

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH WORKSHOP COUNCIL MINUTES – October 30,
2007

The Workshop Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington Borough, Warren County, New Jersey was held in Council Chambers located at the Borough Hall at 8:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Van Deursen, Woykowski, Higgins, Cioni, Housel, - Present
Oakley, Turner - Absent

Also Present: John Corica, Borough Manager
Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk

Mayor Van Deursen read the following Statement into the Record:

“The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law 1975, Chapter 231 have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.

Property Tax Re-Assessment

Mayor Van Deursen asked Tom Efstathiou, Tax Assessor for an update on how the meeting went with the concerned group of citizens. Mr. Efstathiou stated that he had met with one group last week and another this evening. He indicated that they do want to pursue a re-assessment. He stated that the only other way to potentially reduce their property taxes was for the homeowners to file an appeal which he explained to them. Mr. Efstathiou stated that he will review the assessments in the subdivision.

Mr. Efstathiou asked Council if they were still interested in meeting with the Tax Board. He indicated that a meeting is a good idea; everyone will be on the same page and will understand the process. Manager Corica stated that if the County Tax Board orders a revaluation it is bondable for five years. Mr. Efstathiou concurred. If council decides to do a re-assessment it may not be bondable. Mayor Van Deursen stated that if the Borough decides to do a re-valuation of property taxes Council would need to budget another \$150,000.00 in 2008 which would affect the tax rate.

Mayor Van Deursen thanked Mr. Efstathiou for the information he provided this evening.

Motion made by Councilman Higgins, seconded by Housel to enter executive session for the discussion of contracts.

Roll Call: Housel, Cioni, Woykowski, Higgins, and Van Deursen.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

A motion to exit executive session was made by Higgins, seconded by Woykowski and approved.

Councilman Houzel excused himself from the remainder of the meeting at 9: 40 p.m.

2008 Budget Timeline

Manager Corica stated he will have the preliminary budget available by January 1, 2008. He advised Council to keep in mind that we will not have a solid number for revenue until after December.

Council set the first budget hearing workshops for the January 19 and January 26, 2008.

Redevelopment

Mayor Van Deursen indicated the report from the seminar that Councilwoman Woykowski in attended in Princeton should forthcoming.

Vision 2008

Due to time constraints this topic will be re-addressed in January 2008.

Hearing no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Higgins seconded by Woykowski that the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0.
Motion Carried

Marianne Van Deursen, Mayor

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk