

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – October 06, 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 and requested a moment of silence in honor of Evan Murray who passed away after the Warren Hills Regional High School football game on September 25, 2015.

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

Also Present: Ann Kilduff, Acting Clerk

**MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting – September 01, 2015**

Motion made by Heinrich, seconded by Conry to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of September 01, 2015.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0  
Abstain: (2) Higgins, Thompson  
Motion Carried

**Regular Meeting – September 15, 2015**

Motion made by Heinrich, seconded by Conry to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of September 15, 2015

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

## **COUNCIL APPEARANCE:**

Music / Art of NJ – Jay Arrington and Ronald Foster

Mr. Arrington stated that the Music / Art of New Jersey is a non-profit organization whose mission is to rekindle people's love of music and cultural arts. Mr. Arrington presented his case, provided a copy of the business plan to the Mayor, each Council Member and Borough Manager. Mr. Arrington added that the goal of the business plan is to provide a detailed description of their basic strategy for the establishment, operation and sustainable growth of a Music / Art of NJ Cultural Arts Centre for Washington Borough and neighboring communities. Mr. Arrington spoke about art/music/dance classes, talent searches, concerts, dinner theater, etc. and the opportunities they could afford for employment at all age levels. Mr. Arrington asked for \$50,000 from the Borough to kick start the project, calling the amount seed money to get the theater safe enough for workers to get inside and start the renovation process. Council replied to Mr. Arrington that they would need to give further consideration to his request. Mr. Arrington added that upon completion of the project, he anticipated increased traffic flow to local businesses and expects immediate benefits to the community.

Jerome Eben - American Institute of Architects

Mr. Arrington introduced his architect, Mr. Jerome Eben of the AIA who spoke about the history, projected costs, challenges, horrific condition of the theater both internally and externally, along with opportunities and expected community effects of the theater renovation project. Mr. Eben expressed how a downtown theatre would do wonders for the revitalization of the community bringing live music and entertainment which would encourage tourism and increase local business traffic. Mr. Eben stated that the cost numbers in the plan; \$50,000 to start and \$1.5 million to finish are conservative. He covered how the AIA will run a contest among architectural students to help develop the renovation plans at a much reduced cost, the need for original plans, drawings and pictures of the theater to support the project. Mayor McDonald replied that he will post on Facebook requesting any pictures or possible plans of the Washington Theatre.

## **AUDIENCE:**

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

Bob Cammarota – Chief, Washington Borough Fire Department

Chief Cammarota stated that the Washington Borough Fire Department has a member named Charlie Wright who is approaching sixty years of service. Chief Cammarota added that the Washington Borough Fire Department would like a proclamation from Council in Mr. Wright's honor and would also like to name the alley way between the Washington Borough EMS and the Washington Borough Fire Department "Charlie Wright Way". Mayor McDonald suggested that Chief Cammarota send Manager Blanchard the information for the proclamation along with the request for naming the alley way. Chief Cammarota also noted that the Washington Borough Fire Department will need to replace Engine 61 in approximately three to five years and asked Council to start planning on the cost estimated between \$350,000 and \$450,000.

Bob Smolar – West Warren Street

Mr. Smolar applauded Council for asking if the project was contingent on the Borough providing the fund for the project. Mr. Smolar also felt that the \$50,000 request would adversely affect the Borough's tax base and shared his feeling that the initial amount would not be all that Music / Art of NJ asked for and would like to see a few more estimates for the cost of the roof.

Harold Warne – 107 Youmans Avenue

Mr. Warne stated to Council that he last appeared at the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to discuss code enforcement. Mr. Warne previously cited violations of weeds, obnoxious growth as well as litter on private property owned by the Jewish Center, Rossi and the Railroad Avenue Apartments. Mr. Warne added that the code violations at Rossi and the Jewish Center properties have not been addressed and while the Railroad Avenue apartments have cut some weeds, they have left behind litter and garbage. Mr. Warne feels Council should address the code enforcement issues and provide guidance as to how the Borough should be run. Mr. Warne also noted that since the Dollar Store opened, the right of way between his home and the Jewish Center has been used as a road as well as pedestrians and students using the right of way as a walkway. There is zero visibility due to the height of the weeds on the Jewish Center property and urges Council to take the steps necessary to approve the appearance of the Borough and to do what is necessary to ensure the safety of the residents, pedestrians and drivers using the right of way on Youmans Avenue. Councilwoman Conry replied that she has already requested a sign stating that it is a one way coming out of the Jewish Center driveway and is waiting for that sign to be installed.

Charles Boddy

Mr. Boddy expressed that he thought the presentation for the Cultural Arts Center was wonderful. Mr. Boddy also felt that the benefits of renovating the theater far outweighed the costs and stated that if \$50,000 adversely affected the tax base, then the Borough has much larger problems to deal with.

Penelope Griffin – New Bold Court, Washington Township

Ms. Griffin cited that the project is an excellent idea given that we have no resources for children, no after school activities and no cultural opportunities to provide. The Mayor pointed out that the Borough had such programs at one time, but due to financial constraints and budget cuts, they have been cancelled. Ms. Griffin also noted that at the Festival of the Borough she signed up to be a part of the Family Support Program of Warren County. Ms. Griffin would like more residents to be aware of the Family Support Program and the services that they offer such as how to speak to your kids about drugs.

Sonia Ron – 107 Park Avenue

Ms. Ron stated that there is a big drug problem growing here in Washington, and that a revitalized theater in the form that Mr. Arrington outlined would be a start to turning that negative situation around. Mayor McDonald replied that the Community Prevention Resources could really use volunteers to help spread the word about drug prevention. Ms. Ron added the streets are in disrepair and we do not have enough police presence. Lt. Teeter addressed the police presence situation, citing the force is stretched thin over the three communities it serves. Councilman Higgins explained the form of government in the Borough. The Council, although they are elected, is not allowed by law to get involved in the day to day operations of the Borough. The day to day is up to the Borough Manager. The Council can direct the Manger to address the concerns of the citizens, but cannot tell her how to do it. Councilman Higgins added information about the recent repaving efforts. Ms. Ron stated that she had never been to a council meeting before, but that she would be back.

Lieutenant Teter – Washington Township Police Department

Lieutenant Teter announced to Council that he is the Police Liaison for the Borough Council and will attend at least one meeting a month. Lieutenant Teter added that he has been an officer in Washington for twenty two years and he is proud to say that he has gotten to know a lot of more of the residents of this great community since the Washington Township Police Department merged with the Borough on August 1, 2009. Lieutenant Teter commented that from his experience he believes that a lot of the drug and heroin problems start at home if there is not structure at home and the children fall in with the wrong crowd and is an epidemic nationwide.

John Montaverde – Director, Washington Business Improvement District

Mr. Montaverde updated Council on the success of last weekend's Festival in the Borough and add that the police presence was terrific. Mr. Montaverde stated that the

next big event for the BID is the Night of the Living BID which is a fundraiser to complete the downtown pocket park on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Mediterranean Bistro. BID events to follow are Hometown Halloween and Hometown Holiday in December.

Mary Jordan – Route 31

Ms. Jordan expressed concern about the downtown crosswalk. Ms. Jordan added that the lights notifying motorists that a pedestrian is in the crosswalk are not working and motorists do not stop even though they are supposed to. Mayor McDonald replied that the crosswalk will be reconstructed next year and that the Washington Township Police Department has been enforcing the Pedestrian Safety Program which hopefully encourages motorists to stop for pedestrians. Councilwoman Klimko suggested some type of signage reminding motorists of the laws of pedestrians and crosswalks.

Reverend Bauknight - Mt. Pisgah AME Church

Reverend Bauknight stated that now that North Lincoln Avenue has finally been paved, motorists are now speeding and she is concerned for the children that live in the neighborhood. Reverend Bauknight noted that the electronic sign alerting motorists of their speed was placed on North Lincoln Avenue in the wrong section and was only there for a few days. Reverend Bauknight added that now the busses are driving through there at a high rate of speed. Lieutenant Teter replied that he will request that the speed sign be set up near the vicinity of 159 North Lincoln Avenue as well as a focus radar. Reverend Bauknight asked if there was a possibility for an inverted speed bump or removable speed bumps. Lieutenant Teter replied that in his experience they do slow motorists down however they cause havoc for emergency vehicles. Councilman Higgins suggested contacting Mr. Stan Prater with JCP&L in regards to the inverted speed bumps on North Lincoln Avenue. Reverend Bauknight asked about the status of the additional mirror at the Wells Fargo Bank exit to aid motorists. Mayor McDonald replied that Council will ask Manager Blanchard if she sent Wells Fargo a letter requesting the mirror and what the status is.

Deborah Franklin – 145 North Lincoln

Mrs. Franklin stated that she lives right on the corner of North Lincoln Avenue and New Street. Mrs. Franklin commented that most cars do not stop at the stop sign located on New Street and just go right through the sign on to North Lincoln Avenue which is a big problem.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**REPORTS:**

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

Council Discussion:

Mayor McDonald pointed out that the dates of 9/26/15 thru 9/28/15 on the Office of Emergency Management Report should actually be 8/26/15 thru 8/28/15.

1. Office of Emergency Management Report – September 2015
2. Code Enforcement Report – September 2015

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**ORDINANCES:**

**Sample Ordinance from Hackettstown regarding Fire Pits and Chiminea's (for review)**

Councilwoman Noone noted that while the sample ordinance from Hackettstown looks good, it fails to address the concerns of the citizen as to what is a minimum safe distance away from a neighboring home or other structure. Mayor McDonald asked that Manager Blanchard provide a copy of the sample ordinance to Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer as well as Fire Official Allin for their input.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Best Practices Review and Approval – 2015**

A motion made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich and approved.

Council Discussion:

Mayor McDonald noted that the Best Practices Review and Approval is required by the State of New Jersey in order to be eligible for state aid.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**Resolution #157-2015 Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate**

**RESOLUTION #157-2015**

**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 \$527.31 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2013 in the name of Bernet, Marwa as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 109 Park Avenue, Block 82 Lot 20.06, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #14-00054; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 9-22-15 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, BSI Financial Services 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 \$4,561.77 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #14-00054.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 6th day of October, 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 **\$5,861.77** (This amount consists of \$4,561.77 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,300.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 82 Lot 20.06 from the tax office records.

**Resolution #158-2015 Redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate**

**RESOLUTION #158-2015**

**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 K.C.C. Promised Lands LLC, 2560 Route 22 East, #175, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076, in the amount of \$691.93 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2013 in the name of Goddard, Ryan E. as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 25 Nunn Avenue, Block 97.03 Lot 7, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #14-00066; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 9-24-15 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, East West Bank on behalf of Lereta Tax Service, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by K.C.C. Promised Lands LLC, by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,754.04 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #14-00066.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 6th day of October, 2015 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to K.C.C. Promised Lands LLC, 2560 Route 22 East, #175, Scotch Plains, NJ 08886 in the amount of **\$3,154.04** (This amount consists of \$1,754.04 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,400.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 97.03 Lot 7 from the tax office records.

Resolution #157-2015 and #158-2015 were moved on a motion made by Noone, seconded by Conry and approved.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried



**Resolution #159-2015 Approval of Items of Revenue – Clean Communities**

**RESOLUTION #159-2015**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND  
APPROPRIATIONS NJSA 40A: 4-87**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2015 in the sum of \$15,157.23 which is now available from the State of New Jersey, Clean Communities Account

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the like sum of \$15,157.23 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Other Expenses – Clean Communities.

**Resolution #160-2015 Approval of Items of Revenue – Recycling Tonnage**

**RESOLUTION #160-2015**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND  
APPROPRIATIONS NJSA 40A: 4-87**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2015 in the sum of \$4,160.91 which is now available from the State of New Jersey

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the like sum of 4,160.91 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Other Expenses – recycling Tonnage.

Resolution #159-2015 and #160-2015 were moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich and approved.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**Resolution #161-2015 Establishing a Halloween Curfew in Observance of Trick or Treat**

**RESOLUTION # 161-2015**

**A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A HALLOWEEN CURFEW  
AND ESTABLISHING OBSERVANCE OF TRICK OR TREAT  
WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON**

**WHEREAS**, Halloween Night and several nights before and after have historically been nights when acts of criminal mischief and vandalism have increased throughout the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington desires to take some action to help reduce the likelihood of such incidents by establishing a **temporary curfew** to assist parents and lawful guardians of minor children; and

**WHEREAS**, said curfew is viewed as an important part of maintaining the peace and order of the community and all persons are strongly urged to cooperate with the Township of Washington Police Department by abiding by the curfew; and

**WHEREAS**, the door to door solicitation of treats is a tradition enjoyed by many as well as an annoyance and inconvenience to others and, therefore, needs to be regulated to provide for the safety, health, and welfare of all persons within the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of Washington Borough, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that there is hereby established a temporary curfew for all person seventeen (17) years of age or younger of 9:00 p.m. from Wednesday, October 28, 2015 up to and including Sunday, November 1, 2015. Curfew shall be extended for school sponsored events to one (1) hour after the conclusion of the event.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Trick or Treat Night shall be observed within the Borough of Washington on Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Resolution #161-2015 was moved on a motion made by Heinrich, seconded by Thompson and approved with the change from suggested curfew to temporary curfew.

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Noone asked if there is any enforcement since it is only a suggested curfew. Lieutenant Teter replied that the curfew is enforced but typically only if there is an issue and the child is brought home to their parents with a warning on their first offense. Councilman Higgins suggested removing the word suggested and changing it to a temporary curfew.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**Resolution #163-2015 To Cancel Receivable Balances and Corresponding Reserve Balances for Various Grants**

**Resolution #163-2015**

**TO CANCEL RECEIVABLE BALANCES AND CORRESPONDING RESERVE  
BALANCES FOR VARIOUS GRANTS**

**WHEREAS**, receivable balances of various grants from the State of New Jersey which remains on the Grant Fund balance sheet have expired, and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel the receivable balance and various appropriated reserve balance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following grant receivable and appropriated reserve balances be cancelled:

2011 DOT Grant	-receivable	\$ 5,221.17
Bulletproof Vest	-receivable	\$ 3.00
DOT-Beethoven Avenue	- reserve	\$ 6,652.50

Resolution #163-2015 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Higgins and approved.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**VOUCHERS:**

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$449,319.79

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

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Abstain: (1) Thompson (Fire & EMS only)  
Motion Carried.

**RECAP:**

Acting Clerk Kilduff stated that Mayor McDonald will post on Facebook requesting any pictures or possible plans of the Washington Theatre. Manager Blanchard will contact

the Department of Transportation regarding the speed limit sign that is blocking the crosswalk sign near the Methodist Church. Lieutenant Teter will put focus on North Lincoln Avenue near the Mt. Pisgah AME Church to deter speeding. Councilman Higgins will ask Senator Doherty to speak to Mr. Stan Prater from JCP&L regarding inverted speed bumps on North Lincoln Avenue. Manager Blanchard will provide a copy of the sample ordinance pertaining to fire pits and chimineas to Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer and Fire Official Allin for their review and input. Acting Clerk Kilduff will have Manager Blanchard change the wording in Resolution #161-2015 from “suggested curfew” to “temporary curfew”. Manager Blanchard will also follow up with Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer in regards to the debris on the properties of the Jewish Center and Rossi near Youmans Avenue. Council also requested that Manager Blanchard contact the Warren Hills Middle School about the speed of their bus traffic on North Lincoln Avenue and reminded Manager Blanchard to write a letter to Wells Fargo Bank requesting an additional mirror to assist vehicles exiting on to Route 57. Council would also like Manager Blanchard to contact the Washington Township Police Department in regards to placing the radar speed sign near the library to deter speeding on North Lincoln Avenue.

#### **COUNCIL REMARKS:**

Councilwoman Noone noted that she received correspondence from a resident about the condition of the road on Nunn Avenue which she will pass along to the members of the Streets Committee.

Councilman Higgins asked Manager Blanchard to provide Council with an update on the sidewalk located on Green Street in front of Mr. Maguire’s property and also when the paving will begin for the seven roads previously authorized. Councilman Higgins questioned the legality of the Borough providing money to a non-profit organization. Mayor McDonald stated that Council would need to look into it but thought in the case of the theater effort, the benefit to the community might be the deciding factor in the decision process.

Councilwoman Klimko stated that there are two properties on School Street and Hahn Street that were damaged during a New Jersey American Water Company project and are still not repaired as well as any curb painting on Taylor Street since it has been paved. Councilwoman Klimko would also like an update from Manager Blanchard as to when the parking and other signs previously discussed will be put up in town. Councilwoman Klimko also asked when the approved time clocks would be up and running. Councilwoman Klimko also noted that some of the selected handicapped spaces were decommissioned last year but the signs are still up. Councilwoman Klimko stated that the signs need to be removed along with the paint marking the spaces. The signs need to be installed in front of the newly approved handicapped spaces.

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Heinrich to have the time clocks installed and used within thirty days of this meeting or provide a written response to Council why the time clocks are not installed.

Ayes: 6 Nays: (1) McDonald  
Motion Carried

Councilman Thompson thanked Mrs. Higgins and Councilwoman Klimko for placing the ribbons in honor of Evan Murray throughout the Borough.

Mayor McDonald congratulated Mr. Montaverde from the Washington Borough BID on his first Festival in the Borough and thanked Councilwoman Klimko for coordinating the signs also in honor of Evan Murray. Mayor McDonald added that the bands Jimmy and the Parrots and the Jersey Girls also made tribute to Evan Murray at the Festival in the Borough.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

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Mayor Scott McDonald

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Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk