
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the council's chambers at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Brown, Conry, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, and Musick
Also Present: Laurie A. Courter, Borough Clerk/Interim Borough Manager
Erik Peterson, Attorney

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.

Proclamation-Shade Tree

Mayor Conry read into record Arbor Day proclamation on request from the Shade Tree Commission:



TREE CITY USA
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

*** OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION ***

WHEREAS in 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, *and*

WHEREAS this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, *and*

WHEREAS Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, *and*

WHEREAS trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, *and*

WHEREAS trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, *and*

WHEREAS trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, *and*

WHEREAS trees — wherever they are planted — are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ethel Conry, Mayor, Mayor of the City of Borough of Washington, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 29, 2023 as **ARBOR DAY** In the City of Borough of Washington, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, *and*

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

DATED THIS 29th day of April, 2023
Mayor _____ Mayor _____



PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion made by Cox and seconded by Gorshkov to open public comment, all were in favor.

Ray Rice, appearing on behalf of Oze Capital, Taco bell property. Follow up with respect to the last appearance before council with same request to get parking ordinance finalized (Taco Bell parking spots) Stated that this is impeding business of the tenant of the property, parking continues to be an issue. Would like to get a time frame of terms for when ordinance will be ready to be heard again. Discussions ensued between Mr. Rice and Attorney Peterson.

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

Reminder that anyone can still adopt a planter in town they are \$35 each.

Steam Punk Fair is coming up 70 vendors coming in.

Anyone can call the office or go to the website for information, it is updated every day and is on Facebook and Instagram also. Website is: Washingtonbid.org

Mrs. Thiel stated that the BID is in support of the letter for NJ Brewers

Lauren Sheldon Recreation Committee; introduced herself. Stated that she looks forward to working with Marco. She is new to this process and looking forward to being involved.

Robert Kileayer(sp), voiced support for the Brewery bill going around.

Marco Matteo, Railroad Ave., reflected on Historic Committee President John Hanlos, who has passed away. Next meeting will be on April 28th. Discussed former owner and member who ran the theatre and having a historic marker placed.

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

REPORTS

Committee Reports

Green Team: Councilwoman Musick stated that there are two spots on group to volunteer. Still doing hikes once a month on a Saturdays. Upcoming events: June 17th Music and Arts Fest 10-5 pm. Farmers Marker June 17th through September 30th. Asking for volunteers who can reach out to Melanie Thiel or Josephine Noone.

Recreation: Councilman France stated that they will have a meeting soon, just need time and place to meet. Will take suggestions to see what we can do. Discussed briefly the LUB meeting and added that a big project is coming down the street but there are issues that need to be resolved.

Ordinance: Councilwoman Gorshkov stated that the Attorney is looking into ordinances.

Senior Advisory: Deputy Mayor stated that the thumb drive she received, she cannot print out anything from it. Looking into a trip to Lancaster for the Sight and Sound show.

Cannabis-Councilman Brown reported that construction is going on for the Dank Poet applicant.

Streets: Councilman Brown stated there is no update.

Solid Waste: Councilman Brown stated that he will wait until we have manager to set up meetings.

Sewer-Councilman Infinito: no new updates.

VOUCHER

Motion made by Musick and seconded by Gorshkov to approve vouchers for payment,
Roll Call: Brown., Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Musick and Conry
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Infinito to approve Chris Bauknight and Marc Reynard to the Cannabis committee.
Roll Call: Brown., Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Musick and Conry
Ayes: 4 (Brown, France, Infinito and Conry)
Nays: 0
Abstain: Cox, Gorshkov and Musick
Motion passes.

Motion made by Infinito and seconded by Brown to appoint Cheryl Newman to Library Board,
Roll Call: Brown., Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Musick and Conry
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion passes.

Motion made by Infinito and seconded by Brown to appoint Sonia Ron as an Alternate for Land Use Board.
Roll Call: Brown., Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Musick and Conry
Ayes: 4 (Brown, France, Infinito and Conry)
Nays: 0
Abstain: Cox, Gorshkov and Musick
Motion passes.

Request from Buttzville Brewing-Sign NJ Brewery support letter-S-3038/A-4630
Discussions ensued regarding the equality of the support and who is affected.
Attorney Peterson explained the legislative actions of the brewery law.
Supporting it allows more events than there currently are. Expanding what breweries can do.

Erin Anderson owner of 30 East Washington Ave Buttzville Brewers-explained that a large amount of paperwork is involved with any type of event the brewery holds. Restrictions on music count as an event if it's amplified.

Motion made by Infinito and seconded by Brown to send letter of support with all of council with the revision of the first sentence as Infinito stated.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Musick and seconded by Cox to adopt Resolution 2023-69

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

RESOLUTION 2023-69

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

FOR HANDICAP PARKING ZONE

WHEREAS, a request was submitted to the Department of Transportation for a Handicapped Parking space to be designated;

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has approved this request for a Handicapped Parking Zone;

WHEREAS, such space is designated as a Handicapped Parking Zone by the Department of Transportation for the following location:

Route 57 (West Washington Avenue, South, with Placard Number# P2699114

Beginning at a point 455 feet east of the prolongation of the northeast corner of Grand Avenue
and extending 22 feet easterly therefrom

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough of Washington concurs that any currently approved traffic regulation(s) in conflict with or inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution, be rescinded upon approval of the Traffic Regulation Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Chief Christopher Jones, Washington Township Police and Ms. Jamie Oplinger, Executive Manager, DOT.

Motion made by Cox and seconded by Gorshkov to adopt Resolution 2023-70 and 71

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

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2023-70

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 \$970.49 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 in the name of WASILEWSKI, MACIEJ as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 24 N JACKSON AVE, Block 26 Lot 3.01, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00017 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 4/11/23 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, CORELOGIC 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 \$2,004.23 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 18th day of April 2023 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 **\$4,504.23** (This consists of \$2,004.23 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,500.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 26 Lot 3.01 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION 2023-71
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 \$329.30 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 in the name of LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 21 LENAPE TRAIL, Block 101 Lot 13.14, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #22-00057 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 3/29/2023 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, CORELOGIC 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 \$1,184.47 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00057.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of April, 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 **\$3,084.47** (This consists of \$1,184.47 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,900.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 101 Lot 13.14 from the tax office records.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Cox gave the following remarks:

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- Very important that you are here letting us know since living in town and borough things you want addressed.
- We should be able to communicate with Natasha and she should be able to give us the answers same answer to everyone group or individual.
- Hope we get a chance to see everything before it comes out on table. Seven of us on this committee need to get the answers to the questions we ask.
- We have for four months didn't get a lot accomplished. We need to start bucking down to get things done and fixed.
- Appreciate everyone's input focused on what is doing in town for towns people we work for.
- We need to do something for the elderly.

Councilman Infinito gave the following remarks:

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- The stream clean up, looking forward to those events.
- Last week got chance to meet with Natasha to discuss the budget-shared some information.
- Council meeting on May 2nd public hearing to discuss budget, after that will have opportunity to amend budget.
- Natasha will be providing two different resolutions to amend the budget based on feedback from the council focusing on cutting spending.
- Understanding one of amended resolution results in a tax cut but have zero in capital improvement funds.
- Another amendment will result in keeping tax flat once again but have little more built-in capital improvement fund for a safety net.

Councilwoman Gorshkov gave the following remarks:

- Thank everyone for staying. Hope everyone gets home safe.

Councilwoman Musick gave the following remarks:

- No comment

Councilman France gave the following remarks:

- In favor of and appreciate historical society. Like what they are talking about in favor of moving forward.
- Application and letter it's a nice business (Brewery) questions about food truck parking on main street.

Councilman Brown gave the following remarks:

- No comment

Mayor Conry gave the following remarks:

- There is no finance committee anymore.
- Thanked everyone for coming out for the meeting.
- There are a lot of pressing things on our plate with our attorney that need to go forth that has not gone forth.
- Move on to let town people know we are working together to get the job done not working against one another. Not working against no one. Working for the people of the town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Brown and seconded by Gorshkov to enter into executive session for contract negotiations borough manager for 15-30 minutes, all were in favor. No official action will be taken.

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 Infinito and seconded by Musick to return to regular session at 8:53 p.m., all were in favor.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Infinito and seconded by Musick adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM, all were in favor.

Laurie A. Courter, RMC
Borough Clerk