
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 15, 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 (*left meeting at 7:20 pm*), Cox (*entered meeting at 7:11 p.m.*), 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, borough website and Facebook stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mel Thiel, BID Executive Director, thanked everyone for the cards and text messages in the passing of her mother-in-law. Hometown tree lighting had a nice turn out even though it was a rainy night. Thanked the Fire Department for an amazing Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Thanked the Green Team for the clean up and the DPW for emptying the garbage cans.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Re-Organization meeting.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Valle to set January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the re-organization meeting. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to adopt Resolution 2020-162

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2020-162
AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$127,900.00 IN THE CURRENT FUND

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58 provides for appropriations transfers during the last two (2) months of the fiscal year, when it has been determined that it is necessary to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in the excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, the Chief Financial Officer Natasha S. Turchan, be and the same is hereby authorized to make transfers among the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget in the amount of \$127,900.00 in the Current Fund as follows:

	FROM	TO
General Government		
General Administration		
Salaries and Wages	19,900.00	
Code Enforcement		
Other Expenses	35,000.00	
Financial Administration		
Other Expenses		2,500.00
Public Works		
Streets and Roads		
Salaries and Wages		40,000.00
Salary Adjustments		
Salaries and Wages	73,000.00	
Police Shared Services		
Other Expenses		67,400.00
Tax Collector		
Salaries and Wages		1,500.00
Animal Control		
Salaries and Wages		16,500.00
	\$ 127,900.00	\$ 127,900.00

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to adopt Resolution 2020-163 and 2020-164

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2020-163

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 22, 2020 to FIG CUST FIGNJ19 LLC, P.O. Box 54226, New Orleans, LA 70154, in the amount of \$1,392.25 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2019 in the name of Schuerman Jr., Allyn as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 19 North Lincoln Ave., Block 12 Lot 9, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #20-00003 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12-2-20 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 FIG CUST FIGNJ19 LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,482.10 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #20-00003.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 15th day of December, 2020 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to FIG CUST FIGNJ19 LLC, P.O. Box 54226, New Orleans, LA 70154 in the amount of **\$3,482.10** (This consists of \$1,482.10 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,000.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 12 Lot 9 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION 2020-164

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 22, 2020 to Bala Partners LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979, in the amount of \$648.63 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2019 in the name of Berger Jr., Raymond, as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 38 Flower Ave., Block 70 Lot 15, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #20-00030 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12-2-20 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 Bala Partners LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,189.89 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #20-00030.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 15th day of December, 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, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979 in the amount of **\$3,289.89** (This consists of \$1,189.89 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,100.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 70 Lot 15 from the tax office records.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to adopt Resolution 2020-165

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2020-165

**AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER INCREASING THE PURCHASE ORDER WITH
VEOLIA WATER NORTH AMERICA FROM \$124,900 TO \$170,632.50 AN INCREASE
OF \$45,732.50 TO SECURE THE PERIMETER OF THE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT FACILITY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington wishes to increase the purchase order with Veolia Water North American for fencing for security and safety at the vegetative waste storage facility for both the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the vegetative waste facility; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington enter into a contract with Veolia Water North America for the construction of the vegetative waste storage; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington was made aware of compliance requirements pursuant to **N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.12** regarding security of Wastewater Treatment Plants for fencing; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer will certify the availability of the funds from account **05-2020-56-502-2-28**; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Washington of Warren County authorized the increase of the purchase order by \$45,732.50

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total authorized amount authorized under **Resolution 2020-115** shall be amended to \$170,632.50

MOTION

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to amend the UCC Shared Service Agreement with Washington Township as follows:

Start Date: January 1, 2021

End Date: December 31, 2024

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Conry)

Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to accept and file the following reports, all were in favor.

- Washington Township Police Report

VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS

Motion made by Valle seconded by Duchemin to pay vouchers and claims.

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

Ayes: 6, Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Conry)

Motion Carried.

RECAP

Manager Hall recapped the following:

- Will speak with Washington Township Administrator regarding the UCC agreement
- Winter Storm forecast downgraded to 12-18 inches. DPW getting trucks ready. This will complicate delivery of the new garbage carts. Delivery was started yesterday and continued throughout the day today.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Norris gave the following remarks:

- Thanked the following employees and Council for all the work they do behind the scenes for the borough: Manager Matt Hall, Borough Clerk Laurie Barton, Attorney Leslie Parikh, Mayor Higgins and Deputy Mayor Ethel Conry.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to be safe in the storm.

Councilwoman Valle gave the following remarks:

- Stated that this has been the best experience (being on Council) in her life. Thanked everyone. Extended warm regards to the Land Use Board.
- The committee never fought between party lines. There was common ground amongst council for the future of the Borough.
- Stated that she will be listening and attending future meetings.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Stated that she loves the new garbage carts. Wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and be safe in the weather.

Councilwoman Duchemin gave the following remarks:

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah and enjoy the snow.

Councilwoman Noone gave the following remarks:

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to be safe.

Mayor Higgins gave the following remarks:

- Commented to Councilwoman Valle on how she has been an integral part of this Council and stated he expects to see her back and thanked her for everything she has done.
- Next council meeting is December 29th at 7 p.m.
- Recognized former Mayor Mark Bond in his recent passing.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah
- Stated that the downtown Christmas tree is a symbol of our very own bright light.
- Thanked Attorney Parikh for her services and everything she has done for the borough.

Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton gave the following remarks:

- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas.

Borough Manager Matt Hall gave the following remarks:

- Reflected on a fond memory in meeting former Mayor Mark Bond upon becoming Borough Manager.

Councilwoman Duchemin inquired about an update on the library challenge and the Mayors chin not being shaved. Mayor Higgins stated that due to restriction on barber shops they are not allowed to cut facial hair. The library had a goal to raise \$500.00 and they exceeded that goal and raised \$2,000.00.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Cox seconded by Norris to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Ayes: 6: Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Mayor David Higgins

Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk