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*BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

*WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES*

*December 20, 2022*

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The regular meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in Councils Chambers at 7:00 PM.

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

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

Absent: Heinrich

Mayor Conry led everyone in the flag salute.

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 Cox and seconded by Ron ,all were in favor

Michele Norris-State St-seen several posts on Facebook not paying their sewer or garbage bills.

Other towns use a charge card for taxes and utilities.

Inaccurate information on Facebook, can we order a cease and desist on information being posted?

Would like to know when budget meetings are so she can attend,

Melanie Thiel- BID, Executive Director, gave the following report:

Wrapped up holiday events, town looks great as far as decorations, picked winners for the window decorating contest and prizes were given out.

Operation Jersey Cares wrapping up this week can still donate.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Stated it was nice to work with Keith and Josephine and Sonia and added she will miss all of them.

Gary Masenior-asked if there will be an executive session tonight. Attorney Parikh responded that there will be an executive session in regards to his issue that was brought up.

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

Mayor Conry presented Proclamations to the following:  
Councilwoman Noone, Councilwoman Norris, Councilwoman Ron and former Police Chief Thomas Cicerelle.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Cox to adopt Resolution 2022-144

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.  
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0  
Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2022-144**

**Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

**Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025**

**FORM 1B**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, The Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Franklin/Mansfield/Washington Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$2,476.00
Cash Match	\$619.00
In-Kind	\$1,857.00

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to adopt Resolution 2022-145

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.  
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0  
 Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2022-145**

**A RESOLUTION TO VOID AND REPLACE CHECK**

**WHEREAS**, check #14622 was written December 7, 2022 on the Washington Borough’s Operating Account in the amount of \$719,093.52; and

**WHEREAS**, check was made payable to Township of Washington 211 Route 31 North, Washington, New Jersey 07882; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer’s office was made aware that the above-mentioned check due to a posting error was printed incorrectly; and

**WHEREAS**, the replacement check should have been in the amount of \$713,093.52; 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 Norris and seconded by Ron to adopt Resolution 2022-146 through 150

Roll Call: Conry, Cox, Noone, Norris and Ron.  
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0  
 Motion passes.

**RESOLUTION 2022-146**

**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 December 7, 2022 to FIG 20, LLC FBO SEC PTY, PO BOX 12225, NEWARK, NJ 07101, in the amount of \$963.43 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 in the name of POBLOCKI, RENE/HUBER, ZBIGNIEW as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 84 W STEWART ST, Block 14 Lot 4, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00010 and

**WHEREAS,** the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12/12/2022 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, SANDRA DIGAVERO claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by FIG 20, LLC FBO SEC PTY by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$963.43 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00010.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to FIG 20, LLC FBO SEC PTY, PO BOX 12225, NEWARK, NJ 07101 in the amount of **\$3,463.43** (This consists of \$963.43 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,500.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 14 Lot 4 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION 2022-147**

**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 December 7, 2022 to PRO CAP 8 FBO FIRSTRUST BANK, PRO CAP 8, LLC, PO BOX 774, FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034, in the amount of \$16.17 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 in the name of ESKOW, ANDREW BENJAMIN as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 7 GIBSON PLACE, Block 57 Lot 1, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00030 and

**WHEREAS,** the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12/12/2022 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, ANDREW ESKOW claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by PRO CAP 8 FBO FIRSTRUST BANK by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$16.17 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00030.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to PRO CAP 8 FBO FIRSTRUST BANK, PRO CAP 8, LLC, PO BOX 774, FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034 in the amount of **\$916.17** (This consists of \$16.17 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$900.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 57 Lot 1 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION 2022-148**

**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 December 7, 2022 to BALA PARTNERS LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979, in the amount of \$253.25 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 in the name of TORRES, SANDRA M as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 15 CARLTON AVE, Block 19 Lot 5, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00012 and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12/12/2022 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, ROBERT TORRES claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by BALA PARTNERS LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$253.25 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00012.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to BALA PARTNERS LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979 in the amount of **\$2,153.25** (This consists of \$253.25 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,900.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 19 Lot 5 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION 2022-149**

**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 FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY, PO BOX 54226, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70154, in the amount of \$5,253.88 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2020 in the name of GETTO, LAURIE as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 24 W STEWART ST, Block 21.01 Lot 4.02, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #21-00018 and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12/14/2022 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, LAURIE GETTO claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$14,737.02 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #21-00018.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022 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 FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY, PO BOX 54226, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70154 in the amount of **\$14,837.02** (This consists of \$14,737.02 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$100.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 21.01 Lot 4.02 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION 2022-150**

**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 December 7, 2022 to FIG 20, LLC FBO SEC PTY, PO BOX 12225, NEWARK, NJ 07101, in the amount of \$3,898.35 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 in the name of GETTO, LAURIE as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 33-39 W CHURCH ST, Block 23 Lot 3, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00014 and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 12/14/2022 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, LAURIE GETTO claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by FIG 20, LLC FBO SEC PTY by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$3,898.35 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00014.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to FIG 20, LLC FBO SEC PTY, PO BOX 12225, NEWARK, NJ 07101 in the amount of **\$6,998.35** (This consists of \$3,898.35 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$3,100.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 23 Lot 3 from the tax office records.

Motion made by Norris and seconded by Ron to adopt Resolution 2022-151

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

### **RESOLUTION 2022-151**

#### **RESOLUTION ASSIGNING THE BOROUGH MANAGER AS THE PLAN COORDINATOR FOR THE MISSION SQUARE 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington maintains a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (“the Plan”) through Mission Square Retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Manager is assigned as the Administrator of the Plan and provides fiduciary oversight for the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Borough Manager is designated as the Plan Coordinator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mission Square Retirement.

### **VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

Motion made by Norris seconded by Ron to pay vouchers and claims and add ACO payment of \$10,833.00.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

### **Reports**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to accept and file Code Enforcement report , all were in favor.

## **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilman Norris gave the following remarks:

- Pleasure serving on council last five years enjoyed every minute of it. Nice to work with Sonia and Josephine will miss all of you. Hard not coming to meetings.

Councilwoman Noone gave the following remarks:

- Thanked everyone enjoyed eight years on council a pleasure exciting plan to stay involved with the Green Team and anywhere of service, love this community wish all new council members and everyone will continue to work hard. Merry Christmas Happy Hannukah New Year and whatever holidays you celebrate.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Tonight, was very interesting very nice proclamations to council people very nice. Josephine did receive all the pictures and she will send to everyone. Look forward to new year. Hope everyone has a good season and great new year stay safe.
- Will miss Sonia.

Councilwoman Ron gave the following remarks:

- It was a learning experience and enjoyed working with everyone, more than you will know.
- Honored and privileged to be part of so much change. We had the first African Mayor in the county and it was Washington that did it. Very happy we did a lot of good work. I am overwhelmed right now with emotion truly a privilege and an honor to work with everyone of you. Thank you and a heartfelt thanks to Melanie (BID).

Mayor Conry gave the following remarks:

- Thanked those who came today in the audience. Thanked individual council members for their dedication and going forward and making it thrive. It doesn't stop it has to continue we need your voice. Doesn't matter not being on council thank you for your services.

## **Exec Session**

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Ron to enter into executive session for Attorney advice and litigation action may be taken after executive session, 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 Attorney advice/litigation. 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.

Ayes: 5: Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Ron to approve resolution 2022-152.

## **RESOLUTION 2022-152**

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TERMS OF SETTLEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, an employment related claim was raised by a prior employee, Gary Masenior (the “Employee”), against the Borough of Washington (the “Borough”) (Collectively referred to as “the Parties”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough and its officials deny any wrongdoing or liability with respect to the claim; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has been advised that it has a meritorious defense to the asserted claim; and

**WHEREAS**, given the time and expense of litigation, the Borough is desirous to extend on offer to the Employee to resolve all existing and potential claims and/or other causes of action between the Parties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has agreed to certain terms which have been made part of a Settlement Agreement prepared by counsel for the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the resolution of this matter, and as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Borough has agreed to resolve all matters for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars and Zero Cents (\$15,000.00)and

**WHEREAS**, the Council is now desirous to memorialize the approval of the Settlement proposal to be extended to the Employee.

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

1. The recitals are hereby incorporated as if restated herein in full.
2. The terms of the settlement agreement are hereby approved and the Borough is authorized and directed to execute a settlement agreement consistent with the settlement terms and to enter such related agreements and take other such necessary and appropriate action as necessary to effectuate the settlement terms embodied within the Agreement.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**ADJOURN**

Hearing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Cox and seconded by Noone to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Courter, RMC  
Borough Clerk