

CHAPTER VI. TAXATION**Sec. 601. Payment of taxes.**

(a) Taxes on real and personal property shall be paid in four (4) equal payments, with one-fourth of the annual tax bill for each taxpayer due and payable on August 15, November 15, February 15, and May 15 of each year to the City Treasurer, unless otherwise changed by the City Council. (Amend. of 9/13/88) (Amend of 5/8/12)

(b) At the close of the fiscal year, any unexpended funds remaining from the City budget may be retained if approved by vote of the City Council, as an undesignated fund balance for future use. Any funds retained pursuant to this provision shall be limited to an amount not greater than five percent of the City budget. Any amount remaining in excess of five percent in the City budget must be used in the subsequent budget to cut the tax rate. (Amend of 5/8/12)

Sec. 602. Penalty and Interest. (Amend. of 3/2/10)

(a) Any installment not paid by the due dates established in section 601 of this charter shall be delinquent and there shall immediately be added to the amount due a penalty charge for late payment equivalent to three percent of the delinquent installment. After the expiration of 30 days from the due date of each installment, an additional penalty charge of five percent shall be added to the amount due. (Amend. of 3/2/10)

(b) Interest. An additional interest charge in the amount of one percent of the unpaid tax per month or fraction thereof shall be added to any tax not paid on or before the dates specified in section 601 of this charter. (Amend. of 3/2/10)

(c) All charges, fees, interest, and other added amounts shall be cumulative and shall accrue at the times and in the manner specified in this charter. (Amend. of 3/2/10)

Sec. 603. Treasurer's warrant.

Upon the failure to pay any installment in full when due, the City treasurer shall issue a warrant against the delinquent taxpayer for the amount of the tax remaining unpaid. The warrant shall be delivered to the collector of taxes together with a bill of the delinquent tax. The collector shall proceed to collect the taxes due together with the penalties described in Section 602 of this charter. The warrant shall remain in full force until all the taxes thereon have been fully paid or otherwise discharged.

Sec. 604. Notice of tax due.

The City treasurer shall upon delivery to him of the tax rate, publish at least three (3) times in a newspaper with the general circulation in the City a notice calling upon the taxpayer to pay their respective taxes on the dates provided in Section 601, and to mail to each taxpayer at his last known address a tax bill stating the amount of the grand list, the amount of taxes due, and when those taxes are payable.

Sec. 605. Local Sales, Rooms, Meals, and Alcoholic Beverages Option Taxes.

Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of affording the City an alternative method of raising municipal revenues,

Accordingly:

- a) The City Council may assess sales, rooms, meals, and alcohol taxes of one percent.
- b) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Department of Taxes, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 138.
- c) Revenues received through a tax imposed under this section shall be designated solely for street and sidewalk reconstruction, capital equipment, and capital improvement needs under section 406a of this charter. (Amend. 3/6/18)(Amend of 3/1/22)

[NOTE: Sec. 406a referenced above was misnumbered as sec. 409 in the charter changes approved by the legislature in 2022, creating two sections numbered 409. The reference above is to the new language in Chapter 4 that created a capital improvement plan.]