
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY WASHINGTON

BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES-April 7, 2020

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held via ZOOM live stream 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.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Thiel, BID Executive Director, announced the Arts and Crafts festival will be moved to coincide with the Green Team Festival on June 20th.

Sonia Ron, 107 Park Ave., stated that the Family Support organization is open, they are working from home, The phone number is 908-894-9572,

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

VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS

Motion made by Valle seconded by Noone to pay the vouchers and claims.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE 2nd Reading

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Cox to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-03.

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

Motion made by Norris and seconded by Noone to adopt Ordinance 2020-03.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.
Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Cox)
Motion passes.

ORDINANCE 2020-03

**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 added to the salary ordinance under “Schedule C – Unclassified Service”:

<u>SCHEDULE C – UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE</u>						
Chief Financial Officer Shared Service (Stipend)				\$25,000	AN	

Motion made by Norris and seconded by Duchemin to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-04.

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

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Duchemin to adopt Ordinance 2020-04.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.
Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Valle)
Motion passes.

ORDINANCE 2020-04

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING
CERTAIN RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAM FEES FOR 2020**

WHEREAS, pursuant to changes recommended by the Recreation Commission attached hereto and made a part hereof, it has become necessary to adjust certain Recreation fee ranges and add or remove certain fees;

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 changes be made to the Recreation Fee Ordinance:

Swim Lessons

Group Lessons	New Rate for All	\$75
Semi-Private	New Rate for All	\$90
Private	New Rate for All	\$100

Pool Fees

Seasonal Membership Change – Senior Citizens – Maximum \$75 – New Rate for All \$60

Change wording “**Pool Membership Discounts**” to “Pool Seasonal Membership Discounts”

Add – Monthly Memberships (July or August only)

Monthly Individual (Resident)	Minimum \$50	Maximum \$150	New Rate \$55
Monthly Individual (Non-resident)	Minimum \$50	Maximum \$200	New Rate \$63
Monthly Family (Resident)	Minimum \$100	Maximum \$200	New Rate \$100
Monthly Family (Non-resident)	Minimum \$100	Maximum \$250	New Rate \$150

Daily - Change –

Adult	New Rate	\$9
Child (4 to 17 years old)	New Rate	\$5
Change wording “Child (up to 3 years old)” to “Infant/Toddler (0 to 3 years old)”		
Senior	New Rate	\$2
Twilight (after 6 pm) Adult and Child	New Rate	\$4

Add - Twilight (after 6 pm) Senior Minimum \$0 Maximum \$6 New Rate \$2

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-05.

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

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to adopt Ordinance 2020-05.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.
Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Cox)
Motion passes.

ORDINANCE 2020-05

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$838,200 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$648,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION AND REPEALING AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH HERETOFORE ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 30, 2019 (#2019-30).

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), **AS FOLLOWS:**

The improvement described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$838,200, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and including the sum of \$190,000 as the down payment for said improvement or purpose required by law and now available therefor in the Open Space Trust Fund of the Borough and including also the sum of \$135,800 received or expected to be received by the Borough from the County of Warren, New Jersey, as a grant-in-aid of financing said improvement or purpose.

For the financing of said improvement or purpose and to meet the part of said \$838,200 appropriation not provided for by application hereunder of said down payment and grant, negotiable bonds of the Borough are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$648,200 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvement or purpose, negotiable notes of the Borough in a principal amount not exceeding \$648,200 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

a) The improvement hereby authorized and purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is the acquisition, by purchase, of lands in and by the Borough located at 55 Nunn Avenue and commonly known as the Washington Station Ventures Property, consisting of approximately 80 acres and shown as Lot 1.03 in Block 97 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough, for open space and passive recreation purposes, all in accordance with the proposed contract therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Borough Clerk and hereby approved.

The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purpose is \$648,200.

The estimated cost of said purpose is \$838,200, the excess thereof over the said estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor being the amount of the said \$190,000 down payment for said purpose and the said \$135,000 grant-in-aid from Warren County.

The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

The said purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is not a current expense and is a property or improvement which the Borough may lawfully acquire or make as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

The period of usefulness of said purpose within the limitations of said Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is forty (40) years.

The supplemental debt statement required by said Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough as defined in said Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$648,200, and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

An aggregate amount not exceeding \$50,000 for interest on said obligations, costs of issuing said obligations and other items of expense listed in and permitted under section 40A:2-20 of said Local Bond Law may be included as part of the cost of said improvement and is included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

The funds from time to time received by the Borough on account of the grant referred to in Section 1 of this bond ordinance shall be used for financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance by application thereof either to direct payment of the costs of said improvement or purpose, or to payment or reduction of the authorization of the obligations of the Borough authorized by this bond ordinance. Any such funds so received may, and all such funds so received which are not required for direct payment of such costs shall, be held and applied by the Borough as funds applicable only to the payment of obligations of the Borough authorized by this bond ordinance.

All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer, acting chief financial officer or treasurer of the Borough (the "Chief Financial Officer"),

provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. §40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale at not less than par and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the dates of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Borough at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Borough for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Borough Clerk and are available for public inspection.

All ordinances or other proceedings of the Borough making appropriations or authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes for the improvement or purpose described in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance, including particularly the ordinance of the Borough adopted on December 30, 2019 entitled: "Bond ordinance providing for the acquisition of lands in and by the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, appropriating \$838,200 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$648,200 bonds or notes of the Borough for financing such appropriation" (#2019-30), are hereby repealed to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and to the extent, if any, that they authorize the issuance hereafter of bonds or notes for the purpose of financing said improvement or purpose or make appropriations for said improvement or purpose in excess of the amount hereinabove stated as the

appropriation therefor. Any moneys expended and obligations incurred for or with respect to any such improvement or purpose pursuant to the appropriation made by said ordinance or other proceedings in an aggregate amount not exceeding the amount hereinabove stated as the appropriation therefor shall be accounted and deemed to have been expended or incurred pursuant to this bond ordinance.

This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to approve Resolution 2020-63.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION #2020-63

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF BALANCE IN ESCROW ACCOUNT OF DI COLA'S PIZZA HELD IN TRUST BY THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, Antonio Schiano of Di Cola's Pizza has requested the balance remaining in escrow account #7760883467 in the amount of \$329.50, plus any interest accrued to date of account closure to be released;

WHEREAS, Kevin Smith, P.E., Borough Engineer, noted in his e-mail of March 17, 2020, that all outstanding invoices have been paid he has no objections to the closure of this account.

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 Municipal Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a check to Di Cola's Pizza in the amount of \$329.50, plus accrued interest to date of closure.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-64.

Discussion:

Cox stated she would like to table this resolution until the next meeting.

Motion made by Cox to table Resolution 2020-64 until the April 21, 2020 meeting.

Hearing no second motion failed.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolutions 2020-64

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Cox)

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2020-64

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURIE A. BARTON

TO THE POSITIONS OF MUNICIPAL CLERK AND LOCAL REGISTRAR

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133a., in every municipality there shall be a Municipal Clerk appointed for a three-year term by the governing body of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:8-11c., the governing body of each registration district shall also appoint a Local Registrar; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the re-appointment of a Municipal Clerk and a Local Registrar for the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as mandated by the statutory law described herein, for the purpose of providing the Borough with the duties, tasks and services proscribed at N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133e(1)-(7) and 26:8-25.

WHEREAS, Laurie A. Barton was duly appointed and confirmed to the position of Municipal Clerk and Registrar on April 18, 2017 for a three (3) year term in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, this reappointment has occurred within 60 (sixty) days of the expiration of the three-year term identified above.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Laurie A. Barton be and is hereby re-appointed Municipal Clerk and Local Registrar of the Borough of Washington.
2. Laurie A. Barton, RMC is and has upon this reappointment attained tenure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133, et. seq.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-65.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION #2020-65

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF
BALANCE IN ESCROW ACCOUNT OF ROBERT MIGLIACCIO
HELD IN TRUST BY THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, Robert Migliaccio has requested the balance remaining in escrow account #7760883103 in the amount of \$500.00, plus any interest accrued to date of account closure to be released;

WHEREAS, Kevin Smith, P.E., Borough Engineer, noted there are no outstanding invoices and has no objections to the closure of this account.

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 Municipal Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a check to Robert Migliaccio in the amount of \$500.00, plus accrued interest, if any, to date of closure.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-66.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Cox)

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION #2020-66

A RESOLUTION TO ADJUST SEWER BILLINGS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 70, SECTION 28B OF
THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington commenced operations of a municipal sewer utility in January of 1999; and

WHEREAS, certain facts have come to the attention of the Borough to justify modification of sewer service charges which have been reviewed by the Borough Manager; and

WHEREAS, notice has been provided to the owner(s) of the property or properties listed below of the action proposed to be taken with the date, time and place where the Mayor and Council will meet to consider change(s) in the E.D.U.'s assigned to the property or properties listed below; and

WHEREAS, all parties affected by this resolution will be notified of the action taken, in

writing, and notified of an opportunity to appear, in person, at a formal hearing of the governing body, if dissatisfied with the decisions made herein.

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 changes in the sewer service charge(s) are approved:

BLOCK/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	REASON/ADJUSTMENT
9.01/6	15 Harrison St. LLC 194 W. Washington Ave. Washington, NJ 07882	Change in Use (1) to (2) EDU's Effective: April 2020

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 billing on the above property locations.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolutions 2020-67 and 2020-68.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Cox)

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION # 2020-67

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 Arthur Frustaci, 712 Rugby Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865, in the amount of \$175.55 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2018 in the name of Felter, Jr. Eric as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 26 Sunrise Terrace, Block 44 Lot 53, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #19-00017; and

WHEREAS, I, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 3-6-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, EastWest Bank claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Arthur Frustaci by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$877.12, which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #19-00017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of April, 2020 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to Arthur Frustaci, 712 Rugby Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 in the **amount of \$877.12** (This amount consists of \$877.12 Certificate Amount redeemed).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 44 Lot 53 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION #2020-68

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 October 13, 2017 to US Bank Cust Pro Capital 7, 50 S 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$1,677.37 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2016 in the name of Kaspereen, Lawrence & Sarojenny as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 25 Grand Ave. Block 9.02 Lot 2, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #17-00003; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 3-16-20 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, PNC Bank, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by US Bank Cust Pro Capital 7 by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$29,130.99 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #17-00003.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 7th day of April 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 Capital 7, 50 S 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$29,130.99** (This amount consists of \$29,130.99 Certificate Amount redeemed).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 9.02 Lot 2 from the tax office records.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-69.

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

RESOLUTION 2020-69

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM THE
STREET OPENING ESCROW FOR ESCROW FUNDS HELD IN TRUST BY THE
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON FOR PERMIT #2017-37 – MARK SQUIER, APPLICANT

WHEREAS, Mark Squier has requested the return of any remaining inspection fees from Street Opening escrow account #7200020864 for Permit #2017-37 established for replacement of a sidewalk at 41 N. Wandling Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Smith, Municipal Engineer, has reviewed the file and has no objection to the closing of the escrow account for this application and approves the return of these funds.

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 Municipal Treasurer is

hereby authorized to issue a check to Mark Squier, 41 N. Wandling Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882 in the amount of \$1,133.75 to refund the remaining inspection escrow funds in the amount of \$133.75 and return the \$1,000.00 cash maintenance bond in Account #7200020864.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-70.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2020-70

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM THE STREET OPENING ESCROW FOR ESCROW FUNDS HELD IN TRUST BY THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON FOR PERMIT #2018-50 – AMY CARSON GROSS, APPLICANT

WHEREAS, Amy Carson Gross has requested the return of any remaining inspection fees from Street Opening escrow account #7200020864 for Permit #2018-50 established for replacement of a sidewalk at 34 West Stewart Street; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Smith, Municipal Engineer, has reviewed the file and has no objection to the closing of the escrow account for this application and approves the return of these funds.

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 Municipal Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a check to Amy Carson Gross, 34 West Stewart Street, Washington, NJ 07882 in the amount of \$18.75 to refund the remaining inspection escrow funds in Account #7200020864.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-71.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Cox)

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2020-71

EMPOWERING BOROUGH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF LAND USE BOARD PROFESSIONAL BILLING DURING A PUBLIC EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103, Governor Phil Murphy declared that a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency exist in the State of New Jersey as a result of an outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Borough of Washington (the “Borough”) declared that a local public health emergency and state of emergency exist in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 107, Governor Phil Murphy ordered that all public gatherings be cancelled until further notice; and

WHEREAS, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare the Borough Land Use Board (the “Board”) has temporarily cancelled its upcoming meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s professionals currently have outstanding bills that will accrue late fees or interest before the Board is able to meet again and approve the payment of outstanding bills; and

WHEREAS, the Board has forwarded the bills and claims received by it for review and approval by the Mayor and Council

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington is hereby authorized to approve the payment of Land Use Board bills and claims as part of its bill list at each regular meeting during times of emergency when the Board is prevented from meeting.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-72.

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Noone, Norris, Valle and Higgins.
Ayes: 5, Nays: 2 (Cox & Valle)
Motion passes.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-73.

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

RESOLUTION 2020-73

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER NOTICE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, C.231, the Borough of Washington is required to file and post certain notices of public meetings of the Common Council of the Borough of Washington; and

WHEREAS, among the obligations imposed upon the Borough of Washington is the obligation to file the said notices with the newspaper of general circulation circulating in the Borough of Washington; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary due to the COVID-19 Pandemic affecting businesses and

Governor Murphy's Executive orders for the safety of the residents of New Jersey and;

WHEREAS, The Star-Gazette will cease publication on March 31 2020, and will now publish legal advertisements in the Warren County, NJ zone of The Express Times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, the **Express Times**, a newspaper published in the Town of Easton, be designated as the official newspaper to which all notices of regular and special meetings of the Common Council shall be transmitted, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975 C. 231.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Authority aforesaid that a copy of this notice be published in the Express-Times and posted electronically to the Washington Borough website.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mayor Higgins gave the following remarks:

- The Governor extended the Executive Order conditions another 30 days.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Valle seconded by Conry to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Mayor David Higgins

Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk