
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – February 4, 2020

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.

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

Absent: Norris.

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 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.”

COUNCIL APPEARANCE

Penelope Griffith, thanked the town for rejuvenating areas of the borough.

Mel Thiel, BID Executive Director, gave update on new businesses in the borough.

Hearing no further public input, motion made by Valle and seconded by Duchemin to close the audience portion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Higgins presented Ms. Thiel with the following proclamations to be read at the BID dinner on Thursday:

PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE WASHINGTON BOROUGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT'S RECOGNITION OF STEVE AND ANDREA KIRCHUK AS
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington to focus attention on noteworthy occasions, individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the Borough of Washington and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District has chosen to honor Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Andrea Kirchuk with special recognition as Community Partners; and

WHEREAS, longtime Washington residents Steve and Andrea Kirchuk have been an integral part of the Borough for many years, getting involved with the Washington Borough Business Improvement District and other non-profit organizations, helping to found the Festival in the Borough committee, and designing the Festival in the Borough logo; and

WHEREAS, Andrea served on the Washington Borough Business Improvement District Board from 2004 to 2011 as well as other boards including Warren County Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the ARC of Warren County, Abilities of Northwest New Jersey, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Warren County United Way, and the Warren County Economic Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, Steve and Andrea Kirchuk are the owners of Computer Images Web, a company recognized by the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers with a Success Award in 2010; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to honor Steve and Andrea Kirchuk for their contributions to the community spirit of the Borough of Washington, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District and the greater community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Mayor David Higgins by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby join in commemorating the honor of Special Recognition bestowed upon Steve and Andrea Kirchuk by the Washington Borough Business Improvement District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Proclamation be duly embossed, signed by the Mayor, publicly presented to Steve and Andrea Kirchuk on Thursday, February 6th, 2020 and forever recorded in the official records of the Borough of Washington, as an everlasting tribute to Steve and Andrea Kirchuk by an appreciative and thankful community.

PROCLAMATION
HONORING MAGDA BROWN AS BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE
WASHINGTON BOROUGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington to focus attention on noteworthy occasions, individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the Borough of Washington and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District has chosen to honor Ms. Magda Brown, Owner of Empanada Mamasita as Business Person of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Magda Brown has distinguished herself as a true community leader and champion of the Downtown Business District as the owner Empanada Mamasita; and

WHEREAS, Empanada Mamasita offers not only “Latin Comfort Food,” but also a community gathering place which is part of the very fabric of the Borough of Washington; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to honor Magda Brown and Empanada Mamasita for its contributions to the community spirit of the Borough of Washington, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District and the greater community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Mayor David Higgins by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby join in commemorating the honor of Business Person of the Year bestowed upon Magda Brown by the Washington Borough Business Improvement District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Proclamation be duly embossed, signed by the Mayor, publicly presented to Magda Brown on Thursday, February 6th, 2020 and forever recorded in the official records of the Borough of Washington, as an everlasting tribute to Magda Brown and Empanada Mamasita by an appreciative and thankful community.

PROCLAMATION
HONORING MIKE’S AUTO BODY AS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR BY THE
WASHINGTON BOROUGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington to focus attention on noteworthy occasions, individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the Borough of Washington and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District has chosen to honor Mike’s Auto Body as Business of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mike’s Auto Body has a long and distinguished history in the Borough of Washington spanning eighty years; and

WHEREAS, the original Mike’s Auto Body was established by Mike Cavitch, Sr. and passed down to two successive generations, providing collision repair and towing services as well as tune-ups, tires, mechanical work and commercial truck sales; and

WHEREAS, Mike’s Auto Body has also been a supporter of various community and non-profit organizations in the area including Habitat for Humanity, the Arc of Warren County, Abilities and various youth and high school sports organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to honor the Cavitch family and Mike’s Auto Body for its contributions to the community spirit of the Borough of Washington, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District and the greater community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Mayor David Higgins by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby join in commemorating the honor of Business of the Year bestowed upon Mike’s Auto Body by the Washington Borough Business Improvement District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Proclamation be duly embossed, signed by the Mayor, publicly presented to Mike’s Auto Body on Thursday, February 6th, 2020 and forever recorded in the official records of the Borough of Washington, as an everlasting tribute to Mike’s Auto Body by an appreciative and thankful community.

PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE WASHINGTON BOROUGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF TERESA MARCH

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington to focus attention on noteworthy occasions, individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the Borough of Washington and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District has chosen to honor Ms. Teresa March with Special Recognition for her work in the community; and

WHEREAS, Teresa March has been an integral part of the Washington Borough business community, having worked for PNC Bank for 26 years, culminating in the position as Branch Manager, serving on the Washington Rotary Club for eight years as president as well as secretary the Washington Borough Business Improvement District Board of Directors and the board of Abilities of Northwest Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Teresa March has also supported Washington Borough Business Improvement District functions even as a non-board member, assisting with sponsorship grants and coordinating PNC Bank's Jersey Cares efforts or simply participating in activities; and

WHEREAS, Teresa March, a Borough resident for 21 years, also served for 12 years as a Girl Scout leader; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to honor Teresa March for her contributions to the community spirit of the Borough of Washington, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District and the greater community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Mayor David Higgins by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby join in commemorating the honor of Special Recognition bestowed upon Teresa March by the Washington Borough Business Improvement District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Proclamation be duly embossed, signed by the Mayor, publicly presented to Teresa March on Thursday, February 6th, 2020 and forever recorded in the official records of the Borough of Washington, as an everlasting tribute to Teresa

VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS

Motion made by Conry seconded by Noone to pay the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$2,298,086.99 from the current fund and \$ 93,259.37 from sewer.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to open the following public hearing; all were in favor:

Public Hearing: Borough of Washington applying for a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, proposing to acquire trucks and equipment for the purposes of snow removal.

Manager Hall explained the grant application and the equipment that is being sought.

Hearing no further public input, motion made by Norris and seconded by Valle to close the public hearing, all were in favor.

ORDINANCE-2nd Reading

Motion made by Norris and seconded by Cox to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-01, all were in favor.

Hearing no public input, motion made by Duchemin and seconded by Conry, all were in favor.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Valle to adopt Ordinance 2020-01.

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE 2020-01

**ORDINANCE AMENDING ACCESSEE AND SIGN EASEMENTS OVER A PORTION OF
PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IDENTIFIED AS
BLOCK 26, LOT 10**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington (the “Borough”) is the owner of certain property identified as Block 26, Lot 10 on the Borough of Washington Tax Maps; and

WHEREAS, Block 26, Lot 10 is a vacant strip of land along Route 31 that is not needed for any public purposes; and

WHEREAS, Washington 31, LLC is under contract to purchase adjacent properties identified as Block 26, Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 on the Borough of Washington Tax Maps; and

WHEREAS, Washington 31, LLC has approvals from the Borough Land Use Board to merge and redevelop the afore-mentioned lots as a retail pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, the afore-mentioned lots do not have frontage on Route 31, which Washington 31, LLC has advised is essential for the success of the proposed redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Borough previously granted Washington 31, LLC an access easement over Block 26, Lot 10 permitting the construction of a driveway to access the proposed CVS Pharmacy pursuant to Ordinance 2019-08 adopted on April 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough previously granted Washington 31, LLC sign easement over Block 26, Lot 10 permitting the construction of a directional sign pursuant to Ordinance 2019-13 adopted on June 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Washington 31, LLC has requested revisions to the aforementioned easements requiring the adoption of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 permits the conveyance of an interest in land note needed for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the public’s interest in Block 26, Lot 10 is not affected by the granting of a sign easement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough believes it is in the best interest of its residents to grant such easements because it furthers the purposes of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan and increases the value of Block 26, Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8, resulting in an increased tax assessment and tax revenue; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. The Borough of Washington is hereby authorized to enter into an access and sign easement over a portion of Block 26, Lot 10, owned by the Borough, in a form substantially similar to that attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary for the conveyance of such easement.

SECTION 3. The land subject to the proposed easement is not needed for public purpose and it is determined to be in the best interests of the Borough of Washington to permit such easement.

SECTION 4: All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

SECTION 6: This ordinance shall take effect after second reading and publication as required by Law.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Valle to approve Resolution 2020-29

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-29 Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, Washington Borough strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, Washington Borough is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the 2020 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program funded by the PSEG Foundation through the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington has determined that Washington Borough should apply for the aforementioned Grant with the funding level being \$10,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant for the project known as Taylor Street School Rain Garden and Downspout Planters.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Valle to approve Resolution 2020-30

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-30 BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program to be utilized for the purchase of snow removal equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington's expected share of the expenses will be \$64,661.97 or 45% of the total cost; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program shall provide funding in the amount of \$79,000.00 or 55% of the total cost; and

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified that funds are available for this purpose in account # 04-2019-1916-0000-4-191601;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Washington that the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby approves the submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program for the purchase of snow removal equipment.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Duchemin to approve Resolution 2020-31

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2020-31
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 Participating Local Units 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 Southern Warren County Regional Animal Control program which will benefit the residents of all local units participating in the agreement; 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 \$250,000 to support implementation of this shared service.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Valle to approve Resolution 2020-32

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2020-32
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 municipalities currently participating in the shared service agreement for the Southern Warren County Regional Animal Control program have determined to apply for a LEAP Challenge Grant through the State of New Jersey Local Efficiency Achievement Program in the amount of \$70,000; 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 Animal Control Services;

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 Valle and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2020-33

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

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-33
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, this centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the federal or state governments on account of gender; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has had a long, storied history in the suffrage movement with New Jersey women playing a crucial role in pursuing the rights of women to vote; and

WHEREAS, in 1776 women property owners were enfranchised under the New Jersey State Constitution, which was unique in the nation at the time. However, in 1807, the New Jersey Legislature eliminated the property requirement for voting rights and limited the ballot to white males; and

WHEREAS, in 1867 New Jersey residents Lucy Stone and Harry Blackwell organized the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJWSA), devoted to gaining women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, in 1909 New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange and Newark, led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatshchken with NJWSA collecting 5,000 signatures for a petition in support of the federal amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote; and

WHEREAS, although the 1912 state referendum on woman's suffrage was soundly defeated in the New Jersey Legislature a corner was turned for the New Jersey suffrage movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1913 an automobile rally led by "General" Rosalie Jones traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington, D.C., in a Suffrage Parade of over 8,000 marchers with many New Jersey women including event organizer Alice Paul; and

WHEREAS, in 1915 a second suffrage constitutional referendum was pursued in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations, including the "Passing of the Torch of Liberty" via tug boats on the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey, but was defeated in all four states October 1915; and

WHEREAS, in 1917 New Jersey suffragists Allison Turnbull Hopkins, Julia Hulburt, Beatrice Reynolds Kinkead, and Minnie D. Abbott picketed in front of the White House as part of the Silent Sentinels and subsequently were arrested and imprisoned; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 1919 Congress passed the 19th Amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29th state to ratify the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the ratification of the 19th Amendment Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness were the first two women elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1921 and in 1925 Rebecca Estelle Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor was New Jersey's first woman mayor;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Washington supports the efforts of New Jersey's Suffrage Centennial NJ Women Vote and strongly encourages local celebrations of this historic milestone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Governor, Secretary of State and New Jersey League of Municipalities.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Noone gave the following remarks:

- Requested that a subcommittee be formed for the 2020 complete count census committee, to include Councilwoman Noone, Councilwoman Conry, Councilwoman Cox and Councilwoman Valle as alternate. Mary Jo Harris will also sit on committee.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Stated it is nice to see grants being pursued to lesson the cost to the tax payers. It is nice to see people sit in audience to see what is going on.

Councilman Norris gave the following remarks:

- Thanked Councilwomen Noone and Conry for their work with the seniors. Thanked the Police, DPW and Fire departments and wished everyone a Happy Valentines Day.

Councilwoman Valle gave the following remarks:

- Happy to see businesses coming into the downtown. The buildings and area more aesthetically looking. Happy to see the trash cans.

Councilwoman Duchemin stated the following:

- Read an announcement from the County Freeholders regarding overdoses and suicides.

Deputy Mayor Conry gave the following remarks:

- Announced line dancing here at borough hall on April 18th.
- Winterthur Museum trip on June 13th.
- Meetings with seniors are held at the end of each month.

Mayor Higgins gave the following remarks:

- Reminded everyone of the BID dinner at Hawke Point on Thursday.
- Reminded everyone about their positions and attitudes when at a public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Conry seconded by Valle to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

Mayor David Higgins

Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk