, City Clerk**



***If there are questions regarding this amendment please contact Donn Henderson, City Administrator at 724-223-4232 [dhenderson@washingtampa.us](mailto:dhenderson@washingtampa.us)***

§ 325-41 **Abatement.**

[Added 9-9-2010 by Ord. No. 1836]

**A.**

Exemption from tax.

**(1)**

From and after the effective date of this section, new businesses physically locating within the City of Washington Central Business District as defined in this article and by Article III Washington Business District Authority, and subject to the provisions of this article shall be entitled to abatement from business privilege taxation in accordance with the abatement schedule contained herein. For purposes of this section, "new business" shall be defined as any person or subsidiary of the person carrying on or exercising, whether for gain or profit or otherwise within the City of Washington, any trade; business, including but not limited to financial business as hereinafter defined; profession; vocation; service; construction, communication or commercial activity; or making sales to persons or rendering services from or attributable to a Washington office or place of business, which has never before been subject to this tax. Any new business, as defined herein which has never been subject to this tax, shall receive abatement of said tax in accordance with the following schedule:

**(a)**

Year one: 100%;

**(b)**

Year two: 75%;

**(c)**

Year three: 50%; and

**(d)**

Year four: 25%.

**(2)**

Any business which qualifies for abatement under this section which ceases or terminates its business activities in the City of Washington within three years after entering into the abatement program under this section shall be liable to the City of Washington for a rollback of said tax that would have been due as if the abatement program under this section never existed, together with the applicable interest and penalties that would have accrued during the years that abatement was granted. Any business seeking exemption hereunder shall apply to the City Treasurer of the City of Washington within 90 days of locating within the City of Washington for abatement of said tax.

Requests for abatement must be in writing and certified on forms prescribed by the City Treasurer or other representative designated by the local taxing authority.

**C.**

Notwithstanding any other provision set forth in this article, requests for abatement must be accompanied by an affidavit by the applicant and property owner indicating that said applicant and property owner, have paid all real estate taxes, earned income taxes, mercantile license taxes, per capita taxes, public water and sewage bill (issued by the Washington/East Washington Joint Authority), solid waste charges and all other fees, assessments, claims or fines imposed by the City of Washington or any department or agency thereof which are delinquent or due at the time said application for exemption is made. In addition, said applicant shall provide evidence of said payments as requested by the City Clerk or other representative designated by the local taxing authority. In the event that it is discovered that said property owner or applicant, at the time of said application, has any unpaid real estate taxes, earned income taxes, occupational privilege taxes, business privilege taxes, earned income taxes, mercantile license taxes, per capita taxes, public water and sewage bills (issued by the Washington/East Washington Joint Authority), solid waste charges and all other fees, assessments, claims or fines imposed by the City of Washington or any department or agency thereof, which are due at the time of said application, the request for abatement shall be denied and the applicant property owner shall not receive a tax abatement pursuant to this article. For purposes of this article, the applicant shall constitute the new business as defined herein. If the abatement request is approved by the Mayor and Council of the City, the abatement shall be in force for three tax years and shall immediately and automatically terminate thereafter.

**D.**

Any person doing business within the City of Washington for the sole purpose of completing a single or series of single business transactions lasting less than six years shall not be entitled to abatement under the section.

**E.**

Any business granted an exemption failing to annually file with the City under the requirements of this article may result in the termination of the granted abatement.