

**CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**SPECIAL RATING AREA BY-LAW**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON 27 MAY 2009**

**VIDE ITEM C 48/05/09**

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**CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**SPECIAL RATING AREA BY-LAW**

**To provide for the establishment of special rating areas; to provide for additional rates; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the City of Cape Town as follows:-

**CHAPTER 1**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL RATING AREAS**

**1. DEFINITIONS**

In this By-law words or expressions shall bear the meaning assigned to them and, unless the context otherwise indicates –

**"additional rate"** means an additional rate contemplated in sections 19(1)(d) and 22(1)(b) of the Property Rates Act and in section 12(2) of this By-Law;

**"applicant"** means any owner who makes an application for the determination of a special rating area in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, or if a management body is established in terms of section 10 any reference to **"the Applicant"** means the management body;

**"CFO"** means the Chief Financial Officer of the City, or his or her nominee;

**"City"** means the City of Cape Town established by Provincial Notice No. 479 of 2000 in terms of section 12 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998( Act No. 117 of 1998);

**"Council"** means the Council of the City;

**"implementation plan"** means an Implementation Plan as contemplated in section 6;

**"limited special rating area"** means a limited special rating area approved by the Council in terms of section 9;

**"majority"** means the majority of property owners as contemplated in section 22 of the Property Rates Act;

**"management body"** means the management body of a special rating area to be established in accordance with the provisions of section 10;

**"motivation report"** means a motivation report as contemplated in section 6;

**"owner"** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Property Rates Act;

**"Policy"** means the Policy for the determination of special rating areas, or any other policy adopted by the Council in relation to special rating areas, as in force from time to time;

**"Property Rates Act"** means the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004);

**"rateable property"** has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Property Rates Act;

**"special rating area"** means a special rating area approved by the Council in accordance with the provisions of section 22 of the Property Rates Act and section 8 of this By-Law.

## **2. INTERPRETATION**

In the event of any conflict with the Afrikaans or isiXhosa texts the English text prevails.

## **3. DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL RATING AREAS**

The City may by resolution of the Council determine special rating areas.

## **4. APPLICATION**

- (1) Any owner located within the area of jurisdiction of the City and who owns property within the proposed special rating area, may lodge an application to the Council for the determination of a special rating area.
- (2) All costs incurred by the applicant in respect of the establishment of a special rating area shall be for his or her own account, provided that after implementation of the implementation plan the management body may reimburse the applicant for some or all of those costs.
- (3) Any application contemplated in subsection (1) must –
  - (a) be in writing and be in the form as the CFO may determine;
  - (b) be submitted not more than nine months after the date on which the public meeting referred to in section 5 is held, or if a second public meeting is held as provided for in section 6(2), nine months after the date of the second public meeting;
  - (c) be accompanied by –

- (i) a motivation report and an implementation plan;
- (ii) the written consent of the majority of the members of the local community in the proposed special rating area who will be liable for paying the additional rate, in a form determined by the CFO;
- (iii) payment of such fee as the Council may determine.

## **5. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- (1) An application for the determination of a special rating area must be preceded by the holding of a public meeting.
- (2) The purpose of the public meeting is to enable the applicant to consult with those owners within the proposed special rating area with regard to the proposed boundaries of the area and the proposed improvement or upgrading of the area.
- (3) Prior to the holding of the public meeting, the applicant must –
  - (a) give notice in a manner approved by the CFO in terms of this By-law to all owners of rateable property, who will be liable for payment of the additional rate, of the applicant's intention to apply for the determination of a special rating area;
  - (b) in the notice referred to in subsection (3)(a), give notice of a public meeting, which notice must –
    - (i) state the purpose of such meeting; and
    - (ii) contain details of the place, date and time when such meeting is to be held.
- (4) The public meeting must be held not less than seven days and not more than 30 days after the date of the notice.
- (5) The public meeting must be held at such place, date and time as stated in the notice, provided that it must be held at a place which is within the boundaries of the proposed special rating area unless the CFO approves another venue in writing before the public meeting is held.
- (6) The public meeting must be chaired by a suitably qualified and experienced person appointed by the CFO.
- (7) Interested persons must, at the public meeting, be –

- (a) furnished with all relevant information relating to the proposed special rating area, including the information to be set out in the motivation report and implementation plan; and
- (b) given an opportunity to ask questions, express their views and make representations.

**6. MOTIVATION REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- (1) Any application for the establishment of a special rating area must include a motivation report and an implementation plan covering a period commencing on 1 July of a year and ending on 30 June of the fifth year, or covering such lesser period as may be determined by the CFO.
- (2) If the motivation report or the implementation plan are materially amended, as determined by the CFO, after the public meeting referred to in section 5, the applicant must call a second public meeting for approval of the special rating area as amended.
- (3) The provisions of section 5 apply with the necessary changes to the second public meeting.

**7. ADVERTISING OF APPLICATION AND OBJECTIONS**

- (1) The applicant must within 14 days after the application is lodged in accordance with section 4, or within such further period which the CFO may approve –
  - (a) cause a notice of the application to be published in a manner approved by the CFO; and
  - (b) either before or up to seven days after the date of publication of the notice, give written notice of the application to all owners within the proposed special rating area, who will be liable for payment of the additional rate, such notice to be given by pre-paid registered post, hand delivery or in any other manner approved of in writing by the CFO.
- (2) Every notice contemplated in terms of subsection (1) must state that written objections to the determination of a special rating area or the provisions of the motivation report and implementation plan may be lodged with the Council by a date specified in the notice, which shall not be less than 30 days after the date of publication in terms of subsection (1)(a), and must state where the documentation specified in subsection (5) will be available for inspection.

- (3) Any owner of rateable property who will be liable for paying the additional rate may submit written objections to the determination of the special rating area, which objections must be received by the Council not later than the date stipulated in the notice referred to in subsection (1).
- (4) An applicant and any objector to the application who owns property within the proposed special rating area may make oral representations to Council.
- (5) The application, including the motivation report and the implementation plan, and all objections must be available for inspection at the offices of the City and at a venue determined by the CFO within the proposed special rating area, for the period referred to in subsection (2).

## **8. DECISION**

- (1) After the provisions of sections 4 to 7 have been complied with, the Council must, at a meeting of the Council held 90 days after the last date for the submission of objections in accordance with section 7(2), consider the application and –
  - (a) determine a special rating area which must be implemented in accordance with the motivation report and implementation plan;
  - (b) determine a special rating area with such amendments or conditions as the Council considers to be in the public interest;
  - (c) determine a special rating area in respect of a limited area in terms of section 9;
  - (d) refuse the application, in which event the Council must, within 30 days, furnish the applicant with written reasons for not approving the determination of a special rating area; or
  - (e) refer the application back to the applicant for amendment in such manner as the Council may direct.
- (2) If an application is refused by the Council in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1)(d) or referred back to the applicant in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1)(e), the applicant may, within six months of the Council's decision, re-apply to the Council for the determination of the special rating area, provided that such re-application has been appropriately amended in the light of the reasons for refusal or referral, as the case may be.

- (3) If the motivation report or implementation plan is amended in any material respect at any time before the determination, the Council may require that the application be re-advertised in accordance with the provisions of section 7, with the necessary changes.

**9. DETERMINATION OF A LIMITED SPECIAL RATING AREA**

If an application in terms of section 4 is not accompanied by the majority of the members of the local community in the proposed special rating area required by section 4(3)(c), but the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council, that –

- (a) there are such confirmations from owners of rateable properties in a limited geographical area within the proposed special rating area that would meet the requirements of section 4(3)(c) if they were to be applied to that area; and
- (b) the level of services to be provided will not be reduced and the budget will be reduced accordingly as a result of the provision of those services in the limited area alone, as compared to the provision of those services in the whole of the proposed special rating area,

then the Council may, subject to the other requirements of this By-Law, determine a limited special rating area.

**CHAPTER 2**

***SPECIAL RATING AREAS – STRUCTURES AND FINANCES***

**10. COMMENCEMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Once the Council has approved the establishment of the special rating area, the implementation plan may only be implemented after the management body has been established in accordance with section 11.

**11. ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION, POWERS AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT BODY**

- (1) The applicant must cause to be established a management body for the purposes of implementing the provisions of the implementation plan.
- (2) The management body must be a company incorporated in accordance with the provisions of section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act No. 61 of 1973).

- (3) The City shall monitor compliance by the management body with the applicable provisions of this By-Law, any guidelines or policies adopted by the City and any agreements entered into with the management body and the City.
- (4) A Sub-Council must nominate the relevant ward councillor and one other person, as representatives to attend and participate, but not vote, at the meetings of the management body.
- (5) Within two months after receipt of the first payment of the additional rate, the management body must begin carrying out the provisions of the implementation plan.
- (6) Within two months of the end of each financial year, the management body must provide the CFO with –
  - (a) its audited financial statements for the immediately preceding year; and
  - (b) an annual report on its progress in carrying out the provisions of the implementation plan in the preceding year to improve and upgrade the special rating area.
- (7) Within two months after the Annual General Meeting, the management body must provide the relevant Sub-Council with –
  - (c) its audited financial statements for the immediately preceding year; and
  - (d) an annual report on its progress in carrying out the provisions of the implementation plan in the preceding year to improve and upgrade the special rating area.

## **12. FINANCES**

- (1) The financial year of the management body must coincide with the financial year of the Council.
- (2) Where a special rating area has been determined, the Council must levy in accordance with the provisions of the Property Rates Act, a property rate in addition to the rates that it already charges on the owners of rateable property in the special rating area for the purposes of realising the implementation plan, provided that the Council may in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004), Rates Policy, Credit Control and Debt Collection By-law and the Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy, exempt the indigent, senior citizens, disabled persons or any other category of residents.

- (3) When determining the additional rate referred to in subsection (2), the Council may give consideration to imposing differential additional rates on one or more of the categories set out in section 8 of the Property Rates Act.
- (4) The additional rate due in terms of this By-law is a debt due to the Council and is payable and must be collected in the same manner as other property rates imposed by the Council.
- (5) The Council may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the implementation plan of special rating area and subject to section 67 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003), make payment to the management body of a special rating area.
- (6) The payment contemplated in subsection (5) is conditional upon the conclusion of a finance agreement to be entered into between the Council and the relevant management body, and such agreement must regulate, among other things –
  - (a) the mechanisms and manner of payment; and
  - (b) terms on which payment to the relevant management body is to be made.
- (7) Subject to the provisions of its memorandum and articles of association, the management body is entitled to raise its own funds through commercial activities, donations or any other lawful means.
- (8) The Council may, for the purposes of this By-law, determine and impose on the management body an administrative charge.

### **13. THE ROLE OF THE CFO**

In addition to the other responsibilities and obligations of the CFO as set out elsewhere in this By-Law, the CFO must -

- (a) establish separate accounting and other record-keeping systems regarding the revenue generated by the additional rate and the improvement and upgrading of the special rating area;
- (b) monitor compliance with the applicable legislation, including this By-Law and the Policy, by –
  - (i) receiving and considering the audited financial statements and reports regarding the carrying out of duties laid out in the implementation plan;

- (ii) if he or she elects to do so, nominating representatives to attend and participate but not vote at meetings of the management body.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

#### **14. AMENDMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

- (1) An implementation plan, including the geographical boundaries of the special rating area, may be amended by the Council on written application by the management body at any time after the formation of the special rating area.
- (2) The Council may approve an application for an amendment referred to in subsection (1) where the Council considers it not likely to materially affect the rights or interests of any owner, provided that the Council may require the management body to cause a notice of the application for such amendment to be published as approved by the CFO.
- (3) The Council may only approve an amendment in terms of subsection (1), with the changes required by the context, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, which the Council considers is likely to –
  - (a) materially affect the rights or interests of any person;
  - (b) affect the approved budget for the special rating area; or
  - (c) change the boundaries of the special rating area.
- (4) The Council may, for good reason, on written application by the management body, exempt the management body from complying with the provisions, or condone any non-compliance with any provisions, of Chapter 1.

#### **15. EXTENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

A management body must, if it elects to extend the term of the implementation plan for a further period, on or before 1 January in the year in which the implementation plan is due to terminate, submit an application to the City for approval of extension of the term of the implementation plan, provided that –

- (a) the extension of the implementation plan may only be approved by the Council in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, with the changes required by the context, and the Council may, for good reason, on written application by the

management body, exempt the management body from complying, or condone any non-compliance, with any such provisions;

- (b) the provisions of section 14 shall apply to any amendment of an implementation plan which has been extended in terms of this section.

**CHAPTER 4**

***DISSOLUTION OF A SPECIAL RATING AREA***

**16. DISSOLUTION**

- (1) The Council may dissolve a special rating area –
  - (a) upon written application signed by the majority of owners within the boundaries of the special rating area who are liable for paying the additional rate; or
  - (b) after prior consultation by the CFO with the management body or the community, for any good cause, whereupon he or she may cause the management body to be wound up.
- (2) Upon the winding up of a management body, the assets remaining after the satisfaction of all its liabilities shall be utilised by the Council to provide additional municipal services in accordance with the provisions of the implementation plan for such area.

**CHAPTER 5**

***MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS***

**17. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

- (1) Any special rating area or City Improvement District determined or established, or deemed to have been determined or established in terms of the By-Law referred to in section 18 shall be deemed to have been determined or established in terms of this By-Law.
- (2) Any –
  - (a) application initiated by an applicant, including a motivation report and implementation plan prepared for such an application;
  - (b) advertisement or public meeting in respect of such application;
  - (c) application submitted to Council;
  - (d) approval by the Council of any application,

made, done or given prior to the date of this By-Law, shall be governed by this By-Law, provided that any implementation plan in force on the commencement date of this By-Law

shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 6, terminate on the termination date of the relevant implementation plan or 30 June 2011, whichever is the earlier.

**18. REPEAL OF BY-LAWS**

The City of Cape Town City Improvement District By-Law, published in Provincial Gazette No. 6118 of 26 March 2004, is hereby repealed.

**19. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT**

- (1) This By-Law is called the City of Cape Town: Special Rating Areas By-law, 2009.
- (2) No new special rating area determined in terms of this By-Law may implement its implementation plan prior to 1 July 2009.