WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 within New Jersey constitutes an imminent public health hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of one or more municipalities or counties of the State; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 and the related pandemic has caused and continues to cause significant supply chain shortages; and

WHEREAS, the supply change issues continue to limit the availability of certain goods, including certain veterinary or animal prescriptions and vaccines; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s annual rabies clinic, is ordinarily scheduled in January; and

WHEREAS, the Township receives rabies vaccines from the County of Burlington, however, due to the supply chain shortfalls the County of Burlington does not currently have sufficient inventory to supply the vaccines; and

WHEREAS, the County of Burlington has advised the Township that they will have a sufficient number of rabies vaccines available for distribution by March 2022; and

WHEREAS, the supply chain shortages have require that the rabies clinic be postponed until March 2022; and

WHEREAS, Appendix A-3 Schedule C of the revised ordinances of Tabernacle entitled Animal Control Fees (Dog License Fee) set forth penalties for licensing a dog after January 31; and

WHEREAS the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle does not believe it is equitable for residents and business owners to be assessed a penalty regarding dog licenses during a public health crisis and state of emergency.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle hereby postpones the assessment of late fees for Dog Licenses for the year 2022 from January 1, 2022, until March 31, 2022. Late fees for Dog Licenses will be assessed beginning April 1, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that Appendix A-3 Schedule C of the revised ordinances of Tabernacle entitled Animal Control Fees (Dog License Fee) are hereby amended as follows, “No late penalties will be assessed between January 1, 2022, and March 31, 2022”; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Late Fee associated with Dogs Licenses will be $6.00 per dog for all licenses issued between April 1, and April 30, 2022, and an additional $2.00 per month per dog for every month thereafter beginning May 1, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publications according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any late fee associated with dog licenses accessed between January 1, 2022, and the effective date of this Ordinance shall be waived.