
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 21, 2021

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, Noone, Norris, 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 Express Times Warren County Edition and posted on the borough website and Facebook stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzie Marr, W. Stewart St., discussed in detail the project regarding construction of trails on borough property that are being made for passive recreation for residents.

Dave Butler, Cherry St., inquired if there is a map or survey and where the property line is and who owns the property.

Robin Klimko, stated that looking at the map she is confused about the property near Wandling Avenue, asked who physically owns the property. Mayor Higgins stated that the Manager will look into who owns the property.

Motion made by Higgins and seconded by Noone to allow the trails to be done on the Shabbecong Mountain Preserve, all were in favor.

Mike Brant(sp), Nunn Ave., encourages council to support the efforts of the Green Team for access to the property for all residents to enjoy.

Name inaudible, fence discussion, *comments were inaudible.*

Mel Thiel, BID Executive Director, recapped the success of Hometown Holiday. Thanked Councilwoman Noone for the walking and talking Christmas tree costume she wore. Thanked everyone for their help in making the event successful.

Toy Train update: collected 182 toys.

Jersey Cares update: collections were doubled from last year with 141 full boxes received at the BID office.

Ms. Thiel expressed the BIDs support of the Green Team and its efforts, in which the BID works very closely with. They support the trails as long as they are done the proper way.

Lt. Kaufman, Washington Township Police Department, reviewed the police activity report for November.

Dirk Higgins, Fire Chief, Washington Borough, wished everyone Happy Holidays. His term as Chief expires at the end of this year. Thanked the Manager, Mayor, Council and the support of the fire department over the last four years. Proud of the projects and grants the department was able to receive. Thanked the borough staff and Borough Clerk. Thanked the police department, road department and rescue squad. Assistant Chief Josh Devoe will take over as Chief in January. Ron Hartrum will be Assistant Chief. Wished everyone as Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Suzie Marr, wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

MINUTES

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Cox to approve the following minutes.
November 9, 2021 Regular and Executive

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Noone to set January 4, 2022 for its Re-organization meeting to start at 7:00 PM.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS

Matthew Gross, Jackson Valley, gave a brief introduction with his experience and proposing a cultivating operation business in the Borough for cannabis. Mr. Gross stated what he is looking for is an amendment to the Ordinance in changing it to allow cultivating within 1000 feet of residential property.

Attorney Parikh stated that this would have to go before the Land Use Board, it's a process and not sure if it will be in time of the application deadline.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-125 pulled from agenda

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to adopt Resolution 2021-153.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2021-153

Resolution Adopting a Policy Regarding the Issuance of a Letter of Support and Zoning Approval Letter to Cannabis Business License Applicants

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington(the "Borough") permitted the operation of cannabis retailers and cultivators in certain zoning districts pursuant to Ordinance 2021-07; and

WHEREAS, Applicants for cannabis business licenses must provide "proof of local support" and a "zoning approval letter" to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.8 and 7.10; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to adopt a policy regarding the issuance of such approvals, which is attached hereto; and

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

1. The Policy Regarding the Issuance of a Letter of Support and Zoning Approval Letter to Cannabis Business License Applicants is hereby adopted.
2. The Borough Council may amend such policy at any time via resolution.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Cox to adopt Resolution 2021-154.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes

RESOLUTION 2021-154__
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 7, 2021 to FIG CUST FIGNJ19 LLC, P.O. Box 54226, New Orleans, LA 70154, in the amount of \$655.34 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2020 in the name of Blyd, Winsten & Yendi as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 31 North Lincoln Ave, Block 12 Lot 7, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #21-00009 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12-10-21 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Winsten Blyd 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 \$733.45 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #21-00009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 21st day of December, 2021 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 **\$3,233.45** (This consists of \$733.45 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,500.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 12 Lot 7 from the tax office records.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to adopt Resolution 2021-155.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes

RESOLUTION 2021-155

AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00 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, and

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 2021 Budget in the amount of \$25.00 in the Current Fund as follows:

	FROM	TO
General Government		
Other Expenses	25.00	
Shade Tree		
Other Expenses		25.00

VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS

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

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Motion

Motion made by Cox and seconded by Conry to accept Chelsea Duchemin' s resignation from Council.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Noone gave the following remarks:

- Thanked Chelsea for her service on Council.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.
- Thanked everyone for the permission given to Green Team.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Stated she was sorry to hear about Dirk Higgins leaving.
- Wished everyone best of luck.

Councilman Norris gave the following remarks:

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year .

Deputy Mayor Conry gave the following remarks:

- Thanked Chelsea and stated she will be missed; she was always prepared.
- Thanked Ms. Thiel for Hometown Holiday.
- Thanked Mayor for such a job he has to do.
- Thanked Dirk Higgins for his services on the fire department.
- Thanked all of the personnel that work so hard and keeping the borough clean.
- Thanked the residents for all the feedback on things we can improve in the borough.
- Thanked the Councilmembers for being on council, it's a tough job.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Higgins gave the following remarks:

- Covid cases are on the rise.
- Need to discuss the ordinance with regards to tables on sidewalks.
- The 28th is the last meeting of the year, it's a bill paying meeting.
- Congratulated the Washington Township Police Department in solving the crime.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss contractual. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

Motion made by and seconded by to return to regular session at 9:17 p.m., all were in favor.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Cox and seconded by Conry to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Barton, RMC
Borough Clerk