

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, ENACTING, AND REENACTING,
SECTION 737.36 PROVIDING FOR BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY
INCENTIVES, SECTION 737.38 PROVIDING FOR EXTERIOR
IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVES, SECTION 737.40 PROVIDING FOR CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT, SECTION 737.41 PROVIDING
GENERAL DEFINITIONS, AND SECTION 737.42 PROVIDING FOR
INCENTIVE QUALIFICATIONS**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, HARRISON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, THAT SECTIONS 737.36 PROVIDING FOR BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY INCENTIVES, 737.38 PROVIDING FOR EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVES, 737.40 PROVIDING FOR CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT, 737.41 PROVIDING GENERAL DEFINITIONS, AND 737.42 PROVIDING FOR INCENTIVE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF SAID CITY BE AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY AMENDED, ENACTED, AND REENACTED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

737.36 BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY INCENTIVES.

(a) Definition. Any entity that locates a new business or expands an existing business within the corporate limits of Bridgeport can apply for this incentive.

(b) Tax Credit.

(1) New business. The tax credit under this section consists of a credit of 90% of assessed B&O tax on gross revenues the first year and 40% for years two and three. A year, for purposes of the tax credit, is defined as the twelve-month period beginning the first day of the quarter the business meets the qualifications for the tax credit.

(2) Expanding existing business. The tax credit under this section consists of a credit of 90% of assessed B&O tax on qualifying gross revenues resulting from the expansion the first year and 40% for years two and three. A year, for purposes of the tax credit, is defined as the twelve-month period beginning at the first day of the quarter the business meets the qualifications for the tax credit.

(c) Qualifying Requirements.

- (1) Application must be submitted and approval received from the city prior to application for a building permit.
- (2) Investment of \$100,000.00 minimum;
- (3) Determination by the City that the tax credit being offered will increase the likelihood of the business locating or expanding in the City;
- (4) The real property and improvements of the business location or expansion must have a useful life of five or more years; or must have a coinciding lease of not less than five years; or must be depreciable/amortizable tangible personal property which has a useful life of not less than five years and;
- (5) Creation of three (3) new jobs.
- (6) Business to be located in either a BPO, B1, B2, or 11 zoning district.
- (7) City council shall have the final authority on grant approval after receiving a report and recommendation from city staff and the Bridgeport Development Authority (BOA). City council shall render a decision within 45 days upon receipt of an approved application.

(d) Tax Credit Computation. Tax credits will be considered on total gross revenues of the new business. For expanding business, qualifying revenues will be determined by taking a three year average revenue base for the three years preceding the expansion (or total business revenue if business has been in operation for less than three years) and applying the credit for all revenues which exceed this average.

(e) Forfeiture. If the number of full time jobs which are realized and attributable to the tax credit falls below three, the tax credit will be forfeited for that quarter.

(Passed March 28, 2016)

737.38 EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVES.

- (a) Definition. Any property owner that remodels the exterior facade of an existing structure, constructs an addition to an existing structure, or any ancillary improvements such as decorative features, curbing, sidewalks, and demolition visible from the front facing street right of way may be eligible.

The following improvements do not qualify for this incentive:

- Paving of parking facilities,
 - New Construction,
 - Portions of exterior improvements not visible from street right of way,
 - Interior renovations,
 - Underground or above ground utilities,
 - Landscaping,
 - Advertising Signs.
- (b) Grant Award. A grant equal to twenty (20) percent of the total investment with a minimum qualified investment of \$2,000.00 which will equal a \$400.00 reimbursement grant to a maximum grant reimbursement of \$10,000.00 for an qualified investment of \$50,000.00 or above.

(Passed October 10, 2016)

737.40 CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT.

- (a) Definition: To the extent that it may lawfully do so, the City in its sole discretion, may choose to extend a general economic development grant for the benefit of a business or developer. This grant is based on availability of City funds, the economic and jobs development impact on the community and the extension of public utilities and other infrastructure, the elimination of dilapidated and obsolete structures, the beautification and expansion of recreational facilities within the community and the extent to which the development coincides with City development initiatives and efforts. The City Council may award the grant after the request has been reviewed and a subsequent recommendation is made by staff and the Bridgeport Development Authority (BDA). All grant proceeds shall be expended only in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the City, within the time prescribed by the City and in accordance with such other terms and conditions as may be approved by City Council; otherwise the grant may be withdrawn or declared due and payable and all grant proceeds distributed by the City shall be immediately _repaid to the City as directed by the City Council. The Economic Development Grant is a percentage based reimbursement grant with the monetary award disbursed after all B&O revenues are collected from the project and verified by the City. The maximum grant award shall be up to 50% of the B&O tax revenue realized from the project not to exceed \$50,000.

(b) Qualifying Requirements.

- (1) Application must be submitted and approval received from the city prior to application for a building permit.
- (2) Investment of \$100,000.00 minimum;
- (3) Determination by the City that the tax credit being offered will increase the likelihood of the business locating or expanding in the City;
- (4) The real property and improvements of the business location or expansion must have a useful life of five or more years; or must have a coinciding lease of not less than five years; or must be depreciable/amortizable tangible personal property which has a useful life of not less than five years and;
- (5) Creation of three (3) new jobs.
- (6) Business to be located in either a BPO, 81, 82, or 11 zoning district.
- (7) City council shall have the final authority on grant approval after receiving a report and recommendation from city staff and the Bridgeport Development Authority (BOA). City council shall render a decision within 45 days upon receipt of an approved application.

(Passed March 28, 2016)

737.41 GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

As used herein the following terms shall mean:

- (a) "New employee" means a person who is hired and employed in a new business or annexed business who was not previously employed within the corporate limits of the City by such business. A new employee must be employed at least 160 hours per month at a wage not less than the federal minimum wage or must work for at least six months during the taxable year.

(b) "New job" means a full time job which did not exist in the business of the taxpayer within the corporate limits of the City prior to qualified investment being made, provided this job is directly attributable to the qualified investment and is filled by a new employee as defined herein. Further, the full time job must be attributable to the project either as an employee of the entity receiving the grant or an associated entity created wholly as the result of the project.

(c) "Infrastructure improvements" include water sewer, storm sewer, roads, bridges, streetlights and all other utilities.

(d) "Investment" shall mean expenditures made for income-producing assets including but not limited to property acquisition, infrastructure, equipment, contracted labor, materials or executed lease agreement.

(Passed March 28, 2016)

737.42 INCENTIVE QUALIFICATIONS.

(a) Businesses are only eligible for one B&O tax incentive at a time. In addition, any business/owner receiving a tax incentive is not eligible for any other incentive for a period of two years from date of award.

(b) Businesses which apply for and receive tax increment financing are not eligible for B&O tax incentives or for any other type of grant or loan as defined in Section 737.33 through 737.42 for projects involving the construction or erection of building, infrastructure (utilities, roads, etc) the same as or similar to those constructed or erected with tax increment financing.

(c) Businesses which apply for and receive City B&O tax incentives are not eligible for tax increment financing or any other type of City grant or loan program as defined in Section 737.33 through 737.42.

(d) All incentive programs shall be deemed to be discretionary and determination of qualifications and eligibility for any incentive program shall be made by City Council, which determination shall be deemed final and not subject to appeal.

(Passed March 28, 2016)