

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – February 17, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:30 P.M.

Roll Call: McDonald, Higgins, Woykowski, Boyle, Cioni, Housel - Present
Valentine – Absent

Also Present: Richard Cushing, Esq. Municipal Attorney
Kristine Blanchard, Acting Borough Manager/RMC Borough Clerk

Mayor McDonald led everyone in the flag salute.

Mayor McDonald 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

Rick Feldman – Recreation Chair

Mr. Feldman reviewed the fees proposed by the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee is asking Council to consider the proposed fees by the Recreation Committee when considering their 2009 budget.

Councilman Boyle stated there were several questions that came out of the Recreation Committee meeting such as, status of a Park Director and how much did the DPW spend on park maintenance in 2008. Councilman Cioni stated that the parks were just recently turned over to the DPW after the previous park director resigned. To his knowledge nothing was spent by DPW in 2008 on parks.

Councilman Boyle also inquired about the pool coupons and asked how this program was decided. Councilman Cioni stated that it is a marketing campaign to generate greater membership. Councilman Cioni stated that he has done extensive work on this program

COMMUNICATIONS:

The following communications were entered into the record:

1. Girl Scout Week March 8-14 2009
2. Washington Borough Business Improvement District Re: Video Surveillance

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

AUDIENCE:

Hearing no comments from the audience a motion was made by Higgins seconded by Cioni to close the audience portion of the meeting.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

ORDINANCES:

None

REPORTS:

1. Issues and Details Report
2. Municipal Court Report
3. Police Report
4. Engineering Report

Councilman Higgins asked if the HVAC specs were completed. Acting Borough Manager Kristine Blanchard stated that they were complete and bids were scheduled to be received on March 13, 2009.

It was moved by Cioni, seconded by Higgins, to receive and file the reports.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committees – No Report

Redevelopment Committee: No Report

DPW Garage: No Report

Sewer Committee: No Report

Streets Committee: No Report

Finance Committee: No Report

Shared Services Committee: Councilman Boyle asked when the next shared service meeting is. Councilwoman Woykowski stated that she will look into when the next Warren Morris Council of Governments meeting is taking place.

Senior Services: No Report

Website Committee: - Councilman Cioni stated he is in the process of re-doing the recreation page on the website.

Curfew Committee: No Report

Concession Stand Committee – No Report

Pedophile Ordinance Committee: No Report

BID: No Report

Recreation Report – No Report

Parking Lot Committee – Councilman Cioni stated the parking lot committee met today and most concerns were addressed with several modifications being made to the title transfer document. These will then be submitted to the BID and the Borough. An Ordinance will be prepared for Council consideration shortly after.

Concession Stand – Councilman Cioni asked if there was any interest from Council to consider vending machines at the park/pool in lieu of a snack bar. This would be utilized this summer with the ideal goal to privatize the concession stand. Rick Feldman pointed out that the electricity at the concession stand is substandard. Council concurred that RFP's could be posted on the website to see what kind of response the Borough will receive.

Security Camera – Councilman Cioni stated that the goal was to network cameras for the park and DPW garage however that is not feasible. Web browsers would be cost prohibitive in police vehicles. Unfortunately the biggest expense is at the park for cabling. The total price at the park would be \$10,350.00

VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS

Mayor McDonald entertained questions or additions to the vouchers and claims for payments that were not previously addressed before the meeting. Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Boyle to pay the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$2,029, 517.33.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

SEWER CONNECTION FEES/Public Hearing

Mayor McDonald opened the public hearing on the 2009 Borough of Washington Sewer Connection Fees.

Hearing no comments from the public, motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Housel to close the public hearing.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Resolution 52-2009 – Establishing Sewer Connection Fees for 2009

Resolution 52-2009 was moved on a motion made by Cioni, seconded by Housel and adopted.

Roll Call: Cioni, Housel, Higgins, Woykowski, McDonald, Boyle

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 52-2009
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NJ ESTABLISHING
SEWER CONNECTION FEES

WHEREAS, Stephanie Lewis, Municipal Capital Management has completed the analysis of the Sewer Utility debts structure and has recommended that the Sewer Connection Fee be adjusted to \$3,674.60; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was advertised for February 5, 2009; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was held and no one spoke regarding the change, and;

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 sewer connection fee be increased to \$3,674.60.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this change will be effective immediately upon passage of this resolution.

BID Annual Report
Sandy Cerami – BID Executive Director

Ms. Cerami summarized the key focus areas of the business plan of the Business Improvement District. The focus areas include, promotions and public relations, management administration, improvements and maintenance, planning and legal, and business practices.

Ms. Cerami reported that the Municipal Parking Lot project has been given top priority for 2009 while marketing and public relations remains a key priority. The BID is also working on a state of the art website, business recruitment, necessary landscaping banners and signage; she also reported that the surveillance camera will be improved at midtown this year.

Councilwoman Woykowski commended Ms. Cerami on the year end report stating that it exceeded her expectations. Councilman Cioni asked when the marketing plan will be available. Ms. Cerami stated that this should be ready by the end of March. Councilman Cioni also inquired as to how the BID will be recruiting businesses. Ms. Cerami stated open houses, cold calling, and advertising in publications.

OLD BUSINESS:

Abandoned Properties Ordinance

Councilman Cioni stated that this is a draft abandoned properties ordinance for discussion. Attorney Cushing explained that usually the enforcer of this Ordinance would be the zoning officer. He suggests in this case the Borough Manager and the Zoning Officer would work together on this. There is certain criteria that must be met in each instance and certain exceptions that exist such as foreclosure. There are essentially four mechanisms for the Borough to get control of designated properties. He explained that tax foreclosure is a common practice, along with special tax sales. Councilman Cioni asked if this passes does it go through the Planning Board. Attorney Cushing stated no.

Mayor McDonald asked if Council was interested in moving forward.

Cioni, Housel, Woykowski – yes
Higgins, Boyle - no

Permitted Uses in the B2 Business District

Councilman Cioni stated that the changes have been made that were of concern to the Governing Body. Attorney Cushing advised sending to Planning Board for their review and input prior to adopting the Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Director

Councilman Cioni stated that the Acting Borough Manager should be given direction on advertising for a new Park Director. Council agreed to a part time Park Director and advertisements should be placed accordingly.

Workshop Dates

Council discussed and agreed to workshop dates on March 31, June 30, and September 29.

Resolution 51-2009 Transfer of Tax Overpayment

RESOLUTION #51-2009

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLYING OVERPAYMENT OF 2008

REAL ESTATE TAXES DUE TO COUNTY TAX APPEAL

WHEREAS, according to the Tax Collector's records, there exists an overpayment of \$172.56 on the 4th quarter 2008 Taxes paid on property located at 94 Alvin Sloan Avenue, also known as Block 2.12 Lot 4 and assessed in the name of Tadikonda, Uday and Lakshmi; and

WHEREAS, a County Tax Appeal was granted on the 2008 Assessed Value creating this tax overpayment and the Tadikonda's have requested to have the overpayment applied to the 2nd Quarter 2009 Taxes.

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 to transfer the payment to the 2nd Quarter 2009 Taxes.

Resolution 53-2009 Authorizing the Plan Conformance Grant from the Highlands Council

Council tabled this resolution in order to have the Borough Engineer present at the next meeting for discussion.

Resolution 54-2009 Granting an Extension of Military Leave to Kendall J. Collins

Resolution 54-2009 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Housel and adopted.

Roll Call: Higgins, Housel, Woykowski, Cioni, McDonald, Boyle

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #54-2009
GRANTING AN EXTENSION TO THE
MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF KENDALL J. COLLINS

WHEREAS, Police Officer Kendall J. Collins was called to active duty by the New Jersey Army National Guard commencing on 18 June 2008 for a period not to exceed 398 days and is currently on active duty; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 38A:4-4 provides for full pay for municipal employees who are activated for duty for a period of 90 work days; and

WHEREAS, the contract with P.B.A. Local #280 requires that in addition to any benefits provided under federal or State law that the officer is entitled to up to 3 months leave of absence with pay in any one calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, New Jersey that Officer Kendall J. Collins is hereby granted an extension to the prior approved military leave of absence with full pay for a period of 3 months beginning February 26, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Division of Pensions and Benefits in order to allow the employee to retain his benefits during the Leave of Absence With Pay due to being ordered to report for active military duty.

Resolution 56-2009 Transfer of Reserve Appropriations

RESOLUTION # 56-2009

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF RESERVE
APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the year are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made by not less the 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body from unexpected balances which are expected to be sufficient to accounts with insufficient appropriation balances during the first three months of the succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Manager and the Chief Financial Officer have determined that excess appropriations do exist in some accounts and there is a need for supplemental appropriations in other accounts.

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 following appropriation transfers are hereby approved:

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
STREET AND ROADS Salary & Wages	STREETS AND ROADS Other Expenses	\$2,221.00
PLANNING BOARD Other Expenses	MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR Other Expenses	\$907.00
TOTALS OF ALL TRANSFERS		\$3,128.00

Resolution 57-2009 Temporary Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION # 57-2009

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AMENDING
TEMPORARY CURRENT FUND
APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2007 Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amount required in the manner and time therein provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey do hereby make the following amendments to the temporary appropriations:

TOTAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS – 2009 BUDGET

TO COVER 1 ADDITIONAL MONTH OF OPERATION - \$626,710

Resolution 59-2009 Return of Escrow Van Cleef

RESOLUTION # 59-2009

**A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AN ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR
VAN CLEEF FOUNDATION REMOVAL SPECIAL BOND RELEASE**

WHEREAS, Van Cleef Enterprises-Midtown did apply to the Borough of Washington for a Foundation Removal Special Bond for Block 24 Lots 19-22; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Van Cleef has requested the release of the Foundation Removal Special Bond; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer, Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. has notified the Clerk that the conditions have been met and completed in satisfactory condition and that the cash bond can be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Treasurer be authorized to refund Van Cleef Enterprises-Midtown, 1548 Millstone River Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 the amount of \$10,000.00 plus interest drawn on the J.H. Van-Cleef – Van Cleef Enterprises-Escrow Account at Commerce Bank, Account # 7200020908.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Boyle – Stated that he read an article in USA Today regarding lead in older library books. He asked that this article be passed along to the Library Director.

Councilman Higgins – asked that a resolution be prepared for the next meeting in honor of Girl Scout week.

Councilwoman Woykowski – asked about the status of the cross training of the finance office and the software to be installed at the DPW garage. Acting Borough Manager will look into this.

Councilman Cioni – stated he would like Council to consider Borough Manager goals. He would also like to consider tying some goals to compensation.

Councilman Housel – stated that he would like a letter sent to Lisa Rudd regarding her certification as a Court Administrator.

Mayor McDonald – stated that Councilman Valentine sustained an injury and will be out for about eight weeks. Mayor McDonald asked for a motion to excuse Councilman Valentine for a few meetings. Motion made by Housel, seconded by Woykowski and approved.

Hearing no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Higgins, seconded by Cioni that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Mayor Scott McDonald

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk