

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – May 20, 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: Jones, Thompson, McDonald, Conry, Higgins, Torres,
Gleba

Also Present: Ann Kilduff, Acting Municipal Clerk, Judy Kopen,
Municipal Attorney

At this time, Mayor McDonald stated that an Executive Session is needed for the purpose of litigation discussion. A motion made by Conry, seconded by Thompson to enter into Executive Session.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 109-2014
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*:

_____A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon: _____);

_____A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

_____A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof (Specify contract: _____);

_____A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed; Real Estate Acquisitions

_____Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (The general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is: ___/Personnel___ The public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.)

_____Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; (The general nature of the matter is: _____

_____ OR _____ the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.);

____Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; (The employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is: _____ the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists.;

____Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Borough Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Borough or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

A motion was made by Conry, seconded by Torres, to go out of Executive Session.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

MINUTES:

Budget Meeting – March 13, 2014

Motion made by Torres, seconded by Conry to approve the Budget Meeting minutes of March 13, 2014.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COUNCIL APPEARANCE:

BID – Financial Report

Mayor McDonald stated that the BID is not in attendance due to the fact that their auditor had surgery so the financial report will be rescheduled for a future date. Councilman Torres added that if Council has any questions in the mean time, they can call Sandi Cerami, BID Director for more information.

Mr. Dawson Bloom - Finelli Consulting Engineers

Route 57 Midblock Crossing

Mr. Bloom stated that he met with the Streets Committee in regards to the Route 57 Midblock Crossing to discuss several roadway issues. The condition of the roadway, including the pavers and subsurface is continuing to deteriorate which is a concern to the Department of Transportation since Route 57 is a State highway. Mr. Bloom stated that there are bricks which continue to be dislodged and there is considerable rutting of the pavement due to the high volume of truck traffic. The overall operation and orientation of the Midblock Crossing and adjacent driveways seems to be somewhat confusing and potentially hazardous for both drivers and pedestrians. Mr. Bloom added that the ramps from the sidewalk into the Midblock Crossing are very wide and take on the appearance of driveway aprons. These are too wide and confusing for drivers who may confuse with driveway entrances. The eastbound driveway entrance into the Public Parking Lot along the north side of Route 57 is not well defined. It is intended to be one way into the lot, but is not signed or striped as such. In addition, there is not sufficient delineation between the driveway entrance and the walking path for pedestrians along the sidewalk. The westbound driveway into the lot along the south side of Route 57 is also not well defined and should be a one way in. There is not sufficient width for two cars to enter/exit simultaneously. Mr. Bloom added that from what he can see from the original plans is that the original concrete roadway is still below the brick and worst case scenario he believes the removal of the pavers and concrete and replacing with new road surface would cost \$50,000. Mr. Bloom suggested at this point, do a few cores within the roadway to really see what the surface conditions are to develop a more accurate plan. There could be other less costly solutions down the road.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Higgins to authorize Finelli Consulting to perform core samples of the Midblock Crossing to develop a more accurate plan costing approximately \$1,000.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

A motion was made by Gleba, seconded by Torres to direct Manager Blanchard to work with Finelli Engineering to fix the minor issues related to the Midblock Crossing as soon as possible.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Pleasant Valley Mill Dam

Mr. Bloom stated that the Borough is responsible for maintaining the Pleasant Valley Mill Dam which is a Class II dam. There have been processes started to decommission the dam and those processes have stalled out. Currently the Borough is still responsible for maintaining the integrity of the dam. The yearly cost to maintain the dam would be approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 yearly. Every two years a regular inspection needs to be done and every ten years a formal inspection needs to be performed, which is a much more intense structural analysis which costs approximately \$10,000. Mr. Bloom added that in a no inspection year, the cost to maintain the dam is \$15,000 to \$20,000. In a regular inspection year, the cost is \$20,000 to \$25,000 and in a formal inspection year, the cost is \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Bloom stated that he received confirmation from the D.E.P. that if the Borough wishes to continue with the decommissioning process, the Borough would be able to continue the process at the point where it was left off. Mr. Bloom estimates the decommissioning design costs to be \$77,000 and the physical decommissioning costs to be between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Gleba asked if there were any grant opportunities available to assist with this project. Mr. Bloom replied that Finelli Engineering has been looking however funding for this type of project may not be included in the new funding mechanism but they will certainly keep looking. Mr. Bloom added that the dam will continue to be a maintenance issue moving forward. Councilman Higgins added that no matter what Council decides, the dam needs to be cleaned out which will incur some immediate costs. Mr. Bloom added that the permitting and the whole process would take about six to nine months. Councilman Higgins suggested a bond authorization and taking the money out of surplus. Mayor McDonald added that Council should move forward and have the Manager and the CFO investigate that option.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to receive and file the correspondence.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Council Discussion:

Councilman Higgins commented that the Borough received confirmation of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Award for North Lincoln Avenue.

Michelle Mooney – Block Party

Councilman Torres stated that when Council approves these requests for block parties, there has to be allowances made for emergency vehicles to access the road. Councilwoman Gleba added that D.P.W. can set up the barricades which can be moved in case an emergency vehicle needs to access the road.

A motion was made by Gleba, seconded by Conry to grant permission for Block Party.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

AUDIENCE:

Mayor McDonald opened up the audience portion for remarks, petitions, statements, and testimony from guests.

Robin Klimko – 35 West Marble Street

Mrs. Klimko asked for an update on the South Prospect sewer project. Councilman Higgins replied that the only update he has is that the engineer has been out there to look at the drainage. Mrs. Klimko also asked about the status of the letter to the homeowner seeking their permission for an easement on their property. Councilwoman Conry replied that Manager Blanchard did receive the homeowner's permission. Councilwoman Gleba added that Manager Blanchard is just waiting on a formal written response from the homeowner. Mrs. Klimko also asked for an update on the repairing of the numerous potholes in town. Mayor McDonald replied that the D.P.W. has been patching and trying to get to as much as possible. Mrs. Klimko stated that she has made phone calls in regards to certain potholes for the past two months and they are still not repaired. Mayor McDonald replied that they are getting to the potholes as fast as they can. Councilman Jones added that he knows that they are definitely working on the potholes and they will get to it.

John Klimko – 35 West Marble Street

Mr. Klimko added that there is a D.P.W. Supervisor that can ride around town looking

for the most critical potholes to fill first instead of trying to fill every small hole.

Reverend Terelisa Bauknight – Mt. Pisgah Ame Church

Reverend Bauknight stated that she did see the N.J.D.O.T. award for North Lincoln in the newspaper and is thrilled and asked about the next step. Mayor McDonald replied that the entire award is for North Lincoln and there is no start date as of yet. The Borough needs to wait until the award is received and also the Streets Committee will recommend other roads to be paved which will be done all at once. Mayor McDonald was hopeful the paving would start before the end of the summer or beginning of fall. Reverend Bauknight asked if curbing and or sidewalks would be included. Councilman Higgins replied that it does not include either of those, the cost would be too high.

Reverend Bauknight also asked if there could be a “No Thru Traffic” sign posted further up the road on North Lincoln Avenue. Mayor McDonald replied that the property is owned by JCP&L and this would need to be discussed with them. Lastly, Reverend Bauknight noted that the church has been dealing with drainage issues in their parking lot for quite some time. There is no drainage and everything just pools at the bottom of the lot. Reverend Bauknight asked if she has to contact the Borough about putting in some sort of drainage and how would she do that. Councilman Higgins suggested that they may want to hire a Storm water Management Engineer to assist with the project and that it needs to be done before the road is paved. Councilman Higgins also suggested that Reverend Bauknight contact the local Tax Office or possibly the county for a survey of the property in regards to the installation of a fence to separate their property from the school.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Mayor McDonald asked for a motion to assist with legal fees in regards to the sewer easement on South Prospect not to exceed \$1,000.

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to direct Manager Blanchard to move forward with the easement and take care of the legal fees not to exceed \$1,000.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

REPORTS:

A motion was made by Torres, seconded by Conry to receive and file the following reports:

1. D.P.W. Report – April 2014
2. Cash Receipts Report - April
3. Expenditures vs. Appropriation Report CFO 2014
4. Code Enforcement Report – April 2014
5. Municipal Court Report – April 2014

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #74-2014 – Refund of Tax Overpayment

RESOLUTION #74-2014

A RESOLUTION TO REFUND OVERPAYMENT ON 2014 REAL ESTATE TAXES

WHEREAS, according to the Tax Collector’s records, there is an overpayment of \$1,281.13 on 2014 1st Quarter Regular Taxes paid on property located at 89 West Johnston Street, also known as Block 14.02 Lot 3, and in the name of Rosado, Patricia; and

WHEREAS, Landsafe Services and Corelogic Tax Service had both paid the 1st Quarter 2014 property taxes, resulting in the overpayment; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has been resolving the matter of tax overpayments and has received a written request from Patricia Rosado that the overpayment be refunded to her.

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 \$1,281.13 payable to:

Patricia Rosado
89 West Johnston Street
Washington, NJ 07882

Resolution #75-2014 – Refund of Tax Overpayment

RESOLUTION #75-2014

A RESOLUTION TO REFUND OVERPAYMENT OF 1ST QUARTER 2014 REAL ESTATE TAXES DUE TO EXEMPT STATUS

WHEREAS, according to the Tax Collector's records, there is an overpayment of \$1,593.25 on 1st Quarter 2014 Taxes due to a Tax Payment from CitiMortgage being applied on property located at 107 Wilson Terrace, also known as Block 71 Lot 11 and assessed in the name of Mercado, Nelson & Jo Ann; and

WHEREAS, the property owner has qualified for Exempt Veteran Status in the year 2013 as of July 27, 2013, which has created the overpayment; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received a written request from CitiMortgage, Inc. for a refund; 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, to hereby authorize the Tax Collector to refund the amount of \$1,593.25 payable to: CitiMortgage, Inc., PO Box 23689, Rochester, NY 14692.

Resolutions #74-2014 and #75-2014 were moved on a motion made by Gleba, seconded by Conry and approved.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Resolution #76-2014 – Refund of Tax Overpayment

RESOLUTION #76-2014

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 FWDSL & Associates LP, 5 Cold Hill Rd S Ste:11, Mendham, NJ 07945, in the amount of \$693.09 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2012 in the name of Marsar, Kevin C. as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 358 North Prospect Street, Block 6 Lot 6, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #13-00007; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 5-8-14 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, M&T Bank on behalf of Corelogic Tax Service claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by FWDSL & Associates LP by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,584.55 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #13-00007.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of May, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to FWDSL & Associates LP, 5 Cold Hill Rd S Ste: 11, Mendham, NJ 07945 in the amount of **\$2,884.55** (This amount consists of \$1,584.55 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,300.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 6 Lot 6 from the tax office records.

Resolution #77-2014 – Refund of Tax Overpayment

RESOLUTION #77-2014

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 \$355.55 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for

the year 2012 in the name of Winslow, Ralph & Sargent, Jeanne as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 187 Belvidere Avenue, Block 20.03 Lot 1.01, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #13-00016; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 5-9-14 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, M&T Bank on behalf of Corelogic Tax Service 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 \$1,239.95 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #13-00016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of May, 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 **\$2,039.95** (this amount consists of \$1,239.95 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$800.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 20.03 Lot 1.01 from the tax office records.

Resolutions #76-2014 and #77-2014 were moved on a motion made by Gleba, seconded by Thompson and approved.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Abstain: (1) Higgins (Resolution #77-2014 only)

Motion Carried

Resolution #78-2014 – Authorizing Suburban Consulting Engineers as Special Engineer for Recreation Commission Splash Pad (not to exceed \$19,800)

RESOLUTION #78-2014

**AUTHORIZING 2014 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH
SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING
SERVICES WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Recreation Commission of the Borough of Washington has a need to contract the services of a Municipal Engineer specifically for the Municipal Park

Splash Pad as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 or 20.5 as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has certified that the costs of this contract may or will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Suburban Consulting Engineers has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Suburban Consulting Engineers has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Washington in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the Suburban Consulting Engineers from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the services for Municipal Engineering for the Municipal Park Splash Pad are not to exceed \$19,800 as per the attached scope of services; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, on behalf of the Recreation Commission enter into a contract with Suburban Consulting Engineers as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment will be published as required by law within ten days of the passage of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and Suburban Consulting Engineers.

Resolution #78-2014 was moved on a motion made by Gleba, seconded by Conry and approved.

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Gleba asked why the Recreation Commission is not using the Municipal Engineer for this project. Mayor McDonald stated that he doesn't know why Recreation chose not to use the Borough's engineer but it's up to their discretion who they use. Councilwoman Conry added that the Recreation Director Terminelli came before Council and presented the Splash Pad but did not make mention of the engineer at the time. Councilwoman Conry also noted that since the funds are coming out of their grant money it is their choice. Councilman Torres stated that he and the rest of Council received an email from a Recreation Commissioner in which he strongly objected to the Splash Pad. Mayor McDonald stated that he received the same email and he spoke with Recreation Chairman Cioni and all of his concerns were dispelled. Councilman Torres stated that he agreed with the concerned commissioner and to move forward with another project while there are so many other issues with the pool's infrastructure is premature. Councilwoman Conry added that it was approved by Council to move forward when the Recreation

Director presented it weeks ago. Councilman Torres added that he wished Recreation dedicated the funds to make improvements with the property on Railroad Avenue.

Roll Call: Thompson, Gleba, Jones, Conry, McDonald, Higgins
Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Torres)
Motion Carried

Approval for One Table Outside / Four Chairs – The Donut Factory

A motion made by Jones, seconded by Higgins to approve the outside table and chairs as long as it is within ADA Compliance for the Donut Factory.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Thompson stated that he would like to make sure that the request is ADA compliant allowing enough room for a person in a wheelchair to get through and also turn around if needed.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Approval of Option Agreement for Grant of Easement and Right of Way NJ American Water

A motion made by Torres, seconded by Conry to approve the option agreement for grant of easement and right of way.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Jones noted that NJAW proposed to give the Borough \$14,000 which is a non-refundable deposit, but it does not stipulate that the first \$14,000 is deducted from the total cost of \$140,000. Attorney Kopen added that she thinks that it was meant to be deducted from the purchase price but it is not worded clearly and may not be interpreted properly. Councilman Higgins added that he can not vote on something that isn't clear and he suggested that Council table this discussion until further clarification.

VOUCHERS:

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$240,129.08

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

Council Discussion:

Councilman Higgins asked about the water bill for Borough Park that was roughly \$876. Councilwoman Conry replied that Recreation is working on cleaning and filling the pool. Mayor McDonald added that there was also a leak at the pool that was repaired today. Councilman Torres asked if the Group Health Benefit charge on page 3 was the premium for the whole year, or just one month. Mayor McDonald suggested that Councilman Torres call Manager Blanchard when she is in the office. Councilman Higgins asked about the \$1,176 charge to Dr. Robert Blease for impounding rabbits. Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer replied that there were fourteen rabbits in two small hutches which were abandoned and in extremely bad shape. Councilwoman Gleba asked if there was any recourse that the Borough can take against those homeowners. Mayor McDonald replied that Animal Control would have to find out who the previous homeowners or tenants were and prove that they were the ones who abandoned them. Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer called the new owners and informed them of the condition of the home and issued them a complaint. Councilman Higgins asked about the charges to JCP&L on page 6 for traffic lights. Councilman Torres replied that they are charges for flashing signs or flashing crosswalks.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Abstain: (1) Thompson – Fire Department & EMS

Motion Carried.

RECAP:

Acting Clerk Kilduff will have Manager Blanchard work with Dawson Bloom from Finelli Engineering to create an action plan for the Midblock Crossing issues on Route 57. Also, Manager Blanchard will work with CFO Turchan to find a way to fund the Pleasant Valley Mill Dam project this year, possibly using surplus in the sewer budget. Manager Blanchard will make the D.P.W. aware that the blockades will be set up for the block party with the stipulation that emergency vehicles can enter if needed. Manager Blanchard will work with Reverend Bauknight from Mt. Pisgah Ame Church in regards to JCP&L and possibly placing a “No Thru Traffic” sign and the traffic issues on North Lincoln Avenue as well as issues with the potential fence on the rear property and the storm water drainage. Lastly, Attorney Kopen will clarify the Grant Easement Agreement with New Jersey American Water.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Councilwoman Gleba made a motion that she would like Council to move forward with producing an employee policy that Council was supposed to do last year in regards to consensual relationships with a supervisor. Mayor McDonald suggested that he and Councilwoman Gleba work on a policy together and give it to Attorney Kopen for review. Councilwoman also reminded everyone that this Thursday there is a Senior event at Borough Hall at 6:30. Also, Councilwoman Gleba reminded everyone that the BID is hosting their Cocktail in the Park which the ticket sales are to raise money for the new pocket park and for everyone to have a Happy Memorial Day and to not forget those who gave their all.

Councilman Torres reminded everyone about the Annual Car Show on Saturday, June 14th. Flyers are available at the BID office.

Councilwoman Conry informed Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer about rodents and trash at a residence on Beethoven Avenue and also about the Railroad Avenue Apartments putting their grass clippings on Youmans Avenue again. Councilwoman Conry stated that Mr. Pisgah Ame Church had asked for Council's help in getting their parking lot lined with handicapped spaces. Councilwoman Conry sent Manager Blanchard an email on the topic who said she will have the D.P.W. assist the church as long as Council approves.

Motion made by Torres, seconded by Conry to authorize the Manager to have the D.P.W. assist the Mt. Pisgah Ame Church with the painting of the handicapped lines when time allows.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Councilman Torres asked for an update from the Code Enforcement Officer on the sidewalk situation on Vannatta Street as well as the parking violations. Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer stated that the resident has appealed the judge's decision and the next court date is June 4th. Meanwhile, there were tickets issued to this resident for parking on the roadway during a snow storm. Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer also added that Judge Palmer asked if there were any signs entering the Borough or on Vannatta Street stating that there is no parking during a snow emergency but the judge has not made a ruling yet.

Councilman Thompson wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and encouraged all to put their flags out.

Councilman Jones also wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and encouraged all to put their flags out.

Councilman Higgins urged everyone to enjoy their Memorial Day and he added that there doesn't have to be signs to be found guilty in court.

Mayor McDonald stated that Habitat for Humanity is dedicating their newest habitat home at 248 East Washington Avenue on Sunday June 1st at 1:00 p.m.

Councilman Torres added that he attended a BASF update and they are still postponing disassembling their plant in Washington Borough due to construction problems and possible litigation at their new plant in Louisiana. The new proposed date for the plant closing is mid-2015 and could possibly be delayed even longer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Conry, seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Mayor Scott McDonald

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk