

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO JOIN A COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES RETAINING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR PURPOSES OF INITIATING LITIGATION TO CHALLENGE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 718 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE RELATION TO MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Village of Johnstown recognizes, as a home rule power of local self-government, that municipal income tax administration and collection is vital to the health, safety and welfare of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Johnstown relies on the revenue from effective municipal income tax administration and collection to provide the services that maintain the health, safety and welfare of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly has attempted to assert control over the administration and collection of municipal income taxes by claiming that a municipality has no authority to impose an income tax unless it adopts a code in strict compliance with R.C. Chapter 718; and

WHEREAS, the established law of Ohio is clear that any such preemption of municipal income tax codes by the State of Ohio violates the Ohio Constitution and home rule provisions that allow a municipal corporation the right to administer and enforce its own municipal income tax; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, the State of Ohio has enacted HB 5 in 2014 comprehensively rewriting the entire municipal income tax law and HB 49 in 2017 authorizing centralized collection by the State of Ohio of municipalities' net profits taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Johnstown desires to assert its home rule authority to control the administration and collection of the municipal income tax, in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the municipality; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN, Licking County, Ohio, as follows:

Section I: The Village Manager is authorized to join a coalition of municipalities being formed for the purpose of initiating litigation to challenge the constitutionality of amendments to Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code contained in H.B. 5 and H.B. 49, and retain the law firm of Frost Brown Todd LLC as special counsel for the coalition of municipalities.


Section II: This Ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the health, welfare and safety of the residents of the Village of Johnstown, Ohio, such emergency arising from the need for immediate judicial proceedings given that the effective date of Am. Sub. HB 49 is January 1, 2018; WHEREFORE, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

Section III: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that meetings of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Charter for the VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN.

Ord 56-2017

Date of Introduction: November 7, 2017
Public Hearing/Vote: November 21, 2017
Effective Date: November 21, 2017


BY: Van Gundy



Mayor Sean Stanearth




ATTEST TO:



Teresa Monroe, Clerk of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Yazan Ashrawi, Law Director