

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – August 18, 2015**

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: Klimko, McDonald, Noone, Heinrich, Thompson, Conry,  
Higgins (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Also Present: Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Manager/Clerk  
Leslie Parikh, Municipal Attorney,

**MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting – July 21, 2015**

Motion made by Noone, seconded by Heinrich to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of July 21, 2015

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0  
Abstain: (1) Conry  
Motion Carried

**AUDIENCE:**

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

Mary Jo Harris – 9 Oak Ridge Road

Mrs. Harris commented that she was pleasantly surprised and pleased to see all the weeds removed from the downtown area. Mrs. Harris stated that she has been a resident of

Washington Borough since 1986 and before the weeds were taken care of it seemed like the downtown area was progressively getting worse and worse. Mrs. Harris added that she is a Prevention Education Specialist with substance abuse and one of the main factors for our youth to not be involved with drugs and alcohol are community attachments. Mrs. Harris stated that our youth is not going to be attached to the community if we don't care what the downtown looks like and she hopes that the Borough Council makes that a priority.

John Montaverde – Executive Director, BID

Mr. Montaverde stated that the BID has an upcoming Halloween fundraiser on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Mediterranean Bistro. Mr. Montaverde added that it should be a fun event and he is seeking an organization or group to partner with for a 50/50 raffle at the event. Mr. Montaverde also stated that the attendance has been declining at the Farmer's Market over the past few weeks which he attributes to the fact that Shop Rite on Route 31 has also been running a farmer's market. Mr. Montaverde plans to run a series of ads to bring the attendance back up and he added that everything is on track for the Festival in the Borough on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Reverend Bauknight – Mt. Pisgah AME Church, 169 North Lincoln Avenue

Reverend Bauknight thanked the Council Members for their continuous updates and direction. Reverend Bauknight stated that back in January when there was a swearing in of new Council Members, she learned that Council's bible had disappeared. On behalf of the Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Reverend Bauknight presented Council with a new bible. Mayor McDonald and all of Council thanked Reverend Bauknight for the wonderful gift.

Dave DeSantos – 66 Cemetery Hill Road

Mr. DeSantos asked about the unused one hundred twenty five acres in the Borough and if Council has heard of any interest regarding that property or has there been any changes to the master plan. Mayor McDonald replied that he has had a conversation with some members from the Washington Cemetery inquiring about the land. Mayor McDonald added that the Washington Cemetery does not have an application before the Planning Board at this time however they are scheduled to meet with the Technical Review Committee of the Planning Board and at that point the Borough will have a better idea as to what the Washington Cemetery will be asking for. Mr. DeSantos asked if the Technical Review Committee meetings are closed to the public. Mayor McDonald replied that the meetings are closed to the public and there are no minutes kept because they are informal meetings but they still need to make a formal presentation to the Planning Board and come back again for the final approvals which are both public record.

Mayor McDonald added that whether the Washington Cemetery were to make changes to the master plan or a simple request of a zoning change, the property owners within two hundred feet will receive a certified letter notifying them such a hearing will take place.

Peter Michelle – 28 South Lincoln Avenue

Mr. Michelle asked for more information on how the Technical Review Committee works and why it is closed to the public. Mayor McDonald replied that are not any standard rules for sub committees in the Borough's code book. Mayor McDonald added that many sub committee meetings are open to the public but the Planning Board's Technical Review Committee is not open to the public due to the fact that there is a public hearing that would be held on any application that comes before the Planning Board. Attorney Parikh replied that a commission or sub committee is not required to be that formal which means there is no requirement for minutes to be kept. Attorney Parikh added that since the Technical Review Committee is an advisory board and if there is any action to take, it will ultimately go through the Planning Board which the any action that the Planning Board takes is open to the public. Mayor McDonald added that the purpose of the Technical Review Committee is to streamline the process, work out any issues and ensure that the Borough's codes and ordinances are being followed. Mr. Michelle expressed that he was at the last Planning Board meeting and was surprised how quickly the various approvals on the agenda went through and would like to see the Technical Review Committee meetings be open to the public with minutes taken and a recording.

Susan Sloan – 89 Grand Avenue

Mrs. Sloan complained that the cars that are parked on Route 57 continue to block her view when trying to turn on Route 57 from Grand Avenue and it is a safety hazard.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Warren County Health Department – Susan G. Komen's Tie a Ribbon Campaign

A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to approve the request from the Warren County Health Department for fifty pink ribbons in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the downtown area from October 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

### **REPORTS:**

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

1. Washington Township Police Department – July 2015
2. Warren County Health Report - August
3. Municipal Court Report – July 2015

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

### **ORDINANCES:**

For Discussion Only – Volunteer Emergency Service License and Permit Fee Exemption

Council Discussion:

Manager Blanchard commented that this was brought to her attention by Chief Cammarota and that the Township of Pohatcong was considering this ordinance. Manager Blanchard contacted the clerk of Pohatcong and received a draft copy of their ordinance. Manager Blanchard added that this ordinance is a way for the governing body to give back to their volunteers with the exception of certain fees that are required by the State of New Jersey such as marriage and dog licenses but the Council can wave the Borough portion of those fees.

Councilman Heinrich asked if garage sale fees are state mandated. Manager Blanchard replied that those are municipal fees. Manager Blanchard added that the only state fees are dog licenses which the State of New Jersey receives \$1.20 for each dog and marriages which the Borough receives \$3.00 and the State of New Jersey receives \$25.00.

Motion made by Higgins to examine this ordinance at the next meeting, seconded by Heinrich.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0  
Abstain: (1) Thompson  
Motion Carried

Mayor McDonald added that he would like to see some sort of requirement worked into the ordinance which would prevent someone from joining a volunteer organization just to receive the benefit of the license and fee exemption. Chief Cammarota replied that he could provide Council with documentation stating who is eligible for the exemptions based on the percentage of fire and rescue calls attended. Mayor McDonald would like to see a few other examples of this type of ordinance for further reference,

**Ordinance 7-2015 An Ordinance Fixing the Salary and Wages of Certain Municipal Officials and Repealing Portions of Prior Inconsistent Salary and Wage Ordinances for the Year Beginning August 31, 2015 (Public Hearing/Adoption)**

Motion made by Noone, seconded by Conry to introduce Ordinance 7 – 2015 on final passage and have clerk read by title and publication statement.

Roll Call: Noone, Klimko, McDonald, Conry, Higgins, Heinrich,  
Ayes: 6, Nays: (1) Thompson  
Motion Carried

The Clerk read Ordinance 7-2015 An Ordinance Fixing the Salary and Wages of Certain Municipal Officials and Repealing Portions of Prior Inconsistent Salary and Wage Ordinances for the Year Beginning August 31, 2015

**ORDINANCE #7-2015**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY AND WAGES  
OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND REPEALING  
PORTIONS OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCES FOR  
THE YEARS BEGINNING AUGUST 31, 2015**

SECTION 1. The annual salaries, wages and salary and wage ranges for the municipal officials and employees of the Borough of Washington hereinafter named shall be as follows:

SCHEDULE A - FULL-TIME CLASSIFIED

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>SALARY OR WAGE RANGE</u>
Account Clerk, Deputy Municipal Court Administrator, Sr. Clerk-Typist	\$30,012 - \$47,964 AN
Administrative Clerk, Municipal Court Administrator	\$41,532 - \$66,918 AN
Assistant Municipal Tax Collector	\$35,914 - \$57,439 AN
Assistant Supervisor, Streets	\$49,681 - \$65,801 AN
Building Maintenance Worker	\$37,394 - \$50,082 AN
Clerk	\$13,615- \$27,967 AN
Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Officer	\$41,225 - \$59,222 AN
Equipment Operator, Principal Clerk-Typist	\$44,526 - \$60,085 AN
Laborer	\$33,647 - \$46,509 AN
Library Assistant, Clerk-Typist	\$26,492 - \$41,831 AN
Library Director	\$50,000 - \$79,322 AN
Police Chief	\$72,500 - \$98,794 AN
Supervising Library Assistant	\$32,026 - \$49,879 AN
Supervisor Streets	\$53,870 - \$68,657 AN
Truck Driver	\$39,937 - \$55,536 AN

**SCHEDULE B - PART-TIME CLASSIFIED**

Account Clerk	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Animal Control Officer	\$2,750 - \$6,281 AN
Building Service Worker	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Clerk	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Clerk-Typist	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator	\$2,000 - \$3,000 AN
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$1,500 - \$1,700 AN
Fire Official	\$20.00 - \$30.00 Hr.
Fire Prevention Specialist	\$15.00 - \$25.00 Hr.
*Library Director	\$36.00 - \$56.00 Hr.
Library Assistant	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Senior Library Assistant	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.

**SCHEDULE C - UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE**

Chief Financial Officer	\$15,500 - \$60,000 AN
Council Members	\$2,000 AN
Deputy Municipal Clerk	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Judge of the Municipal Court	\$20,000 - \$33,765 AN
Mayor	\$2,500 AN
Municipal Clerk	\$48,833 - \$74,373 AN
Municipal Department Head	\$15,000 - \$75,000 AN or \$8.25 - \$41.00 Hr.
Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 2,000 - \$ 6,000 AN

Municipal Manager	\$80,000 - \$120,000 AN
Tax Assessor	\$25,500 - \$45,679 AN
Tax Collector	\$41,532 - \$66,918 AN

SCHEDULE D - UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE

**(TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL)**

Acting or Interim Department Head or Executive Management	\$10.00 - \$50.00 Hr
Assistant Recreation Supervisor(s) (Swim Team)	\$970 - \$2,132/Season
Attendant Baths & Pools	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Equipment Operator	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Food Service Manager	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Food Service Worker	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Laborer	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Life Guard	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Recreation & Park Maintenance Worker	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Recreation Supervisor (Director)	\$17.00 - \$25.00 Hr.
Recreation Supervisor Arts & Crafts	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Recreation Supervisor Playground	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Recreation Supervisor Swimming (Swim Team)	\$2,500 - \$3,500/Season
Recreation Supervisor Swimming (Swim Lessons)	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Secretary, Board/Commission (Board of Adjustment, Shade Tree, Planning Board, Recreation Department)	\$ 500 - \$4,000 AN or \$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.)
Sports Official Basketball	\$ 900 - \$2,035/Season
Supervisor Baths & Pools	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.
Truck Driver	\$7.25 - \$25.00 Hr.

SECTION 2. Salaries herein shall be payable at the rate fixed in equal installments twice a month. Wages shall be payable twice a month. Any annual salary may be re-calculated to an hourly wage for any position unless restricted by collective bargaining agreement. Any and all fees received by officials and employees of the Borough of Washington shall be paid unto the municipality.

SECTION 3. Any salary and wage ordinance adopted prior to the adoption of this ordinance with provisions inconsistent with the provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance shall, to the extent of any inconsistency and only to the extent of the inconsistency, be repealed.

SECTION 4. In the event the position becomes vacant or no figure is listed, then the figures noted in the column with the heading "salary or wage range" shall be utilized by the appointing authority and any salary or wage paid within this range shall be deemed appropriate and valid.

SECTION 5. The Supervisor of Streets in possession of a valid Certificate as Certified Public Works Manager shall have added to their base pay \$6,000.00 per year to be paid twice per month.

SECTION 6. A public works employee who works eight hours in one day out of title in a job classification with a higher salary or wage range shall be entitled to additional compensation for that day at the rate of his or her current rate of pay plus ten (10%) percent.

SECTION 7. The rates contained herein shall become effective August 31, 2015.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the aforesaid Ordinance was introduced at a meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey held on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 and that a meeting of the same will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Borough Council Chambers on the second floor of the Borough hall, 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, New Jersey for the purposes of holding a public hearing and to consider the final passage of said Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication according to law.

Public Hearing:

Hearing no comments from the public, a motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to close the public hearing of Ordinance #7-2015.

Ayes: 6, Nays: (1) Thompson  
Motion Carried

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich to adopt Ordinance #7-2015 on final passage.

Roll Call: Klimko, McDonald, Conry, Higgins, Heinrich, Noone  
Ayes: 6, Nays: (1) Thompson  
Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution #139-2015 Refund Tax Monies Per Tax Court Appeal**

**RESOLUTION # 139-2015**

**A RESOLUTION TO REFUND TAX MONIES PER TAX COURT APPEAL**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has received a Tax Court Judgement received in 2015 for the years 2011 and 2012 for the property listed below:

<b><u>BLOCK AMOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>LOT</u></b>	<b><u>NAME OF OWNER/ PROPERTY LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	
83	5	Washington Plaza Assoc. LP	2011	19,368.00
			2012	19,096.00
			Total	38,464.00

Refund payable to: Brach Eichler LLC and Washington Plaza Assoc LP, 101 Eisenhower Parkway, Roseland, NJ 07068

**WHEREAS**, due to Court Judgement Dockets #005141-2011 and #008569-2012 the assessed value for the improvement has been reduced from 3,400,000 to 3,000,000 which changes the amount of taxes due thus creating an overpayment; 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 above tax overpayment.

Resolution #139-2015 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Noone and approved.

Roll Call: Noone, McDonald, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson,  
Klimko, Conry  
Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**Resolution #140-2015 Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate**

**RESOLUTION #140-2015**

**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 November 7, 2014 to FWDSL & Associates LP, 5 Cold Hill Rd S Ste:11, Mendham, NJ 07945, in the amount of \$704.32 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2013 in the name of Rosati, James W. as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 23 McKinley Ave., Block 49 Lot 5, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #14-00038; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 7-31-15 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Comerica 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 \$1,604.02 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #14-00038.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of August, 2015 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 **\$2,904.02** (This amount consists of \$1,604.02 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,300.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 49 Lot 5 from the tax office records.

Resolution #140-2015 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich and approved.

Roll Call: Noone, McDonald, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson,  
Klimko, Conry  
Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**Resolution #141-2015 Approval of Retail Consumption License VMI of Washington  
t/a Enzo's Restaurant and Pizzeria**

**RESOLUTION #141-2015**

**RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE**

**WHEREAS**, an application has been made in apparent conformity with the requirements and conditions relative to the issuance of a **Plenary Retail Consumption License** and in accord with an Act of Legislature concerning Alcoholic Beverages and the Amendments and Supplements thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the following applicant has paid a fee of **\$720.00**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of Washington, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that a **Plenary Retail Consumption License** be issued by the Borough Clerk and granted to:

VMI of Washington, Inc.  
t/a Enzo's Restaurant & Pizzeria  
328 W. Washington Ave.  
Washington, NJ 07882

From July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, provided proof of compliance with Public Law 1970, Chapter 77, has been submitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following conditions be imposed on the licensee:

- A. Licensee will report all incidences of fighting and brawling in the licensed premises immediately to the Washington Township Police Department for assistance.
- B. Licensee agrees to keep the doors to the premises closed at all times (regardless of the weather) so as to control patrons on premises and to discourage patrons from disturbing or accosting persons on the adjoining streets and sidewalks. The licensee shall have had an automatic door closing device installed on the main entrance door to the establishment and the same shall be kept operational at all times

**Resolution #142-2015 Approval of Retail Distribution License for Washington  
Discount Liquors**

**RESOLUTION #142-2015**

**RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE**

**WHEREAS**, an application has been made in apparent conformity with the requirements and conditions relative to the issuance of a **Plenary Retail Distribution License** and in accord with an Act of Legislature concerning Alcoholic Beverages and the Amendments and Supplements thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the following applicant has paid a fee of **\$720.00**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of Washington, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that a **Plenary Retail Distribution License** be issued by the Borough Clerk and granted to:

Washington Discount Liquors L.L.C.  
66 Route 31  
Washington NJ 07882

From July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, provided proof of compliance with Public Law 1970, Chapter 77, has been submitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following conditions be imposed on the licensee:

- C. Licensee will report all incidences of fighting and brawling in the licensed premises immediately to the Washington Police Department for assistance.
- D. Licensee agrees to keep the doors to the premises closed at all times (regardless of the weather) so as to control patrons on premises and to discourage patrons from disturbing or accosting persons on the adjoining streets and sidewalks. The licensee shall have had an automatic door closing device installed on the main entrance door to the establishment and the same shall be kept operational at all times

**Resolution #143-2015 Approval of Retail Distribution License for Warren County Discount Liquor & Grocery**

**RESOLUTION #143-2015**

**RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE**

**WHEREAS**, an application has been made in apparent conformity with the requirements and conditions relative to the issuance of a **Plenary Retail Distribution License** and in accord with an Act of Legislature concerning Alcoholic Beverages and the Amendments and Supplements thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the following applicant has paid a fee of **\$720.00**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of Washington, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that a **Plenary Retail Distribution License** be issued by the Borough Clerk and granted to:

Warren County Discount Liquor & Grocery, Inc.  
260 W. Washington Ave  
Washington, NJ 07882

From July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, provided proof of compliance with Public Law 1970, Chapter 77, has been submitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following conditions be imposed on the licensee:

- E. Licensee will report all incidences of fighting and brawling in the licensed premises immediately to the Washington Police Department for assistance.
- F. Licensee agrees to keep the doors to the premises closed at all times (regardless of the weather) so as to control patrons on premises and to discourage patrons from disturbing or accosting persons on the adjoining streets and sidewalks. The licensee shall have had an automatic door closing device installed on the main entrance door to the establishment and the same shall be kept operational at all times

Resolutions #141-2015, #142-2015, and #143-2015 were moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich and approved.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**Resolution #145-2015 Adjustment of Sewer Charge due to disconnection from the Sewer System**

**RESOLUTION #145-2015**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADJUSTMENT OF A  
BOROUGH'S SEWER SERVICE CHARGE DUE TO DISCONNECTION  
FROM THE SEWER SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Treasurer's records, a borough property located at 27 West Washington Avenue was disconnected from the Washington Borough Sewer system on August 13, 2015 and;

**WHEREAS**, the quarterly sewer invoice was being billed without interruption for the 2015 billing cycle and;

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Treasurer's office has received a written notification from Sewer Plant Manager, Kevin Shoudt that the sewer line was capped off. It was confirmed that the property at 27 West Washington Avenue was disconnected from the Washington Borough Sewer system.

**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 Borough Treasurer is authorized to adjust the sewer account #1933-1 with a balance that reflects the amount due at the time the sewer connection was capped.

<b><u>BLOCK/LOT</u></b>	<b><u>PROPERTY OWNER/ PROPERTY LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>FINAL BAL. AFTER CAP</u></b>
95/4	Jade Partners Washington, LLC 27 West Washington Avenue	\$ 99.00

**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 Borough Treasurer is authorized to adjust sewer balance on the above property location.

Resolution #145-2015 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Conry and approved.

Roll Call: Noone, McDonald, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson,  
Klimko, Conry

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**Resolution #146-2015 Appointment of Terry Thomas to Recreation Commission**

**RESOLUTION #146-2015**

**RECREATION COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey is governed by Plan “E” of Municipal Charter Law; and

**WHEREAS**, under this plan the Mayor of the Borough is to appoint members of the Recreation Commission with the advice and consent of the Council and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor has designated the following person his appointee to the Recreation Commission:

Terry Thomas – Term Expires 12/31/19

**WHEREAS**, The Council does approve of this appointment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the above mentioned appointment shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #146-2015 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Thompson and approved.

Roll Call: Noone, McDonald, Heinrich, Higgins, Thompson,  
Klimko, Conry

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**VOUCHERS:**

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$267,376.55

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

### Council Discussion:

Councilman Thompson asked about the charge from Airgas USA LLC on page four in regards to the rental of oxygen, acetylene, and argon tanks. Councilman Higgins replied that the charge is for the cost of refilling the tanks. Manager Blanchard replied that the description should say refilling instead of rentals.

Roll Call: Noone, Heinrich, Higgins, McDonald, Thompson,  
Klimko, Conry

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Abstain: (1) Thompson (Fire & EMS only)

Motion Carried.

### **RECAP:**

Manager Blanchard will contact the Washington Township Police Department again in regards to the lack of sight at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Route 57. Councilman Higgins suggested contacting the Department of Transportation and ask them to perform a visual marking inspection since it is their roadway. Manager Blanchard will contact the D.O.T. Manager Blanchard will also work on the ordinance in regards to volunteers and their license and permit fee exemptions.

### **COUNCIL REMARKS:**

Councilman Higgins stated that his Washington Borough email is still not working. Manager Blanchard replied that the website coordinator is looking into the problem and will check with him. Councilwoman Conry and Mayor McDonald also stated that they continue to have email trouble as well. Councilman Higgins also added that he had spoken to a few veterans from the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade and they expressed their thanks and gratitude towards the Borough of Washington for supporting the designation of the State Route 173 between Clinton and Phillipsburg as “173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Highway”.

Councilwoman Klimko asked about the status of the time clocks and when they will be up and running. Manager Blanchard replied that she is in the process of working out some issues but is hopeful the time clocks will be up and running shortly. Councilwoman Klimko also asked about getting the unnecessary handicapped spaces removed and the new spaces put in. Manager Blanchard replied that she would like to get the handicapped spaces completed by the start of the school year. Councilwoman Klimko asked about the street signs that were needed due to the ordinance passed last October in regards to parking. Manager Blanchard replied that the signs have arrived and will also be installed by the start of the school year. Councilwoman Klimko also asked about the CLAP Program. Manager Blanchard replied that she was told that the participants were needed to assist tearing down the Warren County Fairgrounds before they can be scheduled to assist in Washington Borough with curb painting. Councilwoman Klimko added that the

curbs on Route 57 also need to be painted at every intersection. Councilman Higgins commented that since the D.O.T. is repaving Route 57 next year, they will probably not paint the curbs until after the paving project has been completed. Manager Blanchard will try to get an update from the Borough Engineer, Mr. Dawson Bloom on the status of the Route 57 paving project.

Councilman Thompson asked about the handicapped sign on Washington Avenue which can not be seen due to the overgrown trees. Manager Blanchard replied that the Shade Tree Commission has trimmed the trees back as much as possible and the sign is still not totally visible. Manager Blanchard will call the D.O.T. to see if the sign can be moved away from the tree. Councilman Thompson asked how the Street Smart Campaign was going downtown. Mr. Montaverde, BID Director replied that Washington Township Police have posted flyers in the downtown businesses to promote awareness of the campaign and the next phase of the campaign will be enforcement. Councilman Thompson also asked about the trailer that has been parked in front of Get a Grip. Manager Blanchard replied that she will discuss the issue with Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer.

Councilwoman Conry asked for an update on the Washington Township Quick Check hooking up to the Borough's sewer line. Manager Blanchard replied that Quick Check has applied for all the appropriate permits with the D.O.T. and they have established an escrow account with the Borough. Manager Blanchard also added that Finelli Engineering has had a pre-construction meeting with them so everything is moving along. Councilwoman Conry commented that she spoke with Gary Lawrence from Norfolk Southern in reference to the trees and bushes on Railroad Avenue that need to be addressed. Mr. Lawrence needs the Borough to address the issue of the cars and trailers parked on Norfolk Southern's property throughout Washington in order for the trees and bushes to be cut down.

Councilman Heinrich commented that he saw Manager Blanchard's update that the infrastructure is in place in regards to the E.P.A. project on Park Avenue. Councilman Heinrich asked if there is a date set that the paving will begin and was there a final decision on where the affluent discharge will go. Manager Blanchard replied that the E.P.A. is discharging into the sewer and the paving should be done soon before the preschool in the area opens on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Manager Blanchard will reach out to the E.P.A. for a definitive start date and reply back to Councilman Heinrich.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At this time, Mayor McDonald stated that an Executive Session is needed for the purpose of personnel and attorney client privilege. A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Heinrich to enter into Executive Session after a ten minute recess.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION # 147-2015**

**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;

X  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 Heinrich, seconded by Thompson, to go out of Executive Session.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to appoint Natasha Turchan as Acting Manager in the event of a personnel policy conflict with the current Borough Manager.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

A motion was made by Conry, seconded by Higgins for the Borough Council to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Labor Attorney to represent the Borough of Washington.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Noone, seconded by Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Scott McDonald

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk