

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH DENTON COUNTY FOR THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF DENTON; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Denton (the "City") and Denton County (the "County") desire to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for the County, through its duly elected tax assessor-collector, to act as tax assessor and collector for the City for the purpose of billing and collecting property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the County is well equipped to perform this service; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Interlocal Agreement is in the public interest; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DENTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. The City Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute the Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the City with the County. The City Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to carry out the rights and duties of the City under the Interlocal Agreement including the expenditure of funds provided for therein.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the _____ day of _____, 2017.

CHRIS WATTS, MAYOR

ATTEST:
JENNIFER WALTERS, CITY SECRETARY

BY: _____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
Aaron Leal, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

BY:  _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DENTON §

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR TAX COLLECTION
BETWEEN DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS, AND
CITY/ TOWN OF Denton, Texas**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2017, by and between **DENTON COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as "**COUNTY**," and, the **City/Town of Denton, Texas** _____, Denton County, Texas, also a political subdivision of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as "**MUNICIPALITY**."

WHEREAS, COUNTY and **MUNICIPALITY** mutually desire to be subject to the provisions of V.T.C.A. Government Code, Chapter 791, the Interlocal Cooperation Act, and V.T.C.A., Tax Code, Section 6.24 and 25.17 and;

WHEREAS, MUNICIPALITY has the authority to contract with the **COUNTY** for the **COUNTY** to act as tax assessor and collector for **MUNICIPALITY** and **COUNTY** has the authority to so act;

NOW THEREFORE, COUNTY and **MUNICIPALITY**, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and agreements herein contained, do agree as follows:

I.

The effective date of this Agreement shall be the 1st day of October, 2017. The term of this Agreement shall be for a period of one year, from October 1, 2017, to and through September 30, 2018. This Agreement shall be automatically renewed for an additional one (1) year term at the discretion of the **COUNTY** and **MUNICIPALITY**, unless written notice of termination is provided by the terminating party to the other party prior to one hundred-fifty (150) days of the expiration date of the current term of the Agreement.

MUNICIPALITY agrees to deliver this agreement no later than September 5, 2017 or the first Monday of September 2017 in manner required by **COUNTY** to fully execute said collection services by **COUNTY**.

II.

For the purposes and consideration herein stated and contemplated, **COUNTY** shall provide the following necessary and appropriate services for **MUNICIPALITY** to the maximum extent authorized by this Agreement, without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, disability, or national origin:

1. **COUNTY**, by and through its duly qualified tax assessor-collector, shall serve as tax assessor-collector for parcels in Denton County of the **MUNICIPALITY** for ad valorem tax collection for tax year 2017, and each tax year for the duration of this Agreement. **COUNTY** agrees to perform all necessary ad valorem assessing and collecting duties for **MUNICIPALITY** and **MUNICIPALITY** does hereby expressly authorize **COUNTY** to do and perform all acts necessary and proper to assess and collect taxes for **MUNICIPALITY**. **COUNTY** agrees to collect base taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney's fees.

2. **COUNTY** agrees to prepare and mail all current and delinquent tax

statements required by statute, supplemental changes for applicable property accounts, as well as prepare and mail any other mailing as deemed necessary and appropriate by **COUNTY**; provide daily and monthly collection reports to **MUNICIPALITY**; prepare tax certificates; develop and maintain both current and delinquent tax rolls, disburse tax monies to **MUNICIPALITY** daily (business day) based on prior day tax postings. **COUNTY** agrees to approve and refund overpayment or erroneous payment of taxes for **MUNICIPALITY** pursuant to Texas Property Tax code Sections 31.11 and 31.12 from available current tax collections of **MUNICIPALITY**; meet the requirements of Section 26.04 of the Texas Tax Code; and to develop and maintain such other records and forms as are necessary or required by State law, rules, or regulations.

3. **COUNTY** further agrees that it will calculate the effective tax rates and rollback tax rates for **MUNICIPALITY** and that such calculations will be provided at no additional cost to **MUNICIPALITY**. The information concerning the effective and rollback tax rates will be published in the form prescribed by the Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Texas, and as required by Section 26.04 of V.T.C.A. Tax Code. **MUNICIPALITY** shall notify tax assessor-collector no later than July 25th of each year that **MUNICIPALITY** wishes publication of forms or notices specified in this section. **MUNICIPALITY** further agrees that if **COUNTY** calculates effective and rollback tax rates, **COUNTY** shall publish the required notices on behalf of **MUNICIPALITY**.

It is understood and agreed by the parties that the expense of publication shall be borne by **MUNICIPALITY** and that **COUNTY** shall provide **MUNICIPALITY**'s billing address to the newspaper publishing the effective and rollback tax rates.

4. **COUNTY** agrees, upon request, to offer guidance and the necessary forms for posting notices of required hearing and quarter-page notices as required by Sections 26.05 and 26.06 of V.T.C.A. Tax Code and Section 140.010 of Local Government Code, if **MUNICIPALITY** requests such 7 days in advance of the intended publication date, **COUNTY** agrees to manage all notices and publications on behalf of **MUNICIPALITY** if request is received no later than July 25th. **MUNICIPALITY** must approve all calculations and notices, in the format required by **COUNTY**, before publication may proceed. The accuracy and timeliness of all required notices are the responsibility of **MUNICIPALITY**.

5. Should **MUNICIPALITY** vote to increase its tax rate above the rollback tax rate the required publication of notices shall be the responsibility of **MUNICIPALITY**.

6. **COUNTY** agrees to develop and maintain written policies and procedures of its operation. **COUNTY** further agrees to make available full information about the operation of the County Tax Office to **MUNICIPALITY**, and to promptly furnish written reports to keep **MUNICIPALITY** informed of all financial information affecting it.

7. **MUNICIPALITY** agrees to promptly deliver to **COUNTY** all records that it has accumulated and developed in the assessment and collection of taxes, and to cooperate in furnishing or locating any other information and records needed by **COUNTY** to perform its duties under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

8. **COUNTY** agrees to allow an audit of the tax records of **MUNICIPALITY** in **COUNTY'S** possession during normal working hours with at least 48 hours advance, written notice to **COUNTY**. The expense of any and all such audits shall be paid by **MUNICIPALITY**. A copy of any and all such audits shall be furnished to **COUNTY**.

9. If required by **MUNICIPALITY**, **COUNTY** agrees to obtain a surety bond for the County Tax Assessor/Collector. Such bond will be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Tax Assessor/Collector's lawful duties, will be made payable to **MUNICIPALITY** and in an amount determined by the governing body of **MUNICIPALITY**. The premium for any such bond shall be borne solely by **MUNICIPALITY**.

10. **COUNTY** agrees that it will post a notice on its website, as a reminder that delinquent tax penalties will apply to all assessed taxes which are not paid by January 31, 2018.

11. **COUNTY** agrees that it will post to a secure website collection reports for **MUNICIPALITY** listing current taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interest on a daily

basis through September 30, 2018. **COUNTY** will provide monthly Maintenance and Operation (hereinafter referred to as “MO”), and Interest and Sinking (hereinafter referred to as “IS”) collection reports; provide monthly recap reports; and provide monthly attorney fee collection reports.

12. **MUNICIPALITY** retains its right to select its own delinquent tax collection attorney and **COUNTY** agrees to reasonably cooperate with the attorney selected by **MUNICIPALITY** in the collection of delinquent taxes and related activities.

13. **MUNICIPALITY** will provide **COUNTY** with notice of any change in collection attorney on or before the effective date of the new collection attorney contract.

III.

COUNTY hereby designates the Denton County Tax Assessor/ Collector to act on behalf of the County Tax Office and to serve as Liaison for **COUNTY** with **MUNICIPALITY**. The County Tax Assessor/Collector, and/or his/her designee, shall ensure the performance of all duties and obligations of **COUNTY**; shall devote sufficient time and attention to the execution of said duties on behalf of **COUNTY** in full compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and shall provide immediate and direct supervision of the County Tax Office employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and/or laborers, if any, in the furtherance of the purposes, terms and conditions of this Agreement for the mutual benefit of **COUNTY** and **MUNICIPALITY**.

IV.

COUNTY accepts responsibility for the acts, negligence, and/or omissions related to property tax service of all **COUNTY** employees and agents, sub-contractors and /or contract laborers, and for those actions of other persons doing work under a contract or agreement with **COUNTY** to the extent allowed by law.

V.

MUNICIPALITY accepts responsibility for the acts, negligence, and/or omissions of all **MUNICIPALITY** employees and agents, sub-contractors and/or contract laborers, and for those of all other persons doing work under a contract or agreement with **MUNICIPALITY** to the extent allowed by law.

VI.

MUNICIPALITY understands and agrees that **MUNICIPALITY**, its employees, servants, agents, and representatives shall at no time represent themselves to be employees, servants, agents, and/or representatives of **COUNTY**. **COUNTY** understands and agrees that **COUNTY**, its employees, servants, agents, and representatives shall at no time represent themselves to be employees, servants, agents, and/or representatives of **MUNICIPALITY**.

VII.

For the services rendered during the 2017 tax year, **MUNICIPALITY** agrees to pay **COUNTY** for the receipting, bookkeeping, issuing, and mailing of tax statements as follows:

1. The current tax statements will be mailed by October 10th or as soon thereafter as practical. In order to expedite mailing of tax statements the **MUNICIPALITY** must adopt their 2017 tax rate by September 29, 2017. Failure of the **MUNICIPALITY** to adopt a tax rate by September 29, 2017 may cause delay in timely mailing of tax statements. Pursuant to Texas Property Tax Code §26.05 the **MUNICIPALITY** must adopt a tax rate by the later of September 30th or 60 days after the certified appraisal roll is received. Failure to adopt and deliver a tax rate by the later of September 30th or 60 days after the certified appraisal roll is received may result in delay of processing and mailing **MUNICIPALITY** tax statements. **MUNICIPALITY** agrees to assume the costs for additional delayed tax statements, processing and mailing as determined by **COUNTY**. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Tax Code, if **MUNICIPALITY** fails to deliver the adopted tax rates (M&O and I&S) to the Tax Assessor Collector by September 29, 2017, it may will cause a delay in the publication and release of tax statements.

2. **COUNTY** will mail an additional notice during the month of March following the initial mailing provided that **MUNICIPALITY** has requested such a notice on or before February 28, 2018. The fee for this service will be a rate not to exceed **\$0.82** per statement.

3. At least 30 days, but no more than 60 days, prior to April 1st, and following the initial mailing, **COUNTY** shall mail a delinquent tax statement meeting the

requirements of Section 33.11 of the Texas Property Tax Code to the owner of each parcel to the owner of each parcel having delinquent taxes.

4. At least 30 days, but no more than 60 days, prior to July 1st, and following the initial mailing, **COUNTY** will mail a delinquent tax statement meeting the requirements of Section 33.07 of the Texas Property Tax Code will be mailed to the owner of each parcel having delinquent taxes.

5. For accounts which become delinquent on or after June 1st, **COUNTY** shall mail a delinquent tax statement meeting the requirements of Section 33.08 of the Texas Property Tax Code to the owner of each parcel having delinquent taxes.

6. In event of a successful rollback election which takes place after tax bills for **MUNICIPALITY** have been mailed, **MUNICIPALITY** agrees to pay **COUNTY** a programming charge of \$5,000.00. **COUNTY** will mail corrected statements to the owner of each parcel. **COUNTY** will charge a fee for this service at a rate not to exceed \$0.82 per statement pursuant to Property Tax Code Section 26.07 (f). When a refund is required per Property Tax Code Section 26.07 (g), **COUNTY** will charge a \$.25 processing fee per check, in addition to the corrected statement mailing costs. Issuance of refunds, in the event of a successful rollback election, will be the responsibility of the **COUNTY**. **MUNICIPALITY** will be billed for the refunds, postage and processing fees.

7. **MUNICIPALITY** understands and agrees that **COUNTY** will, no later than January 31st, deduct from current collections of the **MUNICIPALITY** the "Total Cost" of providing all services described in paragraphs 1-5 above. This "Total Cost" includes any such services that have not yet been performed at the time of deduction. The "Total Cost" of providing all services described in paragraphs 1-5 above shall be the total of:

\$0.82 x the total number of parcels listed on **MUNICIPALITY's** September 30, 2017 end of year Tax Roll for tax year 2016.

In the event that a rollback election as described in paragraph 6 takes place, **COUNTY** shall bill **MUNICIPALITY** for the applicable programming charge, check processing fees, refunds paid, and refund postage costs. **MUNICIPALITY** shall pay **COUNTY** all billed amounts within 30 days of its receipt of said bill. In the event costs for additional delayed tax statements, processing and mailing are incurred as described in paragraph 1, **COUNTY** shall bill **MUNICIPALITY** for such amounts. **MUNICIPALITY** shall pay **COUNTY** all such billed amounts within 30 days of its receipt of said bill.

8. **MUNICIPALITY** further understands and agrees that **COUNTY** (at its sole discretion) may increase or decrease the amounts charged to **MUNICIPALITY** for any renewal year of this Agreement, provided that **COUNTY** gives written notice to **MUNICIPALITY** sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the initial term of the Agreement. The County Budget Office establishes collection rates annually based on a survey of actual annual costs incurred by the **COUNTY** in performing tax collection services. The collection rate for each year is approved by County Commissioners' Court. All entities are assessed the same per parcel collection rate.

VIII.

COUNTY agrees to remit all taxes, penalties, and interest collected on **MUNICIPALITY's** behalf and to deposit such funds into the **MUNICIPALITY's** depositories as designated:

1. For deposits of tax, penalties, and interest, payment shall be by wire transfer or ACH to **MUNICIPALITY** depository accounts only, and segregated into the appropriate MO and IS accounts. Only in the event of failure of electronic transfer protocol will a check for deposits of tax, penalty and interest be sent by mail to **MUNICIPALITY**.

2. If **MUNICIPALITY** uses the same depository as **COUNTY**, the deposits of tax, penalty and interest shall be by deposit transfer.

3. In anticipation of renewal of this Agreement, **COUNTY** further agrees that deposits will be made daily through September 30, 2018. It is expressly understood, however, that this obligation of **COUNTY** shall not survive termination of this Agreement, whether by termination by either party or by failure of the parties to renew this Agreement.

4. In event that **COUNTY** experiences shortage in collections as a result of an outstanding tax debt of **MUNICIPALITY**, the **MUNICIPALITY** agrees a payment in the amount of shortage shall be made by check or ACH to **COUNTY** within 15 days after notification of such shortage.

IX.

In the event of termination, the withdrawing party shall be obligated to make such payments as are required by this Agreement through the balance of the tax year in which notice is given. **COUNTY** shall be obligated to provide services pursuant to this Agreement, during such period.

X.

This Agreement represents the entire agreement between **MUNICIPALITY** and **COUNTY** and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and/or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by the governing bodies of both **MUNICIPALITY** and **COUNTY** or those authorized to sign on behalf of those governing bodies.

XI.

Any and all written notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be delivered or mailed to the listed addresses:

COUNTY:

County Judge of Denton County
110 West Hickory
Denton, Texas 76201
Telephone 940-349-2820

MUNICIPALITY:

The City/Town of Denton
Address: 215 E McKinney St.
City, State, Zip: Denton, TX 76201
Telephone: 940-349-8260 Email: Charles.Springer@cityofdenton.com

XII.

MUNICIPALITY hereby designates Chuck Springer to act on behalf of **MUNICIPALITY**, and to serve as Liaison for **MUNICIPALITY** to ensure the performance of all duties and obligations of **MUNICIPALITY** as stated in this Agreement. **MUNICIPALITY**'s designee shall devote sufficient time and attention to the execution of said duties on behalf of **MUNICIPALITY** in full compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; shall provide immediate and direct supervision of the **MUNICIPALITY** employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and/or laborers, if any, in the furtherance of the purposes, terms and conditions of this Agreement for the mutual benefit of **MUNICIPALITY** and **COUNTY**.

XIII.

In the event that any portion of this Agreement shall be found to be contrary to law, it is the intent of the parties that the remaining portions shall remain valid and in full force and effect to the extent possible.

XIV.

The undersigned officers and/or agents of the parties are the properly authorized officials and have the necessary authority to execute this agreement on behalf of the parties. Each party hereby certifies to the other that any resolutions necessary for this Agreement have been duly passed and are now in full force and effect.

Executed in duplicate originals this, _____ day of _____, 2017.

COUNTY

Denton County
110 West Hickory
Denton, Texas 76201

BY: _____
Honorable Mary Horn
Denton County Judge

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Juli Luke
Denton County Clerk

APPROVED FORM AND CONTENT:

Michelle French
Denton County
Tax Assessor/Collector

MUNICIPALITY

Town/City: Denton
Address: 215 E McKinney St.
City, State, Zip: Denton, TX 76201

BY: _____
Name: Todd Hileman
Title: City Manager

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Name: Jennifer Walters
Title: City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Name
Denton County Assistant
District Attorney

SIGN HERE

SIGN HERE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CITY ATTORNEY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

BY: 