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*BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

*WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES*

*March 7, 2023*

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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 P.M.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.

Also Present: Lee Geller, Assistant  
Laurie A. Courter, Interim Manager/Borough Clerk(via telephone call in)

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 made by Cox and seconded by Musick to approve appointment of Christopher Infinito to council due to Vacancy.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov and Musick.  
Ayes: 6 Nays: 0  
Motion passes.

Commissioner Kern administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Infinito.

**Public Comment**

Michelle Norris discussed resolution 2023-55, Interim Manger resolution and the qualifications of not being sufficient of Dale Parichuk. Asked how it was brought up to bring in Dale Parichuk as Interim Manager. Concerns of discussing borough business with Mr. Parichuk with four members of council. Asked who brought forth resolution 2023-59 concerning the Attorney appointment.

Mrs. Norris also made Council aware of NJSA40A:9 22.5 Code of Ethics for Local Officers.

Charles Body Elizabeth Ave (Washington Township) discussed the Interim Borough Manager resolution and inquired about the language written in the resolution. Discussed the resolution regarding the municipal attorney and stated that resolution is also defective about firing former attorneys, which did not occur. Questioning the transparency of discussions amongst members and the proposed attorney with borough business.

Melanie Thiel, BID Executive Director, thanked Councilmen Brown and France for coming to the monthly network meeting. BID is moving along as far as events go. Discussed resolution 2023-55 with the inconsistency of the wording in the resolution asked that it be corrected and be brought back to another meeting and add a timeline to appointment. Discussed the job description of Borough Manager qualifications.

Christopher Bauknight, Lenape Trail, discussed resolution appointing new Attorney. Concerns of Mr. Peterson not having any experience in practicing municipal law. Expressed concerns with new members not serving the borough.

Betty Singh, 23 Carlton Ave, stated resolution for Interim Manager not worded right. Ms. Singh supported the appointment of Erik Peterson for Borough Attorney.

Name inaudible, asked directly to Councilwoman Cox why she wanted to get rid of the former municipal attorney.

Sonia Ron, Park Ave, asked questions concerning the appointment of a new attorney, such as salary and appointment. Stated that she sat on council, and it was an honor and expressed her concerns on what she is seeing and hearing of the current council.

Cathy Bryant 41 Elizabeth Ave (Washington Township), asked what it was meant by Cox and Gorshkov of the statement made that discussions were done, what was this referring to, was this at a meeting behind closed doors and what closed doors regarding Attorney (former) no longer viable. Inquired about council not interviewing other candidates for municipal attorney.

Jason (last name inaudible) 22 Valley View Terr, commented on the decorum between Cox and Conry at meetings. Stated that the resolution for Interim Manager is not worded correctly.

Josephine Noone, Prosper Way, inquired about four members running with Dale Parichuk in the elections and then trying to appoint him as Manager, doesn't look good. Gave examples of the process when she was on council for hiring professionals.

Mike Frank Nunn Ave stated that he likes the three- or five-minute limitations of public comment. Also stated he liked the Zoom option for listening to the meetings for those who can't make it in person. Concerned about lack of etiquette and lack of transparency over the last two weeks. Concerned about the conduct of meetings and the public being attacked by other members of the public.

Jeff Smith, Rt 31, gave a statement against the candidate for Interim Manger on Resolution 2023-55.

Scott McDonald, North Prospect, gave history of when he was on council regarding appointing professionals and getting requests for proposals. Strongly encouraged council to seek RFP's. Encouraged council to hire professional firms to hire interim manager.

DJ Lasnisky Lenape Trail (last name inaudible) watching council being disengaged and pointing out members being on cell phones, texting and passing notes during meetings.

Dan Rossi, Business owner in town, stated on record that Councilwoman Cox has been on her phone for five speakers. Expressed concerns of Dale Parichuk for Interim Borough Manager. Asked why has there been a delay in hiring a new manager.

Keith Norris, State St., asked what's the rush of changing the current Interim Manager.

Name in audible, discussed personal attacks amongst council.

Nick Koffman (sp) West Warren stated he never seen such rumors going around about Dale Parichuk. Spoke against the appointment of Dale Parichuk.

Marco Matteo, Railroad Ave., inquired about the renaming of the Washington Theatre district, and was looking to see if it was changed. Spoke about the Washington Historical society that he is part of. Inquired about putting an organ at borough hall. Inquired about blueprints of historic buildings in the borough. Stated he would like to see the ordinance committee work on creating historic preservation ordinances.

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

## **MINUTES**

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Infinito to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022 and December 20, 2022.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Infinito to approve executive session minutes for December 20, 2022.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.  
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Abstain: 3  
Motion passes.

## **REPORTS**

### **Committee Reports**

Ordinance -Gorshkov looking at street ordinances because Get A Grip asking about having stuff outside their store. Seeing if this permits and if its in an ordinance and will be looking into that.

## **VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS**

Motion made by Brown seconded by Musick to pay vouchers and claims.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.  
Ayes: 4 Nays: 2 (Cox, Gorshkov) Abstain: 1(Infinito)  
Motion passes.

### **ORDINANCE-1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

*Ordinance 2023-08 was Tabled.*

ORDINANCE 2023-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 84 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, ENTITLED VANDALISM, GRAFFITI AND OTHER PROPERTY OFFENSES

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 2023-23 Tabled

Motion made by Musick and seconded by Infinito to approve Resolution 2023-54.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.  
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion passes.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-54**

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF RESERVE APPROPRIATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close

of the year are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made by not less the 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body from unexpended balances which are expected to be sufficient to accounts with insufficient appropriation balances during the first three months of the succeeding year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Manager and the Chief Financial Officer have determined that excess appropriations do exist in some accounts and there is a need for supplemental appropriations in other accounts.

**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 following appropriation transfers are hereby approved:

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Legal Other Expenses	10,000.00	
Traffic Lights	3,000.00	
Natural Gas	5,000.00	
Tax Collector OE		7,700.00
Mayor and Council S& W		3,300.00
Mayor and Council OE		7,000.00

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Infinito to approve Resolution 2023-56.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes

**RESOLUTION 2023-56**  
**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 JIMENEZ, EDWIN as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 142 VAN BUREN ST, Block 58 Lot 2.02, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00031 and

**WHEREAS**, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/28/2023 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Comerica Bank 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 \$320.32 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00031.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 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 **\$2,220.32** (This consists of \$320.32 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,900.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 58 Lot 2.02 from the tax office records.

Councilwoman Cox made motion to remove Resolution 2023-55 from agenda, all were in favor with the exception of France voting no.

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2023-57.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes

### **RESOLUTION 2023-57**

#### **RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN COMMUNITY ANIMAL CONTROL LLC, AND THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**WHEREAS** an Agreement between The Borough of Washington having its principal place of business at 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, New Jersey 07882 and hereinafter referred to as the “**Borough**”; and Community Animal Control, LLC having its principal place of business at 36 Millbrook Rd., Washington, NJ 07882 hereinafter referred to as the “**Contractor**” was previously made between the parties with an effective date of January 1, 2022 (hereinafter “Initial Agreement”). The Agreement was authorized via Resolution 2021-135 a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Initial Agreement was to set forth the terms and conditions of the Contractor’s Animal Control Services under a Shared Services Agreement (SSA) pursuant to which the Borough acts as the host/lead municipality for such services; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2022, two additional municipalities joined the SSA, which necessitated an adjustment to the overall fees charged by the Contractor and payments required of each municipality for the Contractor’s services under the SSA; and

**WHEREAS**, via Resolution 2022-142 the Borough amended the Initial Agreement with the Contractor in order to reflect the additional members of the SSA and the payments required for the services provided by the Contractor under the SSA beginning March 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2022 (hereinafter “First Amended Agreement”). See Resolution 2022-142 attached hereto as **Exhibit B**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties were desirous to extend the Amended Agreement between the Parties through December 31, 2023. As such, on January 3, 2023, the Borough passed Resolution 2023-21, which effectively extended the Amended Agreement for a period of up to sixty (60) days, in order to allow the Parties time to negotiate favorable terms for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year. See Resolution 2023-21 attached hereto as **Exhibit C**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have met and agreed to terms deemed favorable and now seek to enter into a second amended agreement for the period of March 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the “Second Amended Agreement.”).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington that the Mayor and Clerk/Interim Manager are hereby authorized to execute the Second Amended Agreement to the January 1, 2022 Shared Services Agreement for Animal Control Services between the Borough of Washington and the Contractor in substantially the form set forth below; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer, and Clerk and a copy of same will be made available to the public through the Office of the Clerk.

Motion made by Musick and seconded by Cox to approve Resolution 2023-58.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito and Musick.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes

### **RESOLUTION 2023-58**

#### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL MEETINGS OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, it is necessary for the Borough of Washington to post and maintain a schedule of the meetings of the Borough that will be held during the year 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 2023-\_\_01\_\_ set forth, among other things, a Borough Council general meeting schedule for year 2023 for the Borough of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 2023-\_\_01\_\_, among other things, scheduled one Borough Council meeting per month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council has since determined that one regular meeting per month will not be sufficient to conduct Borough business; and

**WHEREAS**, given the foregoing, Borough Council determined that Section 3-9 of the Code of the Borough of Washington, entitled “Meetings,” should not be amended and that Borough Council meetings should continue to be held twice a month except that, by resolution, the Council may dispense with one or more meetings otherwise scheduled during the months of July and August.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Washington 2023 General Meeting Schedule for the year 2023 be amended to include two meetings per month as follows:

## Meetings of Borough Council for 2023 Where Formal Action May Be Taken

Tuesday January 3, 2023	7:00 Reorganization Regular
Tuesday January 17, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday February 17, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday March 7, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday March 21, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday April 4, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday April 18, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday May 2, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday May 16, 2023	7:00 Regular
*Tuesday, June 20, 2023	7:00 Regular
*Tuesday July 18, 2023	7:00 Regular
*Tuesday August 15, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday September 5, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday September 19, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday October 3, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday October 17, 2023	7:00 Regular
*Tuesday November 21, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday December 5, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday December 19, 2023	7:00 Regular
Tuesday January 2, 2024	7:00 P.M. (Reorganization/Regular)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall supersede any and all Resolutions previously adopted by the Borough specifying meeting dates of the Borough Council.



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Borough of Washington that the 2023 General Meeting Schedule is hereby amended and the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to:

1. Post the Schedule of Meetings, as required by law
2. Post the schedule of Meetings on the Borough Website
3. Publicly Notice the current schedule of meetings in all official newspapers, as provided by law.
4. \* indicates one meeting for that month.

Resolution 2023-58 was tabled.

### **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilman Brown gave the following remarks:

- We should all take a pause since we are all new to this and take a pause on hiring a new attorney. Ridiculous in what is going on.

Councilwoman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Congratulated Infinito on his appointment.

Councilman France gave the following remarks:

- Stated he is new here; we have a situation here in town and making a point of what's going on. Trying his best and added that we are facing a tax increase as of last night and we are trying to work very hard. Stated that he does not like to be attacked. Stated he is open to talk and discuss and meet with people.

Councilwoman Gorshkov gave the following statements:

- Thanked everyone for coming out. It's been an interesting ride and doing her best in looking into the ordinances. If you have any concerns, please talk to her and stated that she will do her due diligence.

Councilman Infinito gave the following remarks:

- Would love to hear from anyone with their concerns, and to reach out to him anytime. Thanked everyone for this opportunity.

Mayor Conry gave the following remarks:

- Transparency, accused of not being transparent. Spoke about doing the right thing where everyone is involved.

**ADJOURN**

Hearing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Brown and seconded by Gorshkov to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Courter, RMC  
Borough Clerk