

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – March 1, 2016**

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

Also Present: Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Manager/Clerk

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting Minutes January 19, 2016

Motion made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 19, 2016.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

PROCLAMATION:

**A Proclamation of the Borough of Washington
Proclaiming March as National Nutrition Month**

WHEREAS, food is the substance by which life is sustained; and

WHEREAS, the type, quality, and amount of food that individuals consume each day plays a vital role in their overall health and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for continuing education and a wide-scale effort to enhance healthy eating practices; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of the Borough of Washington,

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, the month of March as NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH in Washington Borough, New Jersey, and we encourage all citizens to join the campaign and become concerned about their nutrition and the nutrition of others in the hope of achieving optimum health for both today and tomorrow.

Councilman Higgins arrived at this time.

COUNCIL APPEARANCE:

Carly Sopko, Registered Dietician, Shop Rite of Washington– National Nutrition Month

Ms. Sopko stated that she has been the Registered Dietician at the Shop Rite of Washington for four years and informed Council that Shop Rite offers various free nutrition counseling and cooking classes for kids. Ms. Sopko added that she also goes out and presents to local Mom’s Clubs, PTA meetings, etc. as well as a Meal of the Week program which helps families to eat healthier. Ms. Sopko mentioned that she maintains a calendar on ShopRite.com as well as in the store listing upcoming events and the meals of the week.

GovPilot Presentation – James Delmonico, Director of Sales

Mr. Delmonico presented GovPilot to Council, which is a user-friendly, cloud-based Municipal Management Platform that will automate time consuming tasks and workflows as well as centralize communication and data collection between employees and departments. GovPilot also promotes informed decision making through real time reporting and enhances the delivery of government services to residents and businesses. GovPilot consists of three main components: internal municipal data management, external public GIS map and e-commerce capabilities, and workflow automation. Mr. Delmonico added that the public will have access to a user-friendly data portal which will provide extensive access to property related data, reducing the occurrence of public requests for information, unscheduled calls, and walk-in visits. Councilman Higgins asked Mr. Delmonico about the cost of GovPilot. Mr. Delmonico replied that the cost depends on how many processes the Borough would like to have automated but the cost ranges from \$5,000 to \$30,000 per year. Mayor McDonald asked Manager Blanchard to explore which modules would be beneficial to the Borough of Washington.

AUDIENCE:

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

John Montaverde – Executive Director, Washington BID

Mr. Montaverde stated that the Farmer’s Market fliers are ready to be printed and that this year there will be sponsors including Smith Tractor and Saint Luke’s Hospital. Mr. Montaverde added that the BID is actively seeking vendors for the Arts, Sweets, Craft Beer Festival which is on Saturday, April 23rd. Mr. Montaverde also added that he has been working with Verdin Clock to figure out what is wrong with the Borough tower timepiece which may either be a software update or a new motor. Mr. Montaverde informed Council that Colibri Fashions is interested in bringing a premier children’s clothing manufacturer to Washington Borough from Greece. Mr. Montaverde will get clarification from the owner on how much square footage is needed.

Shirley Coleman – 166 North Lincoln Avenue

Ms. Coleman asked for Council to consider installing sidewalks on North Lincoln Avenue next time there is a grant opportunity. Mayor McDonald replied that Council can certainly keep it under consideration.

Paul Jones – 108 Harding Drive

Mr. Jones asked for an update on how the new time clock system is working. Manager Blanchard replied that she is working on it. Mr. Jones stated that it has been two years and would like to know when the system will be installed. Manager Blanchard answered that the Borough just completed a server upgrade which was a necessity. Mr. Jones added that due to issues with time keeping in the past, he feels it is more beneficial to the Borough to get the time clock system installed. Mr. Jones also asked if the Borough was contemplating giving a grant to the Washington Theatre and inquired if it was legal. Mayor McDonald replied that it is a matching part of a grant and feels that the Washington Theatre is a worthwhile project that will benefit the community and become a great economic generator for Washington Borough.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

REPORTS:

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

1. Zoning / Code Enforcement Report – January
2. Police Department Report – January

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Klimko asked Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer if the one hundred thirty vacant homes in the Borough were in foreclosure or just vacant. Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer replied that some are vacant, some homes abandoned and some are in foreclosure. Once a home is listed for sale Code Enforcement Officer Bescherer takes the home off the list.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #43-2016 Redemption of a Tax Certificate

RESOLUTION #43-2016

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, 17 W. Cliff St., Somerville, NJ 08876, in the amount of \$680.43 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2013 in the name of Pereira, Nancy A. & Robert as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 26 Vannatta Street, Block 94 Lot 22, which sale was evidenced by certificate #14-00058; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-23-16 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 \$3,077.78 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #14-00058.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 1st day of March, 2016 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, 17 W. Cliff St., Somerville, NJ 08876 in the amount of **\$3,077.78** (This consists of \$1,777.78 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,300.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 94 Lot 22 from the tax office records.

Resolution #43-2016 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Noone and approved.

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

Resolution #45-2016 Resolution Appointing Patricia Smith to the Library Board

RESOLUTION # 45-2016

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

WHEREAS, under this plan the Mayor of the Borough is to appoint the members of the Library Board of Trustees for Washington with the consent of the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has designated the following person as his appointee; and

WHEREAS, the Council does approve of this appointment.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the following named person is appointed to the Library Board of Trustees, for a term ending 12/31/2021.

Patricia Smith

Name

Resolution #45-2016 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Noone and approved.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #46-2016 Resolution Transferring to Reserve Appropriations

RESOLUTION #46-2016

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF RESERVE
APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the year are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made by not less the 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body from unexpended balances which are expected to be sufficient to accounts with insufficient appropriation balances during the first three months of the succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Manager and the Chief Financial Officer have determined that excess appropriations do exist in some accounts and there is a need for supplemental appropriations in other accounts.

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 following appropriation transfers are hereby approved:

Transfer From:
Amount:

Transfer To:

COLLECTION OF TAXES	COLLECTION OF TAXES	6,000.00
Salary & Wages	Other Expenses	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	LEGAL DIVISION	5,500.00

Salary & Wages	Other Expenses	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	LEGAL DIVISION	500.00
Salary & Wages	Other Expenses	
TOTALS OF ALL TRANSFERS		\$12,000.00

Resolution #46-2016 was moved on a motion made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich and approved.

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

Resolution #47-2016 Resolution Appointing Rick Feldman to the Recreation Commission

RESOLUTION #47-2016

RECREATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

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 the members of the Recreation Commission with the consent of the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, The Council does approve of this appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following named person is appointed as Recreation Commissioner.

Commissioner

Rick Feldman

Term Ending

12/31/2021

Resolution #47-2016 was moved on a motion made by Noone, seconded by Conry and approved.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Amendment to Power Purchase Agreement – Washington Community Solar

Mayor McDonald stated that Council is tabling the Amendment to the Power Purchase Agreement with Washington Community Solar until more information is received from the Borough's attorney.

VOUCHERS:

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$1,577,280.60.

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

Roll Call: Noone, Heinrich, Klimko, Conry, Higgins, McDonald,
Thompson
Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Abstain: (1) Thompson (Fire & EMS only)
Motion Carried

RECAP:

Manager Blanchard will review the presentation from GovPilot given by Mr. Delmonico and determine which aspects would be most beneficial for the Borough of Washington.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Councilwoman Noone mentioned that the Washington Borough Green Team is looking for volunteers and they meet the second Wednesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Washington Borough Municipal Building.

Councilman Higgins noted that Norfolk Southern has begun to close the alley way located between Broad Street and South Lincoln Avenue and asked why there is a construction trailer located in the area. Manager Blanchard replied that Norfolk Southern is performing work on the tracks in that area and the temporary barriers actually belong to the Borough. Manager Blanchard also added that the Borough is working with Norfolk Southern to come up with a design for that alley way that is acceptable to both the Borough and Norfolk Southern as a permanent barricade once the work is completed.

Councilwoman Klimko noted that there were about twelve or fifteen street lights repaired but there are still three street lights not working in the downtown area near the old St. Cloud Hotel. Manager Blanchard will look into the lights not working. Councilwoman Klimko asked about the couch and other garbage piling up on the Krauszer's property. Councilman Higgins added that the trash is also a problem at the location of the new auto parts store. Councilwoman Noone commented that it is dark there and easy for people to drive there at night and dump their trash. Mayor McDonald asked Lieutenant Teter if the police had any cameras that would be able to be installed in the area. Lieutenant Teter will look into the possibility of cameras and report back to Council. Councilwoman Klimko also mentioned that the former Recreation Chairman asked about hiring an additional D.P.W. employee that could be designated to Recreation for the summer months but Council took no action. Manager Blanchard replied that she personally does not feel it is necessary. Mayor McDonald replied that although an additional employee was proposed it is currently not in the budget. Councilwoman Klimko added that there are many curbs in the Borough of Washington that are rotting away and would like Council to consider replacing the curbing at the same time that the roads are paved. Manager Blanchard replied that it is up to the Streets Committee if they want to use some of the paving budget for curb work. Councilman Higgins asked Manager Blanchard to find out the cost of installing curbs, which Councilman Higgins suspects it may cost more than paving the roads. Councilwoman Klimko noted that there are many areas downtown where the yellow curbs need to be repainted which she feels can not wait until the Department of Transportation moves forward with their paving project. Manager Blanchard replied that she will speak with Municipal Engineer Bloom to get a better feel for when the D.O.T. plans to move forward with their paving project. Councilwoman Klimko also asked about the no parking and handicapped signs that were supposed to be installed. Manager Blanchard replied that the Department of Public Works is working on them but there were a few issues and a Streets Committee meeting is needed. Councilman Higgins would like to hold a Streets Committee meeting on Monday, March 14th at 2:00 p.m.

Councilman Thompson stated that the crosswalk sign on Belvidere Avenue was missing but he had already spoken to Manager Blanchard in regards to that matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At this time, Mayor McDonald stated that an Executive Session is needed. A motion was made by Conry, seconded by Thompson to enter into Executive Session.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION # 50-2016

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 Higgins, seconded by Noone, to go out of Executive Session.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Conry, seconded by Heinrich to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Mayor Scott McDonald

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk