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*BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

*WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES*

*December 29, 2020*

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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, borough website and Facebook stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Valle and seconded by Conry to approve the following minutes.

December 2, 2020, Regular and Executive.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to adopt Resolution 2020-166.

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

**RESOLUTION 2020-166**

**AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS**

**FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00 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 \$2,000.00 in the Current Fund as follows:

	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
General Government		
General Administration		
Other Expenses	2,000.00	
Utilities-telephone		
Other Expenses		2,000.00
	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to adopt Resolution 2020-167.

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-167**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON,  
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
CANCELLING CERTAIN PROPERTY TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:4-91.1 and 91.2 require the Tax Collector to submit to the governing body a list of uncollectible taxes for cancellation,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel the total tax amount due for the year 2020 on the following properties:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Block / Lot</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AutoZone Northeast, LLC	Block 67, Lot 2	

**Reason**

This property contains an AutoZone store. Block 67, Lots 1 and 2 were merged into a single lot pursuant to a site plan application that was granted by the Borough Planning Board.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Block / Lot</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Campbell Cultural Heritage HSE, Inc.	Block 6, Lot 39	

**Reason**

The property, which contains the Campbell Cultural Heritage House, was granted exemption by the County Tax Board in 2017. The property was included in the 2020 tax book as “taxable” class 2 in error.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor.

**REPORTS**

Motion made by Conry and Noone to accept and file the Managers Report, all were in favor.

Manager Hall added to his report on the retirement of John Wolf from the DPW.

**VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

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

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

Ayes:7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Duchemin to enter into executive session for contract negotiations all were in favor.

**RESOLUTION**

**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 ensure 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;

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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Cox seconded by Norris to come out of Executive Session, all were in favor.

Motion

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to approve an employment agreement with Laurie Barton.

Ayes: 7: Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Mayor Higgins discussed the swearing in ceremony to be held on Monday January 1<sup>st</sup> at Borough Hall for those newly elected and re-elected.

Mayor Higgins stated he is looking forward to doing great things for the Borough in the new year. The library raised over \$2000 dollars for their fundraiser.

Councilwoman Cox wished Councilwoman Valle best of luck and will miss her being on Council.

Mayor Higgins wished everyone to have a safe New Years Eve.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Conry seconded by Cox to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Ayes: 7: Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

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Mayor David Higgins

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Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk