

Ordinance No. 2026-_____

An ordinance amending Polk County Ordinance 2024-015, the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for D.R. Horton, Inc.; amending the definition of Exemption Period; amending the effective date of the D.R. Horton Tax Exemption; amending the expiration date of the Ordinance; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

Whereas, on March 5, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) adopted Ordinance 2024-015 (the “Ordinance”) granting an Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption to D.R. Horton, Inc. (the “Company”) pursuant to Ordinance 2022-069, the Polk County Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance, as amended; and

Whereas, the Exemption Period was initially defined in the Ordinance as eight (8) tax years commencing with Tax Year 2025 through Tax Year 2032; and

Whereas, in early 2025, the Company was delayed in the construction of improvements and purchase of equipment as specified in Section 4.c. of the Ordinance and in the Application, and requested that the Exemption Period be delayed by one year; and

Whereas, on May 6, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution No. 25-049 amending the Exemption Period to commence with Tax Year 2026 and continue through Tax Year 2033; and

Whereas, construction of the improvements and purchase of the equipment has been further delayed in 2026, and the Company has requested, and the Board hereby agrees, to amend the Ordinance to adjust the dates of the Exemption Period during which the Company is eligible to receive the Exemption, amend the effective date of the Exemption, and amend the expiration date of the Ordinance.

Now therefore, be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County, Florida, that:

1. The recitals above are true and correct and are fully incorporated herein. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meaning ascribed in the Ordinance.
2. Article III, Section 2, of the Ordinance is hereby amended and restated in its entirety as follows: “The D.R. Horton Exemption shall be for a period of eight (8) tax years (the “Exemption Period”) commencing with Tax Year 2027 through Tax Year 2034.”
3. Article VI of the Ordinance is hereby amended and restated in its entirety as follows: “The exemption granted herein shall automatically expire on December 31, 2034 and shall no longer be in force or effect thereafter.”
4. The second sentence of Article VII of the Ordinance is hereby amended and restated in its entirety as follows: “The exemption granted herein shall take effect commencing with Tax Year 2027.”
5. If any clause, section or provision of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason or cause, the remaining portion of this ordinance shall be in full force and effect and be valid as if such invalid portion thereof had not been incorporated herein.
6. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be filed in the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board within ten (10) days after enactment by the Board and the ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this 5th day of May, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____

Martha Santiago, Ed. D., Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk

(SEAL)