

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE MEETING

JANAURY 23, 2012

The Township Council held a **Public Portion/Conference Meeting** in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, Richard Hrbek. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steven Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Fred Goetz, Richard Hrbek. Absent: None. Also present: Kenneth Poller, Attorney; Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Catherine Navarro-Steinel.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act this meeting was listed in the Township Council Annual Meeting List which was published in the Ridgewood News, forwarded to the local newspapers, posted on Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to approve the December 5, 2011 Public and Conference meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the January 9, 2012, Sine die and Reorganization meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to open the Public Discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

William Thomson, 560 Hoover Avenue – Asked what is being done about the parking on Ridgewood Boulevard North behind Bacari Grill. He was told by Mayor Sobkowicz that an ordinance had been found that states that there is no parking on both sides of Ridgewood Boulevard North on both sides to Manhattan Avenue. She stated that signs are being ordered and will then be posted. Mr. Thomson then said that he saw a legal in the newspaper about a public hearing on Bacari because of the change of a liquor license. Township Clerk explained to the resident that a public hearing would only be held if there was a written complaint. She stated to Mr. Thomson that if he had a problem that he should state the problem in writing to the clerk and then a public hearing for the liquor license transfer would occur.

Al Lombardi, 526 Willow Street – Mr. Lombardi talked about the sidewalks which were just installed on Beech Street and Willow Street which go to nowhere. He said that there was a phone service box on the school property and all the shrubs around the box were taken away when the sidewalks went in and none were put back. He said that he would like to see the shrubs replaced. Mayor Sobkowicz said that she too would like to see the shrubs replaced and will check with the engineer to see what happened.

David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle – Asked if there was any further information in reference to the cell tower and if they were still in Stage 2 investigation. Mr. Poller stated that the environmental consultant was

doing due diligence. He said we were in State 2 and that more investigation had to be done. He also talked about a historic study and more involvement in the site. Once all of that is done and they are satisfied, they will move to the next phase which is amending the documents and then go to Planning board. The Mayor and council already voted to approve. If Planning Board approves, it would get finalization and then they would put up the tower. Mr. Snyder then talked about the new rental agent, Azarian Group, for the Shopping Center. He said that there are many vacancies. Mayor Sobkowitz said that she also spoke to Azarian and that she said that they can put up signs in the windows. She said that she is working on a plan. Town is trying to work with them. Mr. Snyder then said he saw a book in the township Library about the Faulkner form of government and it said that in the executive branch it stated that the town should have a full time administrator. He said that he was in favor of a full time administrator.

Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Asked when the town would be getting an administrator because he want to call up someone to talk about the shopping center. Said that half of the sidewalk from the library to the end of the wooden fences was full of ice and slush. The new management did not do their job by cleaning up the sidewalk. She said that the town needs to work together and she hopes this happens especially for the Sky Trading and Seasons' application on Pascack Road and Washington Avenues. She said that Mr. Kourgelis is getting away with too much.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Said that it seems that there would be an abbreviated conference session. He asked about update to the public about the emergency generator, washer and dryer and if they have been installed or if they are being used. Also asked about computer hardware. Mr. Hrbek stated that it was important to prioritize and that the council needs to get focused and to move forward with the New Year. Things need to be streamlined. If there is information then it will be put on the agenda. Said that nothing has been eliminated or dropped. Concerning the computer hardware, the new Dell machines had problems. The mother boards are a problem. They are having problems powering up. Mayor Sobkowitz said that these mother boards will be send back. Any money left over in the ordinance will go into capital surplus.

Ray Benroth, 838 Crest Place – Said that there has been a lot of conversation about the cell tower but asked Mr. Poller when is the town going to get close to stop talking and getting to work. Mr. Poller said that he couldn't give an answer about the environmental issues at this time. Things are progressing.

There being no more comments or question a motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Goetz to closed the public portion
Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Casio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz
Nays: None

ORDINANCES:

After the public portion, Mr. Goetz commented that there were three ordinances before the Council and said that he thought that there would not be any ordinances put on the agenda without a straw poll done. Mr. Hrbek said that he had a straw poll consensus and that he talked to everyone on this matter. He said that there was dialog and enough consent to go with the ordinances that were being introduced.

There was also a discussion about Ordinance #12-02 concerning Salary Ordinance Modification for Certain Officers and Employees. Mayor Sobkowitz said that it had been decided that the alternate prosecutor would be paid on a per diem basis. Also said that the Special Police Offer would be paid a maximum of \$25 per hour and could do traffic control. Mayor Sobkowitz then talked about ordinance #12-01. This ordinance provides salary for the new business administrator. The Council was told that she was retired and will work 30 hours. Said that there are problems that need to be corrected. Also talked about Purchasing Agency/Deputy Administrator. There was a lengthy discussion by Council about the different personnel under Department of Administration in Ordinance #12-01. It was concluded to introduce the ordinance and look at it further before public hearing.

The clerk read Ordinance #12-01 entitled: AN ORDINANCE RESTRUCTURING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND SETTING FORTH THE RATE OF COMPENSATION AND MANNER OF PAYMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to introduce and pass Ordinance 12-01 at first reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, D'Urso, Hrbek

Nays: Councilpersons Cascio, Goetz

The following resolution was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

WHEREAS, Ordinance No.12-01 entitled: AN ORDINANCE RESTRUCTURING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND SETTING FORTH THE RATE OF COMPENSATION AND MANNER OF PAYMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 2012 was introduced and passed at first reading by title at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 23rd day of January 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 6th day of February, 2012 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise in the Ridgewood News a newspaper circulated in this Township, the introduction and notice of further consideration for final passage and public hearing of this ordinance as required by law

A discussion followed about the Alternate Prosecutor and Mr. Goetz felt that there should be a RFP or RFQ for the position. Mr. Hrbek said that he spoke to the judge and the judge said that he had no problem with the per diem amount. The judge also had no objection to the appointment.

The clerk read Ordinance #12-02 entitled: AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION AND MANNER OF

PAYMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR THE YEAR 2012.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Goetz to introduce and pass Ordinance 12-02 at first reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek

Nays: None

The following resolution was presented and adopted on a motion by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. D'Urso.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

WHEREAS, Ordinance No.12-02 entitled: AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION AND MANNER OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR THE YEAR 2012 was introduced and passed at first reading by title at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 23rd day of January 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 6th day of February, 2012 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise in the Ridgewood News a newspaper circulated in this Township, the introduction and notice of further consideration for final passage and public hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

In reference to Ordinance #12-03, Mr. Goetz said that after discussing Ordinance #12-03 with another council person from another town, he felt that this ordinance could strip the fire chief of some of his responsibilities. He said that he doesn't agree with amending the ordinance and suggested that the chief see if the person who is now doing the job could be a member of our fire department before we change an ordinance. Mr. Goetz said that it was an option. If the person who is now the fire inspector becomes a member of the fire department then there will be no problem. Mr. D'Urso said that he liked the suggestion and asked that the ordinance be tabled until next meeting. Dr. Cascio agreed that it was a good suggestion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following resolutions were part of the Consent Agenda and were made available to the Governing Body and the Public prior to the meeting.

The Consent Agenda was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquent amounts in the amounts of less than \$10.00; and

WHEREAS, the governing body may authorize the Tax Collector to process, without further action on their part, any cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquencies of less than \$10.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, New Jersey that the Tax Collector, Elaine Erlewein be authorized to cancel said tax amounts as deemed necessary on attached list of homeowners.

Total: -\$8.26

WHEREAS, Karen and Kevin Brandenburg have posted engineering Escrow on premises known as block 2403, Lot 67, 243 West Place; and

WHEREAS, the Construction code Official has issued approval dated January 9, 2012, C.O. No. 01-535; and

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated December 19, 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington be authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$380.00 to the above.

Raffle License #837 and #838 for West Ridge Elementary PTO was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

Raffle License #839 and #840 for Wyckoff Family YMCA was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

WHEREAS, Title 40-A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the first three (3) months of the fiscal year, to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sum appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in an appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than 2/3 votes of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2011 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Police - Dispatching		
Salary & Wages	\$2,000.00	
Group Ins. For Employees		\$2,000.00

WHEREAS, Title 40-A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the first three (3) months of the fiscal year, to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sum appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in an appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than 2/3 votes of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2011 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Gasoline		
Senior Van	\$1,125.00	

Police Dispatching		
Salary & Wages	1,767.00	
Gasoline-Police		\$1,336.00
Gasoline-Fire		\$1,556.00

WHEREAS, Title 40-A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the first three (3) months of the fiscal year, to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sum appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in an appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than 2/3 votes of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2011 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Police-Dispatching		
Salary & Wages	\$ 181.00	
Dept. of Municipal Facilities		
Parks-Other Expense		\$ 181.00

At the end of the public portion Council discussed the Appointment of Alternate Prosecutor. A motion was then made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to approve the following resolution.
Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek
Nays: None

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that it does hereby consent to the Mayor's appointment of D. Gayle Loftis as Alternate Prosecutor commencing January 1, 2012 for one year.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Richard Hrbek, Council President