

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – November 7, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Gleba, Higgins, Jewell, Torres
McDonald- Arrived at 7:08 P.M.

Absent: Valentine, Boyle

Also Present: Kristine Blanchard, Manager/Borough Clerk

Manager Blanchard led everyone in the flag salute.

Manager Blanchard 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.”

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell to nominate Councilwoman Gleba to run the meeting until Mayor McDonald arrives.

Ayes 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2012 and October 16, 2012.

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Torres to approve the minutes of October 2, 2012 and October 16, 2012.

Councilwoman Gleba noted that she had one change to the October 16, 2012 minutes. The roll call needs to be added for Resolution 155-2012

Ayes 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

AUDIENCE:

Mrs. Susan Sloan – Grand Avenue

Mrs. Sloan commented on the significant increase in the number of trick-or-treaters this year on Halloween. Mrs. Sloan stated that she noticed there were a lot of participants from out of town and even some from out of state. Mrs. Sloan suggested that shortening the hours may decrease the number of non-residents.

At this time, Mayor McDonald arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Edna Detlaf – Fisher Avenue

Ms. Detlaf stated that her brother in Florida could not get in touch with her after Hurricane Sandy so he contacted the Washington Township Police Department. They kindly checked on her and then let her brother know that she was fine. Ms. Detlaf wanted to thank the Washington Township Police Department for going above and beyond.

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell, to close the audience portion of the meeting.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

REPORTS:

Motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell to receive and file the following reports:

1. Borough Managers Report
2. Police Activity Report – September
3. Tax Sale Report

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 159-2012 Extending Tax Grace Period (Hurricane Sandy)

RESOLUTION #159-2012

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL
PERIOD FOR FOURTH QUARTER LOCAL PROPERTY
TAXES IN THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, the printing and mailing of tax bills has been delayed beyond the N.J.S.A. 54:4-64 date of June 14th; and

WHEREAS, according to State Statute, taxes are due and payable February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 and these dates can not be changed; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington has historically given its taxpayers a grace period of 10 days for each tax period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington that the fourth quarter installment of current year taxes shall not be subject to interest until after November 21, 2012, the additional interest-free period authorized pursuant to R.S. 54:4-67. Any payment received on November 22, 2012 will be subject to interest charged back to the statutory date of November 1, 2012.

Resolution 159-2012 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell and adopted.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

VOUCHERS:

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$1,895,979.79

Councilman Jewell questioned the payments made to Jim Flynn’s Truck Repair on page 7 and 8 totaling \$3,519. Councilman Jewell stated that he would like to know the nature of the repairs. Manager Blanchard will find out and report back to Council

Motion made by Gleba, seconded by Higgins and approved.

Roll Call: Gleba, Torres, McDonald, Higgins, Jewell

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0

Abstain: Higgins – Fire Dept.
Jewell – Fire and EMS

RECAP:

The Borough Manager will provide an answer to Council in regards to the Jim Flynn Truck Repair charges.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Councilwoman Gleba noted that Manager Blanchard and staff did an outstanding job during Hurricane Sandy and also last night during elections at Borough Hall.

Councilman Higgins thanked Manager Blanchard and staff for their hard work during the hurricane crisis and also on Election Day.

Councilman Jewell also thanked Manager Blanchard and staff for their hard work during these difficult times. Councilman Jewell also gave thanks to the DPW, Fire Department, and Rescue Squad for all the work they did during the storm. Councilman Jewell also stated that there were problems with the Nextel phone system during the storm. Manager Blanchard replied that was definitely on her list of things to follow up with. Councilman Jewell also noted that the generator was not providing a significant amount of power to

the building and perhaps Council can look into getting something better for the future. Councilman Jewell suggested that we utilize the chipper rather than have DPW load the branches/brush into a truck. Manager Blanchard replied that she's not sure if it's time effective since we have a lot of brush to collect.

Hearing no further business motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Scott McDonald

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk