
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 23, 2022

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, Heinrich, Noone, Norris and Ron.

Also Present: Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk/Interim Manager
Leslie Parikh, Attorney

Absent:

Deputy Mayor Conry led everyone in the flag salute.

Deputy Mayor Conry read the following statement into record:

The requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Express-Times (Warren County Edition and Star Ledger) and posted on the Boroughs website stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to open public comment made by Noone and seconded by Heinrich, motion approved.

Scott McDonald North Prospect St-questions of mayor vacancy_-inquiring about mayor vacancy and what occurred regarding to Dave Higgins resignation. Attorney Parikh explaining Linden vacancy case.

Doug Steinhardt Warren County Republican County Chair and Attorney stated he wanted to be clear after reviewing interpretation. Three names are to be submitted if council chooses not to select we will select tonight and will be seated at next meeting and the committee is ready to sue the borough.

Betti Singh-stated the reason for this meeting is to have Conry step down and have council choose this night a Republican and seat a Mayor this night. Asked Conry to step down from this seat which should have been done in January.

Chris Bauknight Lenape Trail-asked if this was done back in January and the ruling passed, why are we doing this now. Attorney Parikh re-explained the case law and unexpired term of mayor.

Penelope Griffin (address in audible) Not looking at the whole picture. I feel the town is bickering over what party is in place. Bickering over who is doing what not thinking of the management of the town, it's about the whole community. Why are we bickering about this. The town is changing, Think about how its going to affect the management of the town.

Tom Palmieri, Warren County Democratic Chairman-stated that this is all a power play to get Republicans in place about knocking Ethel out of power. Wasting time on this issue should have never come to this point couldn't wait three months wanted to get one of your people in place, misguided use of time.

Michelle Norris State Street-stated that people are not clear on what type of government we have. Mayor is just members of the council. There's laws and you have to follow the law and Linden took it to the court and won.

John last name inaudible inquired if this going retroactive against a previous made decision. Attorney Parikh again explaining the law and stated that the borough is exposing to liability if they do not fill the seat.

Robert Torres Carlton Ave-stated we are at a place where its not about politics or different wards we are here in Washington its about our town. It's a good law just following the law what everybody should do.

Chris Vitalos Lambert Street-asked the three nominees if they were chosen to fill the seat would they accept the nomination, all three responded yes.

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

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR -Vacancy

Motion to bring forth the consideration of nominees

Cox made remarks in reference to her first time on council and wanting to make a difference and to get this appointment done the right way.

Motion made by Conry to nominate Dale Parichuk as nominee for mayor to fill the seat for mayor, Ron seconded the motion

Roll call:

Ayes: 0

Nays: 4

Abstain 1(Cox)

Motion fails.

Motion made by Heinrich and seconded by Cox to nominate Luann Cox to be mayor.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Conry, Cox, Heinrich, Noone, Norris, Ron.

Motion passes.

Attorney Parikh administered the oath to Luann Cox.

Mayor Cox gave the following statement: appreciate given the chance to sit up here , last mtg we had here this council and was one and the same. We all just did what we had to do to make the night go. Very stunned. I will do the best I can do for everybody here in this room.

Betti Singh presented to Mayor Cox with three names of council to fill the council seat vacated by Luann Cox.

Attorney Parikh explained that the borough has 30 days to fill vacancy of that seat.

Mayor Cox read aloud the three names: Jerry Brown, Sherry Musick and Robyn Klimko.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Noone and seconded by Heinrich to adjourn the meeting at 7:37PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Barton, RMC
Borough Clerk