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*BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

*WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES*

*October 18, 2022*

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The regular meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in councils chambers and via ZOOM live stream at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.

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

Absent: Heinrich

Mayor Cox led everyone in the flag salute.

Mayor Cox 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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to enter into executive session for contractual 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 Noone and seconded by Ron to return to regular session, all were in favor.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Brown to open public portion all were in favor.

Mel Thiel, BID gave the following updates:

Reminded everyone of the Hometown Halloween and Day of Dead.

Small business Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>

Congratulated our Green Team for bronze status with Sustainable New Jersey, its a lot of paperwork. Congratulated Josephine Noone and Suzie Mar.

Inquired about having room accommodations paid for Suzie Mar to attend the luncheon to receive the bronze award in Atlantic City. Councilwoman Noone suggested that it could be paid for through the Green Team budget.

Robin Klimko-W. Marble Street-update on parking issue on Gardner court- regarding trucks backing up and signage possibly being placed and have someone paint the curbs because there is property being damaged.

Rachel Collier Rooted Lion-request 25 mph on 57 in front of 2 Hearts Rescue not visible to traffic-tree needs to be trimmed or sign lowered.

## **Garbage discussions-with CFO**

Scott McDonald-asked if a cost analysis was done before utility was created on how much borough would save on their own.

CFO, Natasha responded that it was done and presented at a public meeting.

Joan Costco (sp) Valley View Terrace-300 per house not enough of data if accurate amount have u had time to do analyze now?

Natasha-yes-we need \$325 per household we should have kept it at \$325 and stayed more level for several years. \$765,000 to run solid waste in 2022. Our billing is \$704,000.

Options on table solutions for 2023 combination of a lot of things.

Joan-what is the effect on our taxes if we go back to third party provider.

CFO-regardless who is providing we have to pay for it-if we go with 3<sup>rd</sup> party and addition of continuing the debt service on trucks improvements, plus portion of salary and benefits.

Latoya-W Washington-requested to know the names of petitioners who initiated the repeal of the garbage utility with the question on the ballot. Borough Clerk, Laurie Courter read the names aloud;

Dale Parichuk

John Musick

Louann Cox

Edward France

John Jones

Chris Bauknight-asked if third party came in they are for-profit-profits would come every year- and asked how would it be lesser-if a third party comes in to do our trash what formula did this committee think it would be cheaper?

Councilman Norris asked; are we paying double? Natasha-solid waste left your budget. Since that moment the budget went up for other reasons.

Terence-Finnegan Youmans Ave-missed meeting on redevelopment plan-live on edge of that zone-want to speak about proposed parkland. Not a practical public park, no public access to it. On Youmans Avenue everyone's house lines it there is no exit. Makes no sense its also a flood zone.

Councilwoman Noone explained that it goes along the Shabbecong and we've been proposing a path that follows the Shabbecong and that requires an easement. That is why it was proposed. No plan to take peoples or buy people's property in order to create this park.

Gary Maisnor Wash Ave-asked how many new employees for garbage collection were hired? If this initiative passes that is four employees who will lose their jobs.

Ed France-Vanatta St-running for a vacant seat-clarify this part of meeting. My name came up-my duty as a resident is to do due diligence. Fairness starts with your voice.

Questions-inquired about fees regarding his two-family house. If we defunded the manager's position, how would it help to reduce taxes and garbage fee. CFO replied that it would reduce taxes at \$58 a year, which does not include garbage and explained the budgets of taxes and garbage utility.

Cynthia Valle-expressed thoughts about garbage service-likes the garbage service.

Cathy Bryant 41 Elizabeth Ave., addressed Mayor Cox and stated that her shouting out to an African woman, that she (Mayor Cox) needs to watch what comes out of her mouth.

Charles Brody(sp) 41 Elizabeth Ave.-stated to Mayor Cox that she just behaved in a manner you admonished him for. You shout people down but want to maintain discipline and decorum it starts at home practice it.

Chris Bauknight-banter between Mr. Bauknight and Mayor Cox ensued. Mr. Bauknight stated to Mayor Cox that respect starts with you. With you yelling at people, it shows lack of leadership.

Robin Klimko, W. Marble St. expressed her dismay on how everyone was acting tonight and it's a sad state of affairs right now.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Ordinances 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

2022-12 Tabled

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Ron to approve on first reading Ordinance 2022-13.

Roll call: Brown, Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

<b>ORDINANCE 2022-13</b>		
<b>AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-11 FIXING THE SALARY AND WAGES OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, AND STIPENDS APPLICABLE THERETO AND REPEALING PORTIONS OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCES BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022</b>		

Confidential Assistant (to C.F.O.)	\$51,471	-	\$80,945 AN
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SECTION 1. Salaries herein shall be payable at the rate fixed in equal installments twice a month. Wages shall be payable twice a month. Any annual salary may be re-calculated to an hourly wage for any positions unless restricted by collective bargaining agreement. Any and all fees received by officials and employees of the Borough of Washington shall be paid unto the municipality.

SECTION 2. Any salary and wage ordinance adopted prior to the adoption of this ordinance with provisions inconsistent with the provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance shall, to the extent of any inconsistency, and only to the extent of the inconsistency, be repealed.

SECTION 3. In the event the position becomes vacant or no figure is listed, then the figures noted in the column with the heading "salary or wage range" shall be utilized by the appointing authority and any salary or wage paid within this range shall be deemed appropriate and valid.

SECTION 4. A public works employee who works eight hours in one day out of title in a job classification with a higher salary or wage range shall be entitled to additional compensation for the day at the rate of his or her current rate of pay plus ten (10) percent

SECTION 5. Any employees to be paid a stipend for CPWM shall have the stipend added to their base salary (pensionable earnings) to be paid twice per month. Any other stipends shall be paid twice a month, but are considered extra compensation and are not to be included in the base salary for pension purposes.

SECTION 6. \*Dependent upon availability of Emergency Management Agency Assistance (EMAA) grant funds. In the event that EMAA funds are reduced and/or eliminated, stipend will be reduced in an amount commensurate with the reduction in grant funds.

SECTION 7. An employee who has medical coverage under a spouse's health benefit plan (not including NJ SHEBP) and waives participation in the Borough of Washington health benefits program shall be compensated at the rate of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) PER ANNUM pro-rated to compensate the employee for only those pay periods when the Borough is no longer obligated to make health benefit payments.

SECTION 6. The rate contained herein shall become effective retroactively to January 1, 2022.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Ron to adopt Resolution 2022-122

Roll call: Brown, Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2022-122**

**A RESOLUTION TO VOID AND REPLACE CHECK**

**WHEREAS**, check #14450 was written October 5, 2022 on the Washington Borough's Operating Account in the amount of \$16.00; and

**WHEREAS**, check was made payable to Abilities of Northwest Jersey 56 East Washington Ave, Washington, New Jersey 07882; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer's office was made aware that the above-mentioned check should have been made out to Louanne Cox; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the Treasurer to void and issue the aforementioned check.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Ron to adopt Resolution 2022-123

Roll call: Brown, Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2022-123**

**RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON TO APPOINT CATHERINE MCCARTHY AS CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Washington has a need for a Confidential Assistant to fill the vacancy that will be left by the retirement of the Barbara Van Why effective December 31, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Interim Manager has recommended to the Mayor and Council the appointment of Catherine McCarthy as Confidential Assistant at an annual salary of \$66,000;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby appoint Catherine McCarthy to the position of Confidential Assistant.

### **VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

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

Roll call: Brown, Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

### **Reports**

**Captain Kaufman**-police activity for September was given.

### **RECAP**

Interim Manager Courter recapped the following:

- Get with DPW paint Gardner's court street curbing.

### **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilman Norris gave the following remarks:

- Stated that he didn't know garbage was going to be a separate utility.
- Sensor-at Route 57 in cross walk on North Lincoln at 57 the sensor on light is you have to pull up to trigger it.

Councilwoman Ron gave the following remarks:

- Tonight, what happened what we saw is sad that we come to this point. Individually we are here believing in what we are doing. Make things better it's the intention.
- In past we managed to work and pull together want to see that moving forward. Don't ever want to be part of what happened tonight again, we are better than that.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Not going to say anything at this point and what I said was the truth.

Councilwoman Noone gave the following remarks:

- Apologized to mayor Cox for calling her a liar. Its important that we be careful when we say we didn't know.

Councilman Brown gave the following remarks:

- Hope what happened tonight never happens again.

Deputy Mayor Conry gave the following remarks to Mayor Cox:

- Things u said pitiful blame me for being up there you can't blame me.
- Make sure what you are talking about.

## **ADJOURN**

Hearing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Norris and seconded by Conry to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Courter, RMC  
Borough Clerk