

owner or owners of any property assessed, or any one on his or their behalf shall at any time have the right to anticipate by payment all installments, with interest to date, of the assessment not then due, and any assessment or part thereof remaining due and unpaid shall be enforced and collected by the Mayor and Council of New Carrollton in the same manner as now or hereafter prescribed and required by law for the collection of taxes.】

SECTION 15. BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS.

a. Authority. The Council shall have the power to assess against the abutting property and to collect from the owners thereof, any part or all of the cost of streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, drainage systems and other permanent municipal improvements as it may determine to be necessary for the public benefit and for the benefit of the owners of said abutting land. Such costs shall include the direct construction costs of the project, the cost of any land acquired for the project, the interest on bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in anticipation of the collection of special assessments, a reasonable charge for the administrative expense incurred to levy and collect the assessment, and any other item of cost which may reasonably be attributed to the project. All benefit assessments so levied shall be subject to the provisions of this section. In no case shall the Council levy an assessment to recover the cost of normal repairs or maintenance to existing streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, drainage facilities or other similar improvements. Before levying any benefit assessment as provided herein, the Council must obtain in writing the approval of the owners of more than 50% of the abutting property against which the assessment is to be made.

b. Notice of Proposed Assessment. When the Council has determined to propose an assessment for an improvement, the Administrative Officer shall notify in writing all owners of property against which the assessment is proposed to be levied, stating a time and place for a public hearing to be conducted thereon. Said notice may be mailed to the last known address of the owner, or served in person upon any adult occupying the premises. Said notice shall state the nature and extent of the proposed project, the estimated cost of the project, the portion of the cost to be assessed, the number of installments in which the assessment may be paid, and the rate of interest the assessment will bear. Notice of said public hearing shall also be advertised in at least one publication of general circulation within the City at least five days before the date of the hearing. Following the public hearing, and upon obtaining the written approval of the owners of more than fifty percent (50%) of the assessable property, the Council, in its discretion, may vote to proceed with the project and to levy the assessment. Any person feeling aggrieved by the levying of an assessment under the provisions of this assessment shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County within ten (10) days after the levying of said assessment by the Council.

c. Levying of Assessments. All assessments levied under the provisions of this section shall be by ordinance of the City Council, and shall be a lien on the property assessed, to be collected in the same manner as is provided for the collection of real property taxes. The assessment against each abutting parcel shall be for a share of the total cost of the assessable improvement equal to the proportion thereof that the number of feet in said parcel abutting on such improvement bears to the total assessable frontage on the part of the street or area so improved, or shall be on such other equitable basis as determined by the Council. The principal of such