

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – March 18, 2014**

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.

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.”

Mayor McDonald led everyone in the flag salute.

Roll Call: Gleba, Thompson, McDonald, Conry, Higgins, Torres.

Also Present: Kristine Blanchard, Borough Manager/Clerk, Judy Kopen, Municipal Attorney

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – February 4, 2014

Motion made by Gleba, seconded by Conry to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 4, 2014.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Torres asked that his comments in regards to the pool manager discussion be inserted into the February 4, 2014 minutes. Mayor McDonald noted that on page 7 the minutes should state that the fire was at the Vicon Tile building.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

A motion was made by Gleba, seconded by Torres to receive and file the correspondence.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Higgins asked Manager Blanchard to provide a response to the Mt. Pisgah Church in regards to their letter. Manager Blanchard replied that she did check the State website the other day and the application for the grant to pave North Lincoln Avenue is under review. Mayor McDonald suggested that a letter in response to their letter would be appropriate.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

AUDIENCE:

Susan Sloan – 89 Grand Avenue

Mrs. Sloan stated that there are at least three vehicles parked on Route 57 near the corner of Grand Avenue that make it very difficult to see and it is a hazard that will cause an accident one day. Also, Mrs. Sloan suggested the Borough should think about starting the vegetative waste pick up earlier in the year since she noticed a lot of waste that was not picked up at the end of last year. Manager Blanchard replied that is something she will keep an eye on and can possibly change for next year.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

REPORTS:

A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Thompson to receive and file the following reports:

1. Recreation Monthly Expense / Revenue Report
2. Warren County Board of Health
3. Salt Usage (per Councilman Thompson's request)

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Gleba stated that the Recreation Year To Date column is not totaled correctly going across for each line item and should be fixed. Councilman Thompson thanked Manager Blanchard for the update on the salt.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets Committee

Councilman Higgins stated that the Streets Committee met last Thursday. The committee made a list of about eight or nine projects that need to be done with number one being the handicapped parking list. Councilman Higgins added that Councilman Thompson volunteered to research if the approximately twenty spaces marked are still needed. The Streets Committee will also research the cost of “no parking this side of street” signs based on the width of the road. The Streets Committee also discussed towing, ticketing, and enforcement. Councilman Higgins added that the Streets Committee would like the Code Enforcement Officer to be able to write parking tickets and ultimately have card towed if needed. Attorney Kopen added that she believes the change just needs to be added to the ordinance but she will confirm that is all that needs to be done.

Sewer Committee

Councilman Higgins stated that the Sewer Committee met at the Mill Pond Dam last week. Councilman Higgins also noted that Councilman Jones went to the Township and confirmed that the Borough owns seventeen plus acres of the Mill Pond Dam which includes the dam and the stow away. Manager Blanchard added that this is also a historical site. She also added that the Township will be discussing the damage issues in regards to the dam at their meeting tonight. The Dam Committee will be informed this week of the progress.

Manager Blanchard added that the easement required to address the problems on South Prospect Street is needed at 6 South Prospect, not the mini-mart. Attorney Kopen will draft a proposal letter to the homeowner.

Codebook Committee

Councilman Torres stated that the Codebook Committee met last week and decided they are going to continue with an abbreviated form of the nuisance ordinance. Councilman Torres was hopeful that by the end of the year, the Codebook Committee will have the Codebook completed. Councilwoman Gleba added that the Council needs to move forward on the nuisance ordinance to include it in the codification.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #35-2014 – Appointment of Municipal Alliance Coordinator

RESOLUTION #35-2014

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COORDINATOR

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington that Hope Hollenbeck be and hereby is appointed the Municipal Alliance Coordinator for the unexpired term of Dorothy Repsher ending December 31, 2016.

Resolution #35-2014 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Gleba and approved.

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Gleba, Conry, McDonald, Higgins
Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #36-2014 – Redemption of Tax Certificate

RESOLUTION #36-2014

A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE

As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on December 5, 2013 to Arthur Frustaci, 1178 Fifth Avenue, Alpha, NJ 08865, in the amount of \$183.62 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2012 in the name of Pair, Randall & Sackerman, Laura, as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 6 Lambert Street, Block 3 Lot 13.04, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #13-00005; and

WHEREAS, I, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-28-14 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Bank of America claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Arthur Frustaci by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$893.55, which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #13-00005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of March, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to Arthur Frustaci, 1178 Fifth Avenue, Alpha, NJ 08865 in the **amount of \$993.55** (this amount consists of \$893.55 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$100.00 Premium).

Resolution #37-2014 – Redemption of Tax Certificate

RESOLUTION #37-2014

A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE

As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on December 5, 2013 to JNY RE LLC, 42 Huntington Rd, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, in the amount of \$893.58 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2012 in the name of Williams, Robert G., as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 204 Rush Avenue, Block 6 Lot 57, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #13-00008; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 3-6-14 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Robert G. Williams, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by JNY RE LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$893.58, which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #13-00008.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of March, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to JNY RE LLC, 42 Hunting Rd, Basking Ridge, NJ 08865 in the **amount of \$893.58**.

Resolution #38-2014 – Redemption of Tax Certificate

RESOLUTION #38-2014

A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE

As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on December 5, 2013 to US Bank Cust Pro Capital III, 2 Liberty Place, 50 S 16th Street, Suite 1950, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$530.22 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2012 in the name of M & T Bank as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 70 West Stewart Street, Block 14 Lot 8, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #13-00012; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington,

do certify that on 3-6-14 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Attorney Roger J. Skoog claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by US Bank Cust Pro Capital III by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$592.82 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #13-00012.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of March, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to US Bank Cust Pro Capital III, 2 Liberty Place, 50 S 16th Street, Suite 1950, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$592.82**.

Resolutions #36-2014, #37-2014, and #38-2014 were moved on a motion made by Torres, seconded by Conry and approved.

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Gleba, Conry, McDonald, Higgins
Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #39-2014 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property

RESOLUTION # 39-2014

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY TO
THE BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(2) permits a municipality by resolution to sell personal property not needed for public use to another contracting unit without advertisement or auction; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington has one (1) 1990 International Fire Truck which is no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hawthorne is interested in said equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington desires to sell the equipment to the Borough of Hawthorne for \$3,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren hereby authorize the following:

1. The sale of the 1990 International Fire Truck to the Borough of Hawthorne for \$3,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough of Washington Chief Financial Officer, Washington Borough Fire Department, and the Borough of Hawthorne.

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Gleba asked if this was considered revenue which goes into surplus. Manager Blanchard replied that the Fire Department would probably like to keep the money from the sale. Chief Cammarota responded that the Fire Department would like to use this money towards the purchase of a new vehicle that would better fit the Fire Department's needs. Councilwoman Gleba stated that she would prefer the Borough hold on to the proceeds and earmark it as a contribution to the Fire Department towards the purchase of a new truck. Mayor McDonald added that Manager Blanchard and CFO Turchan can determine the best way to take care of that money; however Councilman Higgins' motion is to give the Fire Department the money now for them to hold towards the purchase of the new vehicle.

Resolution #39-2014 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Conry and approved.

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Gleba, Conry, McDonald, Higgins
Ayes: 3, Nays: (2) Gleba, Torres
Abstain: (1) Thompson
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 40-2014

**WARREN COUNTY MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES AND AGENCIES**

Resolution #40-2014 Authorizing Agreement between the County of Warren with Participating Municipalities and Agencies

THIS AGREEMENT is made between the parties set forth on Schedule A (attached hereto) all of which include the County of Warren and all of its departments all participating municipalities including, but not limited to, municipal police, public works, fire departments, EMS organizations, Fire Districts and other jurisdictions defined as "local governments" in the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Hereinafter the parties may be referred to as "Participating Units", "Requesting Units" or "Responding Units".

WHEREAS, the President in Homeland Security Directive (HSPD - 5), directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach to Federal, State, local¹ and tribal governments to work together more

effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity; and

WHEREAS, “The New Jersey Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act” App.N.J.S.A.9-33 et. seq, provides for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the State of New Jersey during any emergency by centralizing control of all civilian activities having to do with such emergency giving the Governor control over the resources of each and every political subdivision to cope with any condition that shall arise out of such emergency, and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey adopted the "Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act," N.J.S.A. 52:14E-11 et. seq., to establish a mechanism for the coordination of fire service resources throughout the State to facilitate a quick and efficient response to any emergency incident or situation that requires the immediate deployment of those resources in order to protect life and property from the danger or destruction of fire, explosion or other disaster, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs promulgated rules commonly referred to as the “Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Regulations” N.J.A.C. 5:75A et. seq, and N.J.A.C. 5:75 A-2.2 specifically requires each municipality or fire district to adopt a local fire mutual aid plan, and

WHEREAS, an emergency responder is defined as anyone employed by, contracted to provide services, volunteer or otherwise affiliated with the Participating Units and possessing special skills, qualifications, training, knowledge and experience beneficial to the mitigation of disaster situations. An emergency responder includes, but is in no way limited to, the following: law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical services personnel, physicians, nurses, other public health personnel, emergency management personnel, public works personnel, those persons with specialized equipment operations skills or training or any other skills needed to provide aid in an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Participating Units recognize that entering into an agreement for mutual aid and assistance with each other to protect against loss, damage or destruction by fire, catastrophe, civil unrest, major emergency or other extraordinary devastation and will address those situations when additional aid and assistance is needed will protect the best interests of the persons and property in each individual jurisdiction.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Torres asked if Schedule A was supposed to be attached. Manager Blanchard replied that it was supposed to be attached and she will forward to Council.

Resolution #40-2014 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Gleba and approved.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Abstain: (1) Thompson
Motion Carried

Approval of ABC License Washington Borough Fire Department Comedy Night

A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Conry for approval of the ABC License for the Washington Borough Fire Department.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Abstain: (1) Thompson
Motion Carried

Approval of Bingo Application St. Joseph's Church

A motion was made by Torres, seconded by Higgins for approval of the St. Joseph's Church Bingo Application.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

VOUCHERS:

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$908,691.35

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to approve the vouchers.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Higgins asked about the \$150 light bill for the ball field in January on page 9. Manager Blanchard will ask recreation about this charge. Councilman Torres asked about the referee fees coming out of Recreation Trust and if there was a way to determine which days these individuals worked. Manager Blanchard replied that the date of service is in the purchase order number. Councilman Torres also asked about the water usage at Vara Field. Manager Blanchard replied that Recreation is investigating a water leak.

Roll Call: Torres, McDonald, Conry, Gleba, Higgins, Thompson
Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Abstain: (1) Thompson – Fire Department & EMS

Motion Carried.

AUDIENCE:

Torres made a motion to reopen the audience portion, seconded by Higgins.

Reverend Terelisa Bauknight – Mt. Pisgah Ame Church

Reverend Bauknight thanked Council for receiving their correspondence and hopes to move forward with more information soon. Reverend Bauknight stated that the problem now is trying to get documentation to provide to Council of people continually being in the parking lot who drive through trying to turn around and get stuck if there is ice in the lot. Mt. Pisgah is looking to continue and improve the relationship with Council and the community. Councilman Higgins responded that the grant application for the paving of North Lincoln Avenue is currently being reviewed by the Department of Transportation so there may be an answer soon.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

RECAP:

Manager Blanchard will reach out to Mt. Pisgah Church to discuss their concerns and keep them updated. Manager Blanchard will also look into the Grand Avenue / Route 57 parking issue and possibly moving the vegetative waste pick up earlier as Mrs. Sloan suggested. Manager Blanchard will have Recreation fix the report so that the Year To Date column totals correctly. Manager Blanchard will give Council schedule A for the agreement with the County of Warren. Manager Blanchard will also look into the light bill for the ball field light charges at Boro Park.

Manager Blanchard added that she received some good news this week from the State of New Jersey. The Borough's required pension contribution has been cut by \$8,853.00. CFO Turchan will make the adjustment in the budget. Also, the Police/Firemen pension contribution has been cut by \$16,000 so the Township has confirmed that they will take \$16,000 out of the pension line item. Also, the Borough received a \$2,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for the Green Team. Manager Blanchard added that the chart CFO Turchan and she made showing the budget changes now needs to be updated.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Councilman Higgins asked Manager Blanchard when she speaks with the Department of Transportation in regards to the Jackson Avenue property, can she also find out information if the Borough can mark the downtown area with parking spots and paint the curb because it is needed. Also, Councilman Higgins asked Manager Blanchard to ask them what needs to be done at the end of Grand Avenue in regards to Mrs. Sloan's concerns. Councilman Higgins also suggested that Council get together and discuss a five year maintenance plan to improve the condition of the roads and also a similar plan for purchasing major equipment. Mayor McDonald agreed however, he stated there is no mechanism in place that can be used to do that. Manager Blanchard will need to verify if it is possible for the Borough to develop such a plan.

Councilman Thompson asked who is responsible for the bricks on Washington Avenue and is anyone going to get them replaced. Manager Blanchard replied that the Borough is responsible and there are some bricks missing, but it doesn't pay to fix them until winter is over and the plowing is finished. Councilman Thompson also added that the stop light is broken at the corner of Belvidere Avenue and Church Street. Manager Blanchard will look into it.

Mayor McDonald stated that Big Brothers, Big Sisters are having a Mayor's Challenge Bowl-A-Thon on Saturday April 5th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. Big Brothers, Big Sisters would like to have Washington Borough participate so Mayor McDonald is looking for team members. Big Brothers, Big Sisters are hoping to achieve sponsorship of \$65 per person.

Councilwoman Gleba asked if there was a schedule for the potholes to be fixed throughout town or are they going to complete sweeping first. Manager Blanchard replied that the D.P.W. is cold patching now but as soon as the weather warms up enough they will get out there with the hot patch. Manager Blanchard does not have a schedule yet but she can provide one to Council.

Manager Blanchard asked Council to check their weekly report on Fridays for important information.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Mayor Scott McDonald

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk

