

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.

Also Present: Matthew Hall, Manager  
Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk  
Leslie Parikh, Attorney

Mayor Higgins led everyone in the flag salute.

Mayor Higgins read the following statement into 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.”

### **COUNCIL APPEARANCE**

Mel Thiel, BID Executive Director, thanked those who attended the BID dinner reception. Ms. Thiel gave an update on businesses recently opened for business.

An update was given regarding the upcoming crafts and music festival for May 9<sup>th</sup> and the borough festival for September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Manuel (last name inaudible), 337 N. Prospect Street, voiced his concern and complaint regarding his neighbors’ constant dog barking. Lt. Kaufman advised the resident on the proper steps to take to resolve the problem, by filing a complaint himself through the courts.

Dave, 338 N. Prospect Street, voiced the same concerns with the barking dogs.

Mike Helbing(sp) 3 S. Prospect Street, expressed his concerns of parking at his residence where he rents, citing there is no parking options at all for him to park and asked that the council consider reviving the no parking on his road. Discussions regarding a parking pad at the residence was discussed with options of going through zoning to install a driveway.

Hearing no further public comment, motion to close made by Duchemin and second by Conry, all were in favor.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to approve the regular and budget meeting minutes from January 21, 2020.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.  
Motion passes.

**VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

Motion made by Noone seconded by Cox to pay the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$1,056.635.22 from the current fund and \$ 41,326.18 from sewer.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

**ORDINANCE -2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Motion made by Norris and seconded by Cox to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-02, all were in favor.

Hearing no public comment, motion made by Norris and seconded by Conry to close the public comment, all were in favor.

Motion made by Duchemin and seconded by Conry to adopt Ordinance 2020-02.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.  
Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion passes.

**ORDINANCE 2020-02**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS AND ADDING CERTAIN TITLES AS FOLLOWS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to changes to state minimum wage requirements, various collective bargaining agreements, and the reorganization of certain positions, it has become necessary to adjust certain salary ranges and add various titles;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the following salary ranges be amended:

<b><u>SCHEDULE C – UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE</u></b>				
<b><u>POSITION TITLE</u></b>				<b><u>SALARY OR WAGE RANGE</u></b>

Municipal Department Head					\$11,000	-	\$90,000	AN
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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the following titles and ranges be added to the salary ordinance under “Schedule A – Full-Time Classified”:

<b><u>SCHEDULE A – FULL-TIME CLASSIFIED</u></b>								
<b><u>POSITION TITLE</u></b>					<b><u>SALARY OR WAGE RANGE</u></b>			
Clerk 1 (NC) Shared Services Stipend					\$5,000			AN

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Valle to approve the following resolutions, 2020-34,35, 37 , 38 and 39:

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.  
 Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
 Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION #2020-34**

**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 6, 2019 to US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8, 50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$675.02 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2018 in the name of Perez, Heriberto as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 222 West Washington Ave. Block 2.03 Lot 10, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #19-00003; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-7-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Home Point Financial, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8 by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,397.08 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00003.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of February 2020 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 Cap 8, 50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$1,397.08** (This amount consists of \$1,397.08 Certificate Amount redeemed).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 2.03 Lot 10 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION # 2020-35**

**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 6, 2019 to Bala Partners LLC, 17 W.

Cliff St., Somerville, NJ 08876, in the amount of \$661.43 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2018 in the name of Robinson, Darlene R. as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 79 Washington Square Circle, Block 73.01 Lot 22, which sale was evidenced by certificate #19-00023 and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-7-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Bayview Loan claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Bala Partners LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,382.74 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00023.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of February 18, 2020 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to Bala Partners, LLC, 17 W. Cliff St., Somerville, NJ 08876 in the amount of **\$1,382.74** (This consists of \$1,382.74 Certificate Amount redeemed).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 73.01 Lot 22 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION #2020-37**

**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 6, 2019 to US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8, 50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$1,346.40 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2018 in the name of Skolsky, Timothy as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 170 West Washington Ave. Block 10 Lot 5, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #19-00007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-7-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, XOME Field Services, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8 by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$2,707.89 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00007.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of February 2020 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 Cap 8, 50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$2,707.89** (This amount consists of \$2,707.89 Certificate Amount redeemed).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 10 Lot 5 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION # 2020-38**

**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 6, 2019 to USBank Cust Tower DB IX 2019-1, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$11,092.38 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2018 in the name of Bubble Castle LLC as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 14B Brass Castle Rd., Block 2.05 Lot 8, which sale was evidenced by certificate #19-00004 and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-3-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Sheldon Gross claiming to have an interest in said lands, did

redeem said lands claimed by USBank Cust Tower DB IX 2019-1 by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$12,169.25 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00004.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of February 18, 2020 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to USBank Cust Tower DB IX 2019-1, 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$12,169.25** (This consists of \$12,169.25 Certificate Amount redeemed).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 2.05 Lot 8 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION #2020-39**

**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 6, 2019 to US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8, 50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$658.82 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2018 in the name of Forsythe, Victoria as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 102 Myrtle Ave. Block 44 Lot 28, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #19-00016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-7-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Shellpoint Mortgage, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8 by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,379.98 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00016.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of February 2020 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 Cap 8, 50 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$1,379.98** (This amount consists of \$1,379.98 Certificate Amount redeemed).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 44 Lot 28 from the tax office records.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Norris to approve the following resolutions 2020-36.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION #2020-36**

**RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE 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 6, 2019 to Borough of Washington, 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882 in the amount of \$128.22 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year of 2018 and in the name of Rome, David as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 8 Flower Avenue, Block 70 Lot 12, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #19-00019.

**WHEREAS**, I, Natasha Turchan, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2-4-2020 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Midland Mortgage claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Borough of Washington, and last above mentioned, by paying to the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$772.08, which is the amount necessary

to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00019.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 18th day of February, 2020 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren authorizes the Mayor to sign Certificate #19-00019 for cancellation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 70 Lot 12 from the tax office records.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve the following resolutions, 2020-40.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2020-40**  
**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON APPLICANT'S RESOLUTION FOR**  
**LEAP CHALLENGE GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has allocated \$150,000 within each county for a statewide total of \$3.15 million in Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) funds to promote innovation among peer local units across New Jersey, and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) administers the LEAP grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, the LEAP Challenge Grant exists to challenge municipalities and counties to collaborate on more extensive partnership and collaborations to produce efficiencies through shared services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington and the Township of Oxford, who are participating in the shared service agreement for the Washington/Oxford Shared Administration Voice Over IP (VOIP) System Integration have determined to apply for a LEAP Challenge Grant through the State of New Jersey Local Efficiency Achievement Program in the amount of \$13,669.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington has agreed to be the lead agency in this program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington is acknowledging and accepting the responsibility of acting as applicant and administrator for this grant on behalf of all participating local units.

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has made LEAP grants available to assist local units to study, develop and implement new shared services initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the project submitted in this grant application is intended to provide benefits to the participant local units' residents through the sharing of Voice Over IP (VOIP) System Integration;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington that the Borough of Washington does hereby make application for a LEAP challenge grant to support undertaking this endeavor.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Valle to approve the following resolutions, 2020-41.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2020-41**  
**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON APPLICANT'S RESOLUTION FOR**  
**LEAP IMPLEMENTATION GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$10 million for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

**WHEREAS**, LEAP Implementation Grants exist to support costs associated with shared service implementation to ensure that meaningful, efficiency generating initiatives are not hindered by short term transitional expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington and the Township of Oxford propose to enter into a shared services agreement, but face certain expenses associated with implementation that present a burden to the local units; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this shared services agreement is to fully implement the Washington/Oxford Shared Administration Voice Over IP (VOIP) System Integration program which will benefit the residents of the Borough of Washington and the Township of Oxford; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington has agreed to be the lead agency in this program and will submit the application to DLGS on behalf of all participating units; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Washington that the Borough of Washington will apply for a LEAP Implementation Grant in the amount of \$10,251.75 to support implementation of this shared service.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve the following resolutions, 2020-42.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON**  
**RESOLUTION 2020-42**

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ENTITLED 'WASHINGTON BOROUGH SCHOOL SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS' TO NAVA CONSTRUCTION, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, the Washington Borough Council, made application and was subsequently awarded, by the State of New Jersey, an NJDOT Local Aid Award (FY2018) to make improvements to various pedestrian walking routes that also serve as necessary walking routes for school children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer prepared the necessary bid and construction documents for said improvements and the project was subsequently advertised for bidding in accordance with the State Local Public Contracts Law; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington Borough received four (4) bids in advance of the bid opening date and time, being February 13, 2020, at 10:00am and said bids were opened and the amount bid was read in public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer reviewed the bid proposals and prepared letter entitled “Bid Evaluation and Award Recommendation”, dated February 18, 2020 which was forwarded to the Borough Council, and found that the apparent low bid submitted by Nava Construction, LLC, at 1216 Stockton Dr., North Brunswick, NJ 08902 was complete and found no defect that would disqualify the bid.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington does hereby award the contract for the bid project entitled “Washington Borough School Safety Improvements” to Nava Construction, LLC, for a total sum of \$87,786.00 based on the unit prices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the award of contract is conditioned upon Nava Construction, LLC provided all the documents, bonds, insurance certificates, etc., necessary to allow for the contract Agreement to be endorsed by Borough Council of the Borough of Washington and Nava Construction, LLC.

### **RECAP**

Manager Hall will follow up with the parking issue and barking complaints.

Lt. Kaufman recapped the police report that was distributed.

### **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Deputy Mayor Conry gave the following remarks:

- Meetings with seniors are held at the end of each month.
- Reported on the painting event, 44 people attended.
- Upcoming events will be posted on bulletin board, including country line dancing and a bus trip coming in June.

Councilwoman Duchemin stated the following:

- Stigma Free meets the last day of each month at 10:00 am
- Acknowledged the great work of the Police and Fire department on recent incidents.

Councilwoman Valle gave the following remarks:

- Encouraged everyone to visit Washington D.C.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Expressed gratitude to Council, Manager Hall and Lt Kaufman in working together to help residents.

Councilwoman Noone gave the following remarks:

- The Census committee will meet on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial School.
- Encouraged everyone to participate for the complete count (Census).

Mayor Higgins gave the following remarks:

- Thanked everyone attending tonight’s meeting.



**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Valle seconded by Cox to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

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Mayor David Higgins

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Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk