

**WORKSHOP MEETING
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL – September 30, 2008**

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

Roll Call: Woykowski, Cioni, Higgins, Van Deursen – Present
Housel – arrived 8:30
Turner, Oakley - Absent

Also Present: Kristine Blanchard, 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.

WORKSHOP:

Property Acquisition

Councilman Cioni discussed various options regarding property acquisition for the downtown parking lot. There are several options Council needs to consider. Purchase the Tilley property, purchase the Antique Center Lot, or leave the parking lot as is with just Modern Valet. Council will discuss various options at the next Council meeting and make a final decision. Council requested that Manager Corica prepare the financial picture on the parking lot as well. Council needs a certification of funds available to base their decision on.

Police Merger

Councilwoman Woykowski noted that the combined police departments will have more people than necessary. She also stated the courts have not been discussed; additionally sick and vacation time has not been discussed either. Mayor Van Deursen stated that once the feasibility study is complete the Council will have a better handle on these issues. At that time the two Governing Bodies will meet to review the analysis. Mayor Van Deursen stated that there probably isn't enough time to discuss the municipal court. Councilman Higgins stated that Council needs to make the time to discuss all of the options and concerns regarding the police merger. Councilman Higgins noted he does not want the merger to affect the patrols downtown. Councilwoman Woykowski stated that Council can not have this conversation until the feasibility study is returned. Councilman Higgins does not want the Borough jumping into anything. He requested a summary be provided by the Borough Manager as to the status.

Budget 2009

Councilman Cioni requested this topic be placed on the agenda for discussion with the Borough Manager for the next meeting. He would like to see a decrease in the budget for each department by 5% of last year's budget.

Redevelopment

Councilwoman Woykowski stated the redevelopment plan is scheduled to be completed at the end of the year. She would like to see a synopsis so council is aware of the regulations and the financial impact. Council will need to be able to make a decision on how they want to proceed. Mayor Van Deursen questioned whether or not the Borough will be able to solicit developers. Councilwoman Woykowski noted that there should be a written policy. Councilman Higgins stated that would be done through an Ordinance. Mayor Van Deursen stated that once the redevelopment plan is complete and the Ordinances are in place the Planning Board will have all the tools they need and a policy can be set.

Stacking Ordinance/Abandoned Property

Councilman Cioni requested permission from Council to invite a group from the State of NJ to discuss stacking and abandoned property. They are willing to come before Council and give direction on these issues. Council agreed to invite them to a meeting.

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Cioni to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Mayor Marianne Van Deursen

Kristine Blanchard, Borough Clerk