

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
June 9, 2020~7:30 p.m.

**☞PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING  
WITH REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT☞  
DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Feeney.

STATEMENT:

Welcome to the Special Public Meeting of June 9, 2020 of the Township of Washington Township Council. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by the Township Clerk to at least two (2) newspapers on June 4, 2020 and this notice has been posted on the Township Bulletin Board, Electronic Message Board, WCTV and on the Township Web Site.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Council President Feeney.

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ROLL CALL: Via Conference Call

Councilmen Cascio, Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Council President Feeney. Let the record reflect also participating via Conference Call: Mayor Calamari; Township Attorney Poller; Administrator Robert Tovo; two members from NYNJA for technical support and Township Clerk Witkowski.

Public Service Announcement read by Council President Feeney

CORONAVIRUS

For the latest updates/messages on the Coronavirus, please visit our website, [www.twpofwashington.us](http://www.twpofwashington.us)

FOOD DONATIONS – Food donations have been moved to Town Hall, away from The Fresh Grocer and Rite-Aid.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

June 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote for the July 7 Primary Election. Please visit [www.twpofwashington.us](http://www.twpofwashington.us) under Elections to download the form to submit. All registered Democrat and Republican voters will automatically receive a Vote by Mail Ballot. If you are unaffiliated or inactive, and would like to participate in the primary, you should complete and return the vote by mail application. See the web site for more details. If you have a disability and need an accessible ballot, contact 201-336-7020 or you may vote July 7<sup>th</sup>, in the ADA complaint voting machine, which is only for voters who have a disability.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp has been cancelled, please visit the Township website for further information.

PAPER SHREDDING ONLY EVENT

Shredding will take place on: 7/25 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Municipal Complex Parking Lot. Bring your papers to be shredded. NO books, no binders.

MAIL/DROP BOX

A blue drop box has been placed outside of Town Hall for depositing all correspondence addressed to the proper department. *No cash* should be placed in the mailbox and all payments must be in a sealed envelope.

GARDEN & GRASS COLLECTION

The program has begun as scheduled, please visit DPW page for the schedule. Be patient, if your garden/grass debris is not picked up on your scheduled day, please leave out as it will collect the following day.

PROPERTY OWNERS

If your property is adjacent to a township owned property and you are interested in purchasing such parcel, please send a letter/email of interest to Mayor Peter Calamari.

A Special Council Meeting will be held on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. for the Budget Adoption.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: none

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Limit to five (5) minutes)

**\*\*TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION PORTION OF THE MEETING, PLEASE DIAL IN ON 201-664-4659. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD, AND WE ASK THAT ONLY ONE PERSON SPEAK AT A TIME. PLEASE NOTE THAT AT THE END OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION, NO MORE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED\*\***

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, to open the General Public Discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan,  
Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Jessica Snidersich, 462 Bergen Avenue – Ms. Snidersich thanked Council for their work they do for the community, specifically Council Vice-President Cumming and Councilwoman Morgan for their comments at the last Council Meeting regarding Black Lives Matter movement, protests that are occurring across our Country. She asked what action are Councilmembers taking to make sure that members of our black community are given equal opportunities and feel represented in our Township. Council President Feeney stated that is a good question, especially during this day and time, she knows the town is very conscientious. Ms. Snidersich stated (due to technical difficulties) she will send an email putting her comments in writing to all Councilmembers, as well as the Mayor.

Michael Lemken, 723 Amherst Drive – Mr. Lemken spoke of the large three-story building that is being proposed on Pascack Road, as well as other towns, which are destroying areas, which are residential, and should stay that way. He spoke of the wrong data being used for the traffic study and what is intended to be done with the intersection. He stated the proposed three story, 100 bed facility traffic study did not include the traffic in and out of Season's, everyday, as well as the impact of property values in the area. He stated there are many concerns. This was proposed back in December, a resident did express a concern, asked to receive more information, but got the cold shoulder, he is here to bring awareness to this project, he feels especially in Bergen County, builders always get their way. He spoke of what is occurring in Emerson, builder making promises, none of that is happening, now there is a lawsuit. Council President Feeney stated this application is currently before the Zoning Board, the next Zoning Board meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman spoke of the concern he raised of the DPW not being part of the Capital Plan. Council President Feeney stated she does believe it was previously in the 2019 budget, the reason it is not in the 2020 budget is because it was in the 2019 budget, correct? Administrator Tovo replied that is correct. Mr. Ullman stated that is not a valid answer. Council President Feeney asked Mr. Ullman why is that not a valid answer? Mr. Ullman replied because that is last year, it did not occur, it needs to be planned for this year's capital expenditures, the DPW building is completely silent in this year's capital expenditures. Council President Feeney asked Administrator Tovo to clarify? Administrator Tovo replied that project funded at 1.3 million dollars in the 2019 Capital Plan, the current budget, which he doesn't have in front of him right now, would only reflect 2020-2022. Council President Feeney stated since the project is going on, remediation is part of it, correct? Administrator Tovo replied the remediation numbers are currently being updated, we should have something for the Council at our next meeting, as he stated, it was funded in a prior year, not 2020 for 2022. Council President Feeney stated it is on the 2019 for Capital Expenditures, but it is not on the 2020 budget? Administrator Tovo replied correct. Mr. Ullman asked are there any expenses anticipated related to DPW, both the remediation nor the build-out of the building? Administrator Tovo replied as he stated that was for 2019. Mr. Ullman stated for years and years on the budget we spoke about ladder trucks, pump trucks, among many other things, that never come to fruition, appearing year after year, this year all of a sudden one of the largest Capital Projects in the Township, one of the most critical, given that there is a remediation project that has to take place, this budget is 100% silent on it, one would have to be educated on looking at a prior budget to understand that something is going to happen in the Township. Council President Feeney stated it was funded in 2019, that is why it is not on this years budget, it has been previously budgeted in 2019. Mr. Ullman asked who funded it, where is it funded? Administrator Tovo replied he will print out the sheet that indicates from last year where it was funded, he will provide that tomorrow. Mr. Ullman asked funded in what sense, that is was on the sheets or that we made a Capital Improvement Fund contribution, because he doesn't believe it has been bonded. Administrator Tovo replied it has not been bonded, but it has been approved by Council in last years Capital Improvements, it doesn't need to be bonded as of yet. Mr. Ullman stated on sheet 40c, which speaks about funding amounts per budget year, it is not captured, where are these expenses being captured, we may have contributed to a Capital Improvement Fund, the down-payment, but this budget is completely silent on how we are paying for the rest of the project. Council President stated Mr. Ullman, Mr. Tovo has indicated he will provide the sheets tomorrow, so you will have a more definitive, answer, she is sorry, but Mr. Ullman's five minutes are up.

Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace – Mr. D'Urso stated the budget process is confusing, money was not bonded, it was supposedly approved by the Council in 2019. Mr. D'Urso asked is there a temporary spot for the DPW? Mayor Calamari replied it will be on Monday's regular meeting agenda (June 15<sup>th</sup>). Mr. D'Urso stated there has been discussion about it, sounds like the Township might be leasing a property, the Township does own property in this Township that the DPW can be located temporarily, that is Sherry Field, that is where the DPW belongs, out of the way, backing up to a cemetery, away from everyone. He spoke of the other caller, Mr. Lemken, as well as cell tower, and expecting Council to help residents. Council President Feeney stated the Zoning Board meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>, if anyone has any comments.

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, to close the General Public Discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan,  
Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Councilman DeSena stated he would like to make a quick statement, he has not had a discussion of possible DPW location, because people think we are discussing it, he has not discussed any DPW locations with any members of the Council or the Administration. Council President Feeney stated we all know that, we have been informed by the Mayor that we are going to have a discussion, but that has not happened because the negotiations have not been finished, which is the way the process goes Again, various residents have called in regarding the swim club, as well as other locations, she keeps on saying the same thing, no final location has been determined, everything is still open for discussion, that is where we stand, she agrees with everyone on this call. She understands people have very strong opinions, but unfortunately, as of this moment in time, we do not have a definitive answer because the Mayor is still working on negotiations, which sometimes does take longer, she believes COVID is also contributing to that time lapse. She stated she agrees that the Council does not have any information, it has not been discussed with us.

### ORDINANCES

Adoption, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: None.

Introduction, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: None.

### INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTION

#### Resolution No. 20-228

Authorize an emergent appropriation prior to adoption of the 2020 current budget

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilman Cumming, to approve Resolution No. 20-228.

Council President Feeney asked does any councilmember wish to discuss? Council members replied no.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

#### Resolution No. 20-228

Authorize an emergent appropriation prior to adoption of the 2020 current budget

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen in that the Township of Washington is expected to enter into contracts, commitments or payments prior to the 2020 budget and no adequate provision has been made in the 2020 temporary budget for the aforesaid purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in the year 2020 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$5,816,839.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Washington in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of \$447,875 per the attached sheet;
2. Said emergency temporary appropriation will be provided for the in the 2020 budget.
3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director, Division of Local Government Services.

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilman Cumming, to adjourn.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan  
Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Time Noted: 8:12 p.m.

/s/ Susan Witkowski  
Township Clerk

/s/ Stacey Feeney  
Council President

Approved: March 4, 2021