
AGENDA

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NJ

7:00 PM

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

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 and Star Ledger and posted on the Boroughs website stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL Brown, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Musick and Conry.

AUDIENCE/COUNCIL APPEARANCE

Remarks, petitions, statements and testimony from guests

MINUTES

March 5, 2024

REPORTS

Committee Reports

VOUCHERS-Approval of Claims

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda-Continued

NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION

April Child Abuse Awareness Month

ORDINANCES 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 2024-03

An Ordinance of the Borough of Washington Amending Chapter 64 Parks, Borough Article 1, Section 64-1 entitled, “Control of Parks”, of the Ordinances of The Borough of Washington

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2024-60

Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

RESOLUTION 2024-61

FOR PLANNING SERVICES

RECAP

COUNCIL REMARKS

Remarks, Reports, Discussions

EXECUTIVE SESSION-if needed

- Contract negotiations with Jade Properties.

ADJOURNMENT _____ P.M.

**PROCLAMATION
CASA Child Advocate Month**

WHEREAS, the Borough, in Warren County, New Jersey recognizes the problem of child abuse and neglect and is committed to helping it's victims; and

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties recruits, screens trains, supports and supervises community volunteers as advocates for children who have been removed for their homes due to neglect and abuse; and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences and trauma, such as those caused by child abuse or neglect, can have long-lasting effects on a child's health, wellbeing and success; and

WHEREAS, survivors of child abuse need people in their lives that will consider their best interests; and

WHEREAS, the Court Appointed Special Advocate programs have a record of public service, helping protect the safety and wellbeing of (town) abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are assigned by family court judges to champion the needs of child abuse victims; and

WHEREAS, CASAs are everyday people, with diverse backgrounds and professions, that go through very specialized training to be a volunteer voice for children in the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, CASAs volunteers serve as the court's eyes and ears in a child's life, helping to improve the quality of information presented to the court and child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, April 2023 is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, an observance that reflects the purpose of CASA programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ethel M. Conry, Mayor of Washington Borough do hereby proclaim:

**APRIL 2024
AS
CASA CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH**

ORDINANCE 2024-03

An Ordinance of the Borough of Washington Amending Chapter 64 Parks, Borough Article 1, Section 64-1 entitled, “Control of Parks”, of the Ordinances of The Borough of Washington

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County Warren adopted Ordinance 2020-12 amending Article VIIIA §3-55.1 to §3-55.9 of the Borough Code eliminating and dissolving the Board of Recreation Commissioners and establishing the Borough of Washington Recreation Committee in its place: and

WHEREAS, upon review of the Borough Code it was discovered that Chapter 64, Article I, Section 64-1 had not been amended to reflect the elimination and dissolution of the Board of Recreation Commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, that the Code of the Borough of Washington be amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 64-1 of the Code of the Borough of Washington is hereby amended as follows (additions noted in bold italic *thus* and deletions noted in strikethrough ~~thus~~):

The ~~Board of Recreation Commissioners~~ *Mayor and Council* shall have full control over all lands, playgrounds and recreation places acquired or leased in the name of the Borough of Washington, ~~except the Borough pocket park located on Block 24, Lot 24, of the Borough,~~ and may adopt rules, regulations and bylaws for the use thereof and the conduct of all persons while on or using the same, ~~subject to the review and approval of the Mayor and Council.~~

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to such inconsistencies.

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

RESOLUTION 2024-60

Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

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 2025 in the amount of:

GCADA Grant	\$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.

**RESOLUTION 2024-61
FOR PLANNING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (“Highlands Act”), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., finds and declares that protection of the New Jersey Highlands is an issue of State level importance because of its vital link to the future of the State’s drinking water supplies and other significant natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act creates a coordinated land use planning system requiring the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (“Highlands Council”) to prepare and adopt a Regional Master Plan for the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, Section 13:20-15.a, of the Highlands Act states that for any municipality located wholly in the Planning Area or for the portion of a municipality lying within the Planning Area, the municipality may, by ordinance, petition the Highlands Council of its intention to revise its master plan, development regulations and other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, to conform them with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan (“Plan Conformance”), and

WHEREAS, Washington Borough (the “Borough”) is located in the Highlands Region with lands lying within the Planning Area, as defined by Section 7 of the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council prepared and distributed to the Borough and other municipalities within the Highlands Region guidelines outlining the process and procedures for petitioning the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance which includes a comprehensive package of planning and implementation documents that meet the requirements of the Highlands Act, the Regional Master Plan, and the Highlands Plan Conformance Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Plan Conformance by municipalities is strictly voluntary for lands in the Planning Area, and the Borough may at any time voluntarily revise its master plan, development regulations, and other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, to conform them to the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, at any time during the Plan Conformance process, the Borough may withdraw from the Plan Conformance process and any approvals, rejections, or conditions of revised municipal master planning documents or development regulations recommended by the Highlands Council during the Plan Conformance process, will not be binding on the Borough; and the Borough may choose not to obtain conformance with the Regional Master Plan for the lands lying within the Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the Borough petitioned the Highlands Council of its intention to revise its master plan, development regulations, and other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, to conform them with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan and Plan Conformance Guidelines, the Borough enacted ordinance 2021-06, as required by the Highlands Act; and

DRAFT-Subject to change

WHEREAS, upon application of the Borough, the Highlands Council has made, or will make, grant funding and other financial and technical assistance available to the Borough for the reasonable costs associated with the revision of the master plan, development regulations or other regulations, as applicable to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, which are designed to bring those plans and regulations into conformance with the Regional Master Plan and the Highlands Council shall provide grant funds for all mandatory aspects of Plan Conformance in accordance with the Plan Conformance Grant Program, and may also provide grant funds for the discretionary aspects of Plan Conformance as determined by the Highlands Council; and

WHEREAS, should the Borough formally withdraw from the Plan Conformance process, grant funding awarded to the Borough up to the date of withdrawal that has been appropriately utilized in accordance with the Plan Conformance Grant Program and applicable grant agreement shall not be reimbursable to the Highlands Council;

WHEREAS, the Borough has received proposals from Heyer, Gruel and Associates to prepare an Updated Land Use Master Plan Element, a Comprehensive Design Standards for the Downtown Corridor and a Comprehensive Revision of the Borough's Zoning and Land Development Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Updated Land Use Master plan element shall not exceed \$27,000; the Comprehensive Design Standard for the Downtown Corridor shall not exceed \$15,000 and the Comprehensive Revision of the Borough's Zoning and Land Development shall not exceed \$45,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington Borough Council hereby approves the proposals submitted by Heyer, Gruel and Associates contingent upon the New Jersey Highlands Council providing Grant funding to cover the costs..