



TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
FROM: Karen Rose, Commissioner of the Revenue
DATE: February 23, 2016
RE: Personal Property Tax Exemption for Anicura Veterinary Center

Summary: On December 18, 2015, Anicura Veterinary Center applied for personal property tax exemption on an additional vehicle.

Background: The Constitution of Virginia allows for specific local tax exemption. Prior to January 1, 2003, the General Assembly passed bills exempting an organization from local taxation and as of January 1, 2003, local elected officials were given the authority to make the determination. Harrisonburg City Code §4-2-17 addresses local real and property exemption. Anicura Veterinary Center (formerly Shenandoah Valley Spay and Neuter) received personal property tax exemption from City Council on March 25, 2008. An additional vehicle was purchased by the Center in 2013 for which they are asking additional exemption.

Key Issues: Anicura Veterinary Center is a non profit corporation incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia and classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity described in Section 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The purpose of the Center is to serve animals and the community through affordable veterinary services, education, outreach, shelter, care and protection programs to help animals live healthy lives in a safe environment. They work with animal welfare organizations both nonprofit and government operated, small and large, to stop medically unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals. They are also committed to ending animal overpopulation by providing low cost, high quality spay and neuter services. The Center is open to everyone regardless of income or place of residence. In addition the Center has a pet food pantry to help families who need temporary assistance in order to better care for their pets. The vehicle is used by the Center to transport their patients for spay/neuter procedures and preventive care services. The assessed value of the property for 2015 was \$19,275 and the taxes assessed by the City for the year 2015 were \$674.63; for the year 2014 \$713.13 and for the year 2013 –N/A.

RE:

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Environmental Impact: None

Fiscal Impact: Reduction in personal property revenue of \$675 or less.

Prior Actions: Exempted business personal property as of March 25, 2008.

Alternatives: (a) Approve for exemption
(b); or
(c) Do not approve for exemption

Community Engagement:

Recommendation: The Committee members Jeff Shafer, Treasurer; Larry Propst, Director of Finance; and Karen Rose, Commissioner of the Revenue have reviewed the application packet and recommend that City Council approve the request for exemption.

Attachments: Committee Approval Letter and Application, Public Hearing Advertisement,

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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