

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**  
**WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – April 1, 2008**

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

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

Also Present: John Corica, Borough Manager  
Steven Farsiou, Esq. Municipal Attorney  
Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk

Mayor Van Deursen led everyone in the flag salute.

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.

**COUNCIL APPEARANCE**

**Redevelopment Attorney Joseph Baumann**

Mr. Baumann presented an overview to the Governing Body as to where the Borough is regarding the redevelopment project.

He stated the redevelopment subcommittee is off to a strong start. The committee has established a weekly conference call and a monthly meeting. Right now, his firm is in the information gathering stage and getting up to speed with the new Borough Planner. The professionals are aware that costs need to be kept low and measured and do not want to duplicate efforts. He stated that they are also in the process of developing a budget for the redevelopment project.

The team is focusing on three projects: the downtown area, the municipal parking lot, and acquisition of properties. Regarding the municipal parking lots; he is aware that there is an engineer’s estimate which he is trying to have reduced. The upcoming joint meeting of the governing body and the Business Improvement District will focus on the downtown parking lot. His firm is also reviewing the environmental issues with the properties slated for acquisition. The subcommittee reviewed Vikon Tile and Turbine Alloy for possible acquisition as well.

The Bond Ordinance introduced at the last meeting is for professional fees. He stated he understands that it is a difficult decision for Council. His goal is to not to borrow the money for the long term. The goal is to have developer contributions create a revenue stream to recoup these moneys. Mr. Baumann stated that he is aware of the concerns of Council that the Borough has already spent a lot of money.

Mayor Van Deursen stated the council has had surprises over the years. We have had inappropriate representation on project expenses. The Council is holding the professionals responsible for keeping projects under budget. Councilman Turner explained that unlike in previous years; Council includes a *not to exceed number* in all of its contracts now.

Mayor Van Deursen stated that the borough planner will be at the next Council meeting to discuss his proposal.

Councilman Housel noted that sewer capacity is a very important issue for the Borough and should be step one in this process. He stated that the Borough has reports from 2005 stating that the Borough is out of sewer capacity. Councilman Turner added the Borough needs to have the zoning and planning Ordinances written and adopted; those items are just as important as the sewer capacity issue. Councilwoman Woykowski noted the Borough Sewer Engineer is in the process of preparing a new report.

Councilman Higgins asked Attorney Baumann if the Borough will be eligible for grants regarding the Brownfield's properties. Attorney Baumann stated yes; the Borough can get 100 % of the money to investigate the properties through grants. Councilman Cioni asked if the Borough needed to own the property in order to receive grant money. Attorney Baumann stated that the regulations are still evolving on that topic. The goal is not to own the properties.

Mayor Van Deursen thanked Attorney Baumann for his report to Council.

### **MINUTES:**

Mayor Van Deursen entertained additions or corrections to the minutes of March 18, 2008 and the Executive Sessions of March 18, 2008.

Hearing no comments it was moved by Turner, seconded by Higgins that the minutes of March 18, 2008 be approved.

Roll Call: Higgins, Turner, Woykowski, Cioni, Van Deursen – Yes  
Housel – abstain from the Executive Session

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

The following communications were entered into the Record:

1. New Jersey American Water Re: Newsletter
2. Morris Canal Committee Re: Bus Tour

It was moved by Turner, seconded by Higgins that the communications be acknowledged, received and filed.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.  
Motion carried.

Councilman Higgins noted that the Water Company is going before the Public Board of Utilities for a .35 increase in rates.

**AUDIENCE:**

**Ken Hale – 51 Vannatta Street.**

Mr. Hale addressed Council on a Variance issue he is having with the old auto parts store he purchased on Broad Street. Mayor Van Deursen asked Mr. Hale if he had appeared before the Board of Adjustment or spoken to the Borough Manager regarding the issue. Mr. Hale stated that he had not but had spoken to the Zoning Officer and the Attorney for the Board of Adjustment. Mayor Van Deursen suggested making an appointment with the Borough Manager to discuss the issue.

**Jim Sheldon, Executive Director Business Improvement District**

Mr. Sheldon read the following letter to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Business Improvement District.

The Washington Business Improvement District (WBID), its volunteer Board of Directors, Executive Director and staff are proud of the accomplishments of the WBID.

The WBID was formed in 2003, as a 501c3 non-profit organization according to the Special Improvement District Legislation in the State of New Jersey. Washington Borough Council agreed to form the WBID at the request of the Special Improvement District Steering Committee.

Opponents of the plan to form the WBID saw it as another burden on overtaxed, over-regulated New Jersey businesses. Many business and community leaders said that more bureaucracy and assessments were what we did not need. The Steering Committee assured those opponents of the WBID that what we were attempting to do was different; businesses would have an independent corporation directed by a business-oriented Board of Directors who would be their voice. The WBID would provide an organization that would work with Borough Council as partners to resolve important community issues.

Today, as the Borough Council's partner, we want to present our accomplishments to date:

- **“Welcome to Washington” Signage**

The “Welcome to Washington” sign at the intersections of Highway 57 & Route 31 was completed by the WBID for \$15,000. If the Borough had followed through with the engineer's estimate and quote received, the cost would have been in excess of \$54,000. The final sign completed by the WBID is a substantial savings of \$39,000. This does not take into account that prior to the inception of the WBID the Borough incurred a design expense of \$12,000; just \$3000 less than the WBID cost of the entire project. Originally, the DPW was

to maintain this site; however the WBID has paid for all maintenance expenses \$3,500 annually. In addition, we have also replaced the two old and dilapidated signs on Route 31. The seasonal banners depicting our logo add to the aesthetics. These signs and banners truly were the beginning of creating our “Hometown Friendly” image.

- **WBID Grant Programs**

We have created and financed four highly successful programs which involved reinvesting capital into a few of our oldest buildings. The best example of our Facade Program was the financial assistance of a \$20,000 loan to the Washington Antique Center. The Curbside Appeal Program has allowed businesses to improve signage and storefronts. In addition, our Business Incentive Grant and Special Needs Programs funded the Washington Theatre for a total of \$7,500 along with help for other businesses.

- **Streetscape Grant**

Our grant writer was responsible for receiving in excess of \$1.4 million for the streetscape grant. This has turned into a tremendous improvement in the overall aesthetics and pedestrian circulation in the downtown. This “new look” for the borough has begun to pay off as there is a renewed interest in downtown properties by businesses and developers. Bob Goltz, Warren County Chamber President & CEO, was quoted saying that “Washington is the talk of the county and drawing a lot of attention outside the county.”

- **Town Clock**

As part of the streetscape project, the WBID has purchased and installed a turn of the century replica Clock for \$23,500. Due to budget constraints, the WBID undertook the fundraising task of selling pavers and engraved plaques to complete the amenities portion of the original streetscape plans.

- **Surveillance Systems**

The WBID funded the \$13,400 purchase of 2 surveillance systems. Once installed, they will be donated to the Police Department. We believe that these surveillance systems will be a tremendous aid in police protection without an increase cost for payroll or health insurance.

- **Washington Business Development**

The WBID has invested in a strong public relations campaign to promote Washington. We believe that as a result of our PR campaign, the general public perception of Washington is changing. The Borough is beginning to be perceived as a good place for business. The following are examples:

The WBID assisted Mark Mulligan to lease 100% of the first floor. The former Arthur Alexander Law office was extensively renovated by the new owner and now houses his consulting business.

A new and important redevelopment project is the Midtown Limited, a 16,000 square foot office/retail complex with 48 market rate condominiums. The Midtown Limited site was formerly occupied by 4 older buildings with an assessed value of \$600,000. The WBID, acting as liaison with developer Jack Van Cleef and Borough leadership, was able to

facilitate the project's ultimate approval. This project will be of tremendous fiscal value. The ratable value of the completed project is estimated to be approximately \$8 million, and will generate over \$394,000 in 5 years. When the PILOT is complete, normal taxes will generate \$49,297 per year, a \$44,000 increase.

- **Sign Ordinance Amendments**

The WBID developed a unified sign ordinance consistent with a turn of the century theme throughout the shopping district. These new amendments will soon be adopted by Council.

- **Special Projects**

The WBID played a major role in ameliorating a dangerous and unsightly building which existed in excess of 5 years at 258 E. Washington Avenue. This property, at the entrance to the Borough was a constant source of consternation for neighboring residents and businesses. The WBID contacted the lien holder and accelerated the foreclosure and sale of the property. The house is currently under renovation, and will generate \$1,760 in Borough taxes this year.

The WBID was concerned about the operation of our sewer plant and its capacity. We believe that redevelopment is very important to our mission and a driving force to redevelopment is sewer capacity. The WBID commissioned Dr. Frank Mangravite of Public Works Management to undertake a sewer operations study on behalf of the Borough. We believed that it was important to get the study started as quickly as possible. While the Borough concurred, they needed to wait until the next fiscal year due to budget constraints. The WBID was able to step in and fund the initial study and report. This study uncovered several issues in the operation and maintenance of the plant. This report pointed out that the Borough was paying for repairs since 2005 for which it was not responsible. These costs are estimated to be excess of \$77,000. These funds can now be used for other improvements to our sewer system.

- **Maintenance**

We have also employed, since our inception, a part time employee to clean and help maintain the main shopping district. This includes all Borough parking lots and areas along nearby side streets. In addition, we had invested \$6,500 to sealcoat the parking lots in 2005. This has prolonged the life of the asphalt surface of each lot at no cost to the Borough.

- **Special Events**

Events are a way to create awareness of Washington Borough, and are a good way to generate foot traffic in the shopping district. With that goal in mind, we began to create several events that we believe draw both attention and people in the Borough and in nearby locations. Since our first Car Show in June 2004, we have continued to draw visitors to Washington at this annual event.

We added an even larger annual event in 2006 that has turned out to be the premier event for the region. The Festival in the Borough has attracted thousands of people to Washington Borough. Three stages of music, one having a family focus, along with a hundred or more vendors lining the main streets, creates a great deal of foot traffic and a positive sense of community.

We have added an annual Arts & Crafts Fair plus several other smaller yearly events. In addition to those annual events, we offer two other weekly events. One of the weekly events is Warren County's only Farmer's Market. With its prime location and through the tremendous support of the local media with front-page coverage, the Friday Farmer's Market has truly taken off. Its reputation attracts shoppers not only from our town and others in Warren County, but from many in Morris County, Hunterdon County, and Eastern Pennsylvania who drive through the Route 57 corridor. The WBID's other weekly event that draws good support is the Thursday Cruise Night where car enthusiasts drive their special car to Port Murray Auto Sales.

- **Annual WBID Awards Banquet**

The annual WBID Awards Banquet was created to support and recognize our local merchants.

- **Public Relations and Media**

One of the WBID's goals was to create a new and positive perception of Washington as a great place to live, locate a business and work. This has been accomplished through several methods: 1) We have collaborated with the Skylands New Jersey Tourism Council to advertise on the back cover of their magazine for events throughout the region. This four-color piece is distributed throughout all membership locations and at every event that Skylands Tourism attends. 2) Most recently, we have collaborated with the local newspapers, radio and TV. Through media partnerships we have been able to promote some of our businesses through Comcast Newsmakers and in news stories in a variety of print from the local Messenger, Warren Reporter, Express-Times, Hunterdon Democrat and Star-Ledger. Continued collaboration with the above organizations and media will continue to maintain and even improve the new prosperous "Hometown Friendly" image of Washington Borough.

In conclusion, the WBID has never kept score of our many accomplishments. We have focused on our work and have put all of our efforts into our tasks rather than advertise or politicize our accomplishments. Perhaps this was a mistake. Some members of the community have complained that the WBID has accomplished little or nothing. However, this letter is merely an outline of our many accomplishments.

The WBID Board of Directors understands that a Business Improvement District is a new concept and represents a change to business as usual in the Borough. The WBID is a great asset to Washington Borough. If we work together in the spirit of partnership and respect, then much can be accomplished.

Mayor Van Deursen thanked Mr. Sheldon and stated it was an excellent representation of the Business Improvement District.

Motion made by Councilman Housel, seconded by Councilman Turner to close the audience portion of the meeting.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

At this time Mayor Van Deursen deviated from the agenda to the Paramount Properties topic under New Business.

Councilman Turner explained that he requested this topic be placed on the agenda to express his concerns regarding Paramount Properties. He expressed his concern over the recent closure of the Cocoon Coffee Shop and the fact that there are quite a few of their properties that are vacant. Mr. Sheldon noted that of the properties owned by Paramount 80% of them are vacant. Mr. Turner requested that a letter be written to the owners of Paramount Properties to inquire about their intentions with the Borough. Mr. Turner stated he wants to know what their vision is for the downtown. Mr. Turner asked Mr. Baumann if there is a way the Borough can force Paramount to improve the buildings or condemn the property. Mr. Baumann stated the most direct route is to identify the problem properties to the public and ask a private party to partner with the Borough. The private party would agree to acquire the property and redevelop. Mayor Van Deursen stated that the Borough is working hard to redevelop the downtown. The Paramount properties are an eyesore and detriment to our projects. She stated that she and Councilwoman Woykowski met with Paramount a few years back and they were on board with the redevelopment project.

Council concurred that a letter is in order and should be sent to Paramount Properties.

### **ORDINANCES:**

#### **Ordinance 1-2008 – AN ORDINANCE TO RESTRUCTURE THE BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS, ESTABLISHING A RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY RECREATION COMMITTEE (Public Hearing/Final Reading)**

Ordinance 1-2008 was moved by Councilman Housel, seconded by Councilman Turner.

It was further moved by Turner, seconded by Housel that the Clerk read Ordinance #1-2008 by title only.

The Clerk read Ordinance #1-2008 by title only and stated that this ordinance had been published in the Star Gazette as required by law; a copy was posted on the bulletin board and copies available upon request from the Clerk's office.

Roll Call: Van Deursen, Woykowski, Turner, Housel, Cioni – Yes  
Higgins - No

Ayes: 5, Nays: 1.  
Motion carried.

Public Hearing:

**James Prendergast 97 Flower Avenue**

Mr. Prendergrast expressed his concerns that there is no real implementation plan for the new committee. He stated that the recreation department should already be hiring for the summer and attending soccer league meetings. He would like to hear from Council how the Borough will manage the programs.

Mayor Van Deursen stated that the Recreation Director will be in charge of implementing and managing all programs.

**Dawn Higgins 113 Harding Drive**

Ms. Higgins stated that she was not happy with Council's decision to restructure the Recreation Commission to a Committee. She feels that Council passed this Ordinance too quickly and did not give this enough thought. It was only after Council saw how upset the commission was that you brought the group into the process. When you asked for our input; we told you we did not want the Ordinance at all. Ms. Higgins asked how the Borough is going to move along with the pool project. She stated that she was overseeing that project everyday, talking to the engineers and the contractors. The Recreation Commission was on time with all of its projects and not over budget. Council should have thought these things through. She stated the Governing Body insulted every member of the Recreation Commission.

Hearing no further comments from the public Councilman Housel motioned to close the public hearing seconded by Councilwoman Woykowski.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Council Discussion:

Councilman Turner questioned the ex officio member of the Recreation Committee. There is no council member on any other volunteer boards.

Councilman Higgins asked if the Recreation Secretary position will need to be changed. Manager Corica indicated that the secretarial position will not change at all.

Mayor Van Deursen entertained a motion to adopt on final passage.

Motion made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilwoman Housel to adopt Ordinance 1-2008 on final passage.

Roll Call: Woykowski, Van Deursen, Turner, Cioni, and Housel – Yes  
Higgins - No

Ayes: 5, Nays: 1



Motion Carried

***ORDINANCE # 1 -2008***

**AN ORDINANCE TO RESTRUCTURE THE BOARD OF RECREATION  
COMMISSIONERS,  
ESTABLISHING A RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE  
APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that recreational services will be more effectively and efficiently delivered if the Board of Recreation Commissioners is replaced by a Recreation Department and an advisory Recreation Committee;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** Article VIIIA, including Sections 3-55.1 through 3-55.7 of the Code of the Borough of Washington is repealed in its entirety.

**Section 2.** A new Article VIIIA of the Code of the Borough of Washington entitled “Recreation Department” is hereby created as follows:

**§3-55.1. Creation**

There shall be a Recreation Department, the head of which shall be the Director of Recreation.

**§3-55.2. Director of Recreation**

There is hereby created a Director of Recreation who shall be appointed by the Manager. The Director shall serve under the supervision of the Manager. The Director shall receive such compensation as may be provided for by the Salary Ordinance. The Director shall be responsible for the development and execution of programs and activities for recreation and operation and maintenance of Borough parks and pool.

**§3-55.3. Powers and Duties of Director**

The Director shall have the following specific duties:

- A. Take charge of and be responsible for the day to day activities of the Recreation Department.
- B. Be responsible to the Borough Manager for the development of and adherence to the annual and capital budget, personnel policies and all financial and purchasing policies. The Director shall consult with the Manager in connection with all significant annual and capital budgets, personnel policies and all financial and purchasing policies issues.
- C. Hire all employees of the Recreation Department in consultation with the Manager. Supervises, trains, evaluates and advises assigned employees and volunteers, involved in the recreation program.

- D. Prepare detailed annual plans and budget recommendations for the maintenance and operation of all parks, playgrounds, pool and facilities for recreation and cultural programs sponsored by the Department.
- E. Administer and expend departmental funds in accordance with the budget appropriations and ordinances and the financial procedures established by the Manager.
- F. Establish, evaluate and propose, to the extent feasible, programs for every age group population of the Borough.
- G. Coordinate all volunteer or community group efforts to provide recreational programming as they relate to Borough facilities or calendar.
- H. Attend meetings of the Recreation Committee and shall respond to and consider advice from the Committee.
- I. Shall seek out recreation and senior citizen grants and write grant applications.
- J. Supervises the establishment and maintenance of records and files.
- K. Recommends, demonstrates and applies techniques, procedures materials, equipment, and supplies for use in recreational activities.

**§3-55.4. Department Responsibilities:**

The Recreation Department shall:

- A. Supervise and regulate all parks, playgrounds and recreational areas belonging to the Borough. It shall be the Department’s responsibility to maintain said parks, playgrounds and recreational areas.
- B. Establish, supervise and regulate the recreation program to meet the recreational needs of the residents of the Borough.
- C. Promulgate, adopt and approve such rules and regulations necessary to carry out its responsibilities subject to the review and approval of the Manager.

**Section 3.** A new Section 3-75 under Article XIII (Regional Boards, Authorities, Advisory Committees) of the Code of the Borough of Washington entitled “Recreation Committee” is hereby created as follows:

**§3-75. Recreation Committee**

- A. Creation.** There is hereby created a Recreation Committee for the Borough of Washington to advise the Director, Mayor and Council on recreational policies of the Borough.
- B. Duties.** Duties of the Recreation Committee shall include but not be limited to offering advice on:
  - 1) Regulations applicable to parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities belonging to the Borough;
  - 2) Program development, administration and organization;
  - 3) Existing fields and parks usage and development;

- 4) Make recommendations and provide guidance and support to the Borough Council on issues and matters designed to effectuate parks and pathways purposes. Make recommendations concerning the design and implementation of a parks and pathways system to enhance and expand opportunities for parks and pathways purposes.
- 5) Acquisition or lease of property for recreational purposes;
- 6) The capital acquisitions and improvements for the Recreation Department.
- 7) Review the proposed annual budgets for operational and capital improvements for the Recreation Department and provide comment to the Borough Council on the priorities, facility improvements and maintenance, fees and participation levels anticipated in the budget.
- 8) Review all recreation initiatives and offer comment on the balance between age and interest groups, active and passive recreation activities, other park-related issues and supported recreation, for voluntary recreation organizations in calendar and facility use.
- 9) Be a catalyst for volunteer help with Borough-sponsored and supported recreation by active participation and by enlisting others to serve.
- 10) Promote the Borough's recreation, parks, pathways and open space programs throughout the community.
- 11) A member of the Recreation Committee shall act as a liaison for each of the programs.

**C. Members.** The Recreation Committee shall consist of seven (7) plenary members and one (1) ex officio member who shall be a member of the Council. All members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, except the ex officio member who shall be appointed by the Mayor. The ex officio member may attend meetings and provide comments or ask questions regarding the proceedings but shall not vote. Members shall be citizens and residents of the Borough.

**D. Terms of Members.** At the first appointment of members to the Recreation Committee the following terms apply: one shall be appointed for a one-year term, three shall be appointed for a two-year term, and three shall be appointed for a three-year term. Initial appointments shall terminate December 31 of the last year of the term. Upon the expiration of the first appointment term of each said member, the succeeding term thereafter shall be for five (5) years. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of the term shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

The term of the ex officio member shall be one year, or until his or her term as Council Member shall terminate, if that should occur sooner.

**E. Officers.** At the beginning of each year, the Recreation Committee shall designate members of the Committee to serve as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary for the Committee. The Chairperson or his/her designee shall serve as a member of the Borough Redevelopment Committee.

**F. Meetings.** At the beginning of each year, the Recreation Committee shall determine a meeting schedule.

**Section 4.** In accordance with Chapter 3, Article II, Section 15, Subsection E of the Code of the Borough of Washington, this Ordinance shall become effective 20 days after final passage unless the Council, by an affirmative vote of five (5) Council Members, shall adopt a resolution declaring the Ordinance to be an emergency upon which said Ordinance will take effect upon final passage.

### **Resolution 93-2008**

#### **Resolution Designating Ordinance 1-2008 to be an Emergency Ordinance**

Resolution 93-2008 was moved by Housel, seconded by Cioni and adopted.

Roll Call: Housel, Cioni, Van Deursen, Woykowski, and Turner – Yes  
Higgins – No

Ayes: 5, Nays: 1  
Motion Carried

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 15, Subsection E of the Code of the Borough of Washington, states that Ordinances shall become effective 20 days after final passage unless the Council, by an affirmative vote of five (5) Council Members, adopts a resolution declaring the Ordinance to be an emergency upon which said Ordinance will take effect upon final passage; and

**WHEREAS**, the project enumerated within the above captioned Ordinance are necessary for the betterment of the residents of the Borough of Washington and;

**WHEREAS**, the 20 day waiting period is not in the best interest of the residents and employees of the Borough of Washington and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the members of the Borough of Washington of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Ordinance #1-2008 in accordance with Chapter 3, Article II, Section 15, Subsection E of the Code of the Borough of Washington and that this Ordinances shall take effect immediately upon final passage.

### **Resolution 101-2008**

#### **Resolution Appointing Recreation Committee Members**

Councilman Higgins suggested tabling the Council liaison section of the Resolution. Council concurred.

Resolution 101-2008 was moved on a motion made by Turner, seconded by Cioni and adopted with the above mentioned change.

Roll Call: Turner, Woykowski, Housel, Van Deursen – Yes  
Cioni, Higgins - No

Ayes: 4, Nays: 2  
Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION 101-2008**  
**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey is governed by Plan “E” of Municipal Charter Law; and

**WHEREAS**, under this plan the Mayor of the Borough is to appoint members of the Recreation Committee with the advice and consent of the Council and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor has designated the following persons her appointees to the Recreation Committee:

Rebecca Copenhaver -3 year term ending	December 31, 2010
Candy DeFillipps - 3 year term ending	December 31, 2010
Rick Feldman - 3 year term ending	December 31, 2010
Carol Alpuche - 2 year term ending	December 31, 2009
Adam Zimmer - 1 year term ending	December 31, 2008

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor is also to appoint an ex officio member to the Recreation Committee to serve as a liaison and;

**WHEREAS**, The Council does approve of this appointment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the above mentioned appointments shall take effect immediately.

**Ordinance 3-2008 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 94 of the Code of the Borough of Washington to Establish New Regulations for Signs (Introduction)**

Mayor Van Deursen entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance #3-2008.

Ordinance 3-2008 was introduced by Councilman Higgins, seconded by Councilman Turner.

It was further moved by Higgins, seconded by Turner that the Clerk read Ordinance #3-2008 by title only.

Roll Call: Higgins, Woykowski, Housel, Turner, Van Deursen, and Cioni - Yes

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

The Clerk read Ordinance #3-2008 entitled, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 94 of the Code of the Borough of Washington to Establish New Regulations for Signs.

Council Discussion: Councilman Housel asked if existing signs will be grand fathered. Council agreed that they would.

Mayor Van Deursen entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance #3-2008 on first reading.

Ordinance 3-2008 was moved by Councilman Higgins, seconded by Councilman Turner to be introduced on first reading.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

It was further moved by Higgins, seconded by Turner that Ordinance #3-2008 be published in the Star Gazette on April 10, 2008 as required by law and that the public hearing be scheduled for May 6, 2008.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**ORDINANCE # 3-2008  
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94 OF  
THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON  
TO ESTABLISH NEW REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough finds that Section 94-62 of the Development Regulations Ordinance of the Borough of Washington regulating signs does not sufficiently promote a

desirable character in the Borough's B-2 district and should be amended to better reflect the Borough's historic character and needs of the business community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington that Section 94-62 of the Code of the Borough of Washington is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 1.** Section 94-62 of the Code of the Borough of Washington is amended as follows:

Add new subsection A as follows:

A. Permits Required; Design & Maintenance. No sign shall be erected, displayed, or altered unless a permit shall have first been obtained from the Building or Zoning Officer. All signs shall be legible and in good repair and shall be of professional quality. Logos and graphics shall be harmonious with the overall design.

Add new subsection (C)(7) as follows:

(7) In addition to the foregoing provisions, the following requirements shall apply to signs in the B-2 Central Business District. Where there is a conflict between the provisions of C(1) to (6) above and the provisions of this section (7), the provisions of this section shall apply.

(a) Permanent signs. The following permanent signs are permitted, subject to the limitations of section (1)(a) above:

- (1) Flat Wall Signs. Business establishments located on the first floor of a building may have two (2) flat wall signs, that is, signs attached to and parallel to the face of any building wall; provided, however, that no exterior wall shall contain more than one (1) of the two (2) permitted signs. Flat wall signs shall not exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height and shall not project more than three (3) inches from the surface of the building. The total sign area of any flat wall sign shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the area of the face of the wall to which the sign is attached.
- (2) Overhanging Signs. In addition to the provisions in section (4) above, overhanging signs in the B2 district shall maintain a minimum distance of ten (10) feet above the sidewalk, shall not exceed six (6) square feet in sign area, shall not project more than three (3) feet from the wall to which it is attached and shall not extend above the cornice line of the first floor level except where necessary to maintain the minimum ten (10) foot clearance from the sidewalk.
- (3) Awnings with Lettering. The outer decorative covering of all awnings shall be canvas or other fabric of similar weight and durability. Vinyl or metal awnings are not permitted. Lettering or graphics on an awning shall not exceed an average height of nine (9) inches and shall be restricted to the awning valance. A minimum distance of one and one-half (1-1/2)

inches shall be maintained between the edge of the lettering or graphics and the top and bottom of the valance. Backlit waterfall awnings are not permitted.

- (b) Directory Signs. A sign listing the tenants or occupants of a building or group of buildings and that may indicate their respective professions or business activities as well as a map or floor plan diagram indicating the location of the buildings and/or offices shall be permitted where there are multiple building tenants in a building. One (1) directory sign, provided that the sign does not exceed ten (10) square feet, shall be permitted for each public access to the establishment which the sign advertises. Directory signs shall be in addition to the total number of signs permitted by this section C.
- (c) Window signs. Window signs, including lettering, shall pertain only to the business occupying that portion of the premises in which the window is located, shall be applied to the interior of the window and shall not cover an area greater than twenty percent (20%) of the window glass. Except as provided in subsection (d) below, there shall be no window signs on the second floor of a building.
- (d) Temporary signs. The following temporary signs are permitted, provided that no temporary sign shall be displayed for a period longer than thirty (30) days during any one period with a maximum of four signs per annum:
  - (1) Standing Signs. Standing signs, that is moveable “A-frame” or easel signs generally placed along a sidewalk or other area intended for the view of pedestrians, shall be permitted provided that any such sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in total size per side. The maximum width of such signs shall be twenty-four (24) inches and the maximum height of such signs shall be thirty-six (36) inches. The overall height of the sign, including a support frame shall not exceed forty-two (42) inches. The following limitations shall apply:
    - (i) Only A-frame or easel-frame signs are permitted;
    - (ii) No more than one sign shall be permitted for each business and only first floor businesses may use such signs;
    - (iii) Signs may be displayed only during the hours when the business is open;
    - (iv) Signs may be constructed of painted wood, metal or plastic with professional-quality painted messages, chalkboards, dry-erase boards or boards with changeable letters. No other construction materials are permitted.
    - (v) Signs may be located only adjacent to the building within the side property lines as extended, in an entrance alcove, or adjacent to the curb.
    - (vi) No standing sign shall block pedestrian movement, access to benches, access to parking meters or access to motor vehicles. The Building or Zoning Officer may direct that any sign which violates



this chapter or creates a safety hazard be removed, modified or relocated.

- (2) Decorative flags. Decorative flags must be double-sided and shall project from the façade on a pole that shall not exceed five (5) feet in length. The lowest point of the flag must be at least seven (7) feet above the sidewalk. They must be in good condition, not worn or faded.
  - (3) Exterior lighting used for seasonal decoration that outlines the windows, doors or other architectural features of a building.
- (e) Second Floor Business Signs. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this chapter, a business located on the second floor of a building which is a distinct business from that located on the first floor of the same building, shall be permitted one sign not more than 18 inches high or more than three feet wide to be placed or painted in the window of the business. The letters on the sign shall not exceed eight inches in height. Second floor businesses may be listed on a directory sign located at the public access to the building. No other signs are permitted for second floor businesses.
- (f) The following signs are prohibited:
- (1) freestanding signs;
  - (2) signs with neon lighting;
  - (3) back-lighted box signs or pylon signs;
  - (4) permanent banners, streamers, advertising flags, inflatable object, twirlers or similar objects.
- (g) Unsafe, obsolete, and abandoned signs are subject to the following provisions:
- (1) Unsafe signs: Whenever, in the opinion of the Building or Zoning Officer, any sign becomes unsafe or endangers the safety of a building or premises or endangers the public safety, the Code Enforcement Officer or Zoning Officer shall send a registered letter to the owner of the sign or the owner of the premises on which the sign is located, ordering that the sign be made safe or removed within ten (10) days of receipt of the letter. If the owner of the sign fails to remove, alter or repair it within 10 days after receiving the registered letter, the sign may be removed, altered or repaired by the Zoning Officer, in order to comply with the provisions of section 94-62 of the Borough Code, at the expense of the owner of the sign or the owner of the property upon which the sign is located. The Code Enforcement Officer or Zoning Officer may cause any sign or sign structure to be removed or repaired summarily and without written notice if it is an immediate peril to persons or property by virtue of its construction or moorings.
  - (2) Obsolete signs: Any sign which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted, a product sold or is not used for a permitted use hereunder shall be taken down and removed by the sign owner or the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure or land upon which such sign is located within ten (10) days after written notification

from the Building or Zoning Officer. Upon failure to comply with the notice within the time specified in the order; the Building or Zoning Officer is hereby authorized to cause removal of the sign, and any expense incidental to the removal shall be paid by the owner of the sign or the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or structure or land upon which such sign is located.

- (3) Abandoned signs: The failure to keep a nonconforming sign painted or in good repair for a period of six (6) months shall constitute abandonment, and such sign may not be reused and must be removed. Said sign shall be repainted or repaired as necessary within ten (10) days after written notification from the Building or Zoning Officer.

**Section 2.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage in accordance with law.

**REPORTS:**

It was moved by Turner, seconded by Housel that the Council acknowledge, receive and file the Police Activity Report, Collector Treasurer Report, and the Issues and Details Report.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

Councilman Turner asked Manager Corica if we had received the information on Grand Avenue yet. Manager Corica indicated it would be approximately April 4.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Redevelopment Committee:** Previously reported.

**DPW Garage:** No report

**Sewer Committee:** Councilman Higgins stated the committee needs to set a meeting date. The meeting was scheduled for Friday at 9:30 a.m.

**Streets Committee:** No Report

**Finance Committee:** No Report

**Shared Services Committee:** No Report

**Senior Services:** No Report

**Website Committee:** No Report

**Curfew Committee:** No Report

**Pedophile Ordinance Committee:** No Report

**Bid:** No Report

Councilman Higgins requested removing some of the inactive committees from the list. The Curfew Committee and the Pedophile Ordinance Committee will be removed. Councilman Turner suggested that the speed indicator be borrowed from Washington Township again. He is receiving complaints about speeding on North Prospect Street. Manager Corica will follow up with the Police Chief.

### **VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

Mayor Van Deursen entertained questions or additions to the vouchers and claims for payments that were not previously addressed before the meeting.

Councilman Higgins asked the manager to review the fax machine phone line for the fire department. Is the Borough being charged for every fax? He also asked the Manager to inquire about the charge for the pump station phone. The Borough should not be paying the phone bill if they are paying for the alarm at the siphon.

Hearing no comments or questions the vouchers and claims were approved for payment in the amount of \$ 1,015,245.12.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Workshop Meetings**

Workshop Meetings were set for the following dates: April 22, 2008, July 22, 2008, and September 30, 2008. Additionally, Council will have a workshop meeting prior to the start of the regular Council meeting on June 17, 2008 as a trial for this type of meeting agenda.

Councilman Cioni noted that a formal agenda should be prepared for the Workshop meetings.

**Water Quality Management Planning Rules**

Manager Corica explained that Warren County is looking to change the management rules on water quality to allow for county wide control areas. The Borough Engineer's report provided to Council summarizes the pros and cons. His recommendation is to oppose this type of control as this will remove any local control over the issue. Council authorized the Mayor to write a letter to the County Freeholders expressing the Council's disapproval.

**Resolution 94-2008**

Resolution 94-2008 was moved on a motion made by Housel, seconded by Cioni and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION #94-2008**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON  
TO MAINTAIN A PETTY CASH FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 300.00.**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund for the Borough of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council that said fund be continued under the direction of the Municipal Clerk;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 1st day of April, 2008, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey, that the following Petty Cash Fund be established:

**Municipal Clerk, Kristine Blanchard \$300.00**

The Municipal Clerk, having custody of the Fund, must maintain said Fund in accordance with the laws and regulations governing its operation.

**Resolution 95-2008**

Resolution 95-2008 was moved on a motion made by Housel, seconded by Cioni and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION # 95-2008**

**A RESOLUTION TO REFUND OVERPAYMENT ON  
2007 REAL ESTATE TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Tax Collector's records, there is an overpayment of \$460.96 on 2007 1st Quarter Regular Taxes paid on property located at 44 E Washington Avenue, also known as Block 024 Lot 024 and in the name of 44 East Washington, LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, this overpayment was created when the Tax Assessor made an Assessment adjustment due to the building on the property was destroyed by fire.

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector's office has received a request from 44 East Washington, LLC requesting a refund of the overpayment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, to hereby authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to refund the amount of \$460.96 and payable to:

44 East Washington, LLC  
8 Farm Cottage Road  
Gladstone, NJ 07934-2006

**Resolution 96-2008**

Resolution 96-2008 was moved on a motion made by Housel, seconded by Cioni and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE**  
**As per N.J.S.A.54:5**

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS**, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on October 24, 2003 to Data Ventures, LLC, 3 Grove Farm Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867, in the amount of \$4,688.24 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2004 in the name of Johnson, Lawrence, as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 124 N Lincoln Avenue, Block 018 Lot 001, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #381-03; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Kay F. Stasyshan, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 03-24-08 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Attorney John C. Cornish claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Data Ventures, LLC, by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$41,098.99, which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #381-03.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2008 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to Data Ventures, LLC in **the amount of \$46,798.99** (this amount consists of \$41,098.99 Certificate Amount + \$5,700.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 018 Lot 001 from the tax office records.

**Resolution 97-2008**

Resolution 97-2008 was moved on a motion made by Housel, seconded by Cioni and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION TO REFUND SENIOR CITIZEN DEDUCTION ALLOWED**  
**As per N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.40 Et seq**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has allowed the following Senior Citizen deduction and wishes to refund this deduction; and

<b><u>BLOCK</u></b>	<b><u>LOT</u></b>	<b><u>NAME OF OWNER/ PROPERTY LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>EXPLANATION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
082	032	Smerglia, John 77-79 Park Avenue	Senior Deduction Allowed in 2007	250.00

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector be authorized to refund the above amount to:

Smerglia, John; Estate of  
77 Park Avenue  
Washington, NJ 07882

**Resolution 98-2008**

Resolution 98-2008 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Housel and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION # 98 - 2008**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A COFFEY & ASSOCIATES AS A  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE WITHOUT SEEKING COMPETITIVE BIDS.**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for professional legal services to research and establish insurance coverage for litigation in the Combe Fill South Landfill Litigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et. seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

**WHEREAS**, Coffey & Associates of Morristown, New Jersey has demonstrated expertise in this area of law and has agreed to perform legal services, as outlined in their proposal dated 19 March 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the services to be provided by, Coffey & Associates constitutes professional services that need not be bid pursuant to the Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et. seq.).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. A contract for Special Legal Counsel is hereby awarded to Coffey and Associates to per the proposal submitted on 19 March 2008 and annexed hereto in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.
2. The Borough Manager is authorized to execute any necessary documents.
3. That said contract is awarded without competitive bidding as professional services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5; and
4. A certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer is attached hereto;
5. Notification of the contract award shall be printed in the Star Gazette.
6. That an executed copy of the proposal be on file with the Office of the Clerk and be available for public inspection in accordance with the law.

**Resolution 99-2008**

Resolution 99-2008 was moved on a motion made by Housel, seconded by Turner and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION #99-2008  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, TO AMEND THE  
2008 TEMPORARY BUDGET**

WHEREAS, a temporary budget was approved by Resolution 1-2008; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-20 provides that emergency temporary appropriations may be made “for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the budget for said year,” by a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that there is a need for additional appropriations not included in the temporary budget.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the temporary budget for the year 2008 is hereby amended to add the following amounts:

General Government:

General Administration	
Salary & Wages	48,599
Mayor & Council	
Salary & Wages	3,806
Municipal Clerk	
Salary & Wages	15,309
Other Expenses	3,000
Financial Administration	
Salary & Wages	3,000
Other Expenses	2,000
Tax Collection	
Salary & Wages	34,000
Other Expenses	1,000
Assessment of Taxes	
Salary & Wages	11,882
Other Expenses	1,600
Legal Services	
Other Expenses	34,500
Engineering Services	
Other Expenses	15,000

**Land Use Administration:**

Planning Board	
Salary & Wages	979
Board of Adjustment	
Salary & Wages	792
Other Expenses	675

**Code Enforcement**

Local Code Enforcement	
Salary & Wages	12,439
Other Expenses	420

**Insurance:**

Insurances	
Commercial Package	58,119
Workmen's Compensation	18,969
Group Medical	50,000
Unemployment Compensation	5,250

Public Safety:

Police Department	
Salary & Wages	342,740

Civil Emergency Preparedness	
Salary & Wages	2,023

Fire Department	
Other Expenses	10,000

Uniform Fire Safety Act	
Salary & Wages	5,040

Public Works:

Road Department	
Salary & Wages	98,328

Garbage Collection	
Other Expenses	90,405

Public Buildings & Grounds	
Salary & Wages	4,000

Shade Tree Commission	
Salary & Wages	245
Other Expenses	4,800

Health & Human Services:

Animal Regulation	
Salary & Wages	2,641
<u>Parks and Recreation:</u>	
Recreation Commission	
Other Expenses	21,000
<u>Education:</u>	
Library	
Salary & Wages	60,025
Other Expenses	12,000
<u>Utilities:</u>	
Electricity	
Other Expenses	16,000
Street and Traffic Lights	
Other Expenses	18,000
Telephone	
Other Expenses	11,000
Water	
Other Expenses	2,000

Natural Gas	
Other Expenses	10,000
Heating Oil	
Other Expenses	1,000
Sewage Disposal	
Other Expenses	2,000
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	
Other Expenses	15,000
<u>Solid Waste Disposal:</u>	
Solid Waste Disposal	
Other Expenses	44,000
<u>Statutory Expenditures:</u>	
Social Security	30,000
<u>Municipal Court</u>	
Municipal Court	
Salary & Wages	33,330
Other Expenses	1,000
<u>Capital and Debt Service:</u>	
Principal on Bonds	\$165,000
Interest on Bonds	39,000

**Resolution 100-2008**

Resolution 100-2008 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Housel and adopted.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION # 100-2008**  
**OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF**  
**WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, TO AMEND THE**  
**2008 SEWER TEMPORARY BUDGET**

WHEREAS, a temporary budget was approved by Resolution 2-2008; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-20 provides that emergency temporary appropriations may be made “for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the budget for said year,” by a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that there is a need for additional appropriations not included in the sewer temporary budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the temporary budget for the year 2008 is hereby amended to add the follow amounts:

Salary and Wages	\$20,000
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**COUNCIL REMARKS**

**Councilman Higgins** - Inquired about the maintenance plan for the Borough vehicles from all of the departments to justify the position of mechanic. He asked Manager Corica if the maintenance schedule has been put together yet. Manager Corica indicated that it is in the process of being submitted from each department. Councilwoman Woykowski added that the sewer plant maintenance schedule needs to be obtained as well along with the inventory of the manholes and their status. Councilman Higgins also noted that Washington Celebrates America Fireworks display will be on June 28<sup>th</sup> this year.

**Councilman Turner** –No Comments

**Councilman House** – Councilman Housel requested a letter be sent to the DOT regarding the storm sewer on North Lincoln Avenue and Washington Avenue; it is becoming a safety hazard. Councilman Housel also inquired about the meeting between the Fire Department and the water Company. Manager Corica indicated they had met. Unfortunately the relocating of the fire hydrant is at the discretion of the property owner. The water company also indicated that they are unable to tie into the reservoir due to environmental standards from DEP. The water company is exploring the possibility of another well.

**Councilman Cioni** – Councilman Cioni requested the Council be copied on the letter to Paramount Properties. He also commented that the BID’s presentation this evening was very well done.

**Councilwoman Woykowski** – Councilwoman Woykowski noted that the craft fair on Saturday for the Ladies Auxiliary was very successful.

**Mayor Van Deursen** – The Mayor inquired about the status of the sod at Vara Field. Manager Corica stated it is progressing and installation will begin in April or early May.

Manager Corica reported that he had spoken with the Chief of Police regarding a three way stop at Willow Street. The Chief does not recommend that type of stop sign at that location.

### **RECAP**

Manager Corica stated he will follow up with Mr. Hale regarding his zoning issue. He will discuss with the Chief obtaining the speed indicator sign from Washington Township. He will prepare and send a letter to Paramount Properties and discuss with the Road Department to begin working on the North Prospect Street potholes. Councilman Cioni asked if the Borough has heard from the property owners on Gardner’s Court. Manager Corica stated he had not.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Van Deursen entertained a motion to enter executive session. It was moved by Higgins, seconded by Woykowski to enter executive session after a five minute recess.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Councilman Housel left the meeting at this time.

### **Resolution 102-2008 Executive Session**

#### **RESOLUTION 102 -2008**

**WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and**

**WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the  
Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:**

- 1. The public shall be excluded from the remaining portion of this meeting.**
- 2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:**

Property Acquisition/ Personnel

Hearing no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Higgins, seconded by Turner that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0.  
Motion carried.

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Mayor Marianne Van Deursen

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Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk