

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

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE SESSION

August 18, 2014

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Conference Session in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Council President Thomas Sears with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Matthew Cavallo, Administrator.

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 the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek, to approve the following Closed Session Minutes: March 20, 2013; March 26, 2013; April 1, 2013; April 22, 2013; May 6, 2013; May 20, 2013; June 10, 2013; June 10, 2013 (2nd Closed Session); July 1, 2013; August 5, 2013; August 19, 2013; September 9, 2013. (Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek only).

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek.

Nays: None.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to approve the December 9, 2013 Closes Session Minutes. (Beckmeyer, Cascio only).

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio.

Nays: None.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek, to approve the following Closed Session Minutes: January 27, 2014; February 10, 2014; August 4, 2014 and August 4, 2014 Conference Minutes. (All Vote).

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to open the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra would like to speak of Memorial Field, and the prior council under Mayor Wenzel. Mrs. D'Ambra states at that time, Mayor Sobkowicz and Councilman Hrbek were on the council, there was a bid for a sod grant that went out with a grant writer. Mrs. D'Ambra further states this subject in a newspaper article dated March of 2008, and can be viewed via computer. The sod estimated cost was between \$48,000 and \$60,000. Also at that time the former Clerk, Mary Ann Ozment, developed a parks open space and recreation plan. That plan was to enhance Memorial Field, enlarge and correct drainage problems, new lights, plus a cell tower. Even in 2008 council was looking into money to offset the cost of the field, upgrade and maintain it and discussing sod or turf. Mrs. D'Ambra states about 30 years ago, she suggested to Mr. Wenzel another type of grass which is Zoysiagrass, which is a tough type of grass. Mrs. D'Ambra further states that a bid was awarded to Greenleaf in April of 2009 for \$11,100. That was to include the maintenance of Sherry, Gardner and Memorial Fields and another \$3,000 was added to spend for a supervisor to oversee what was going on. There is new sod between November 16 and November 30 of that year and it goes on every year after, 2010, 2011, 2012 and now we are still fighting turf

and grass. This has been going for years. Mrs. D'Ambra states she does not blame the head of the Recreation Department, Mr. Twomey, since he is disgusted on spending all of this money on grass. Mr. Sears states it is on the Priority List, and council is reviewing it. Mrs. D'Ambra would like someone to check into why the field in the back of the High School can't be used by the Township. Mr. Hrbek states that is the Varsity Baseball Field. Mrs. D'Ambra states it is a shame what the Township is going through. Someone needs to make a decision, sod or turf.

Ray Bernroth, 838 Crest Place – Mr. Bernroth would like to know why the Township Library is not opened on the weekends during the summer. If someone would like to visit a library, they have to go to Paramus or Hillsdale. Mr. Bernroth would like some of the money going towards the grass to be put into the library so it can be open on weekends during the summer.

David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle – Mr. Snyder would like to know if Mr. Poller has an answer to the question Mr. Snyder posed at the last meeting with regard to the cell tower. Mr. Poller states that he contacted ATT&T and ATT&T confirmed voice and data, the Verizon representative is on vacation and will be back Thursday. Mr. Snyder states with regard to the paving in front of the cell tower, why couldn't it have continued that circular driveway coming down. Mayor Sobkowicz states that they have their parameters; it is what they pay for. Mr. Snyder spoke at length with regard to the two signs in the Township that need to be enhanced and how important it is for character, first impression and curb appeal. Mr. Snyder continued that any investment in those signs would be an investment for the future. Mr. Snyder spoke of the new superintendent of the school, which he has heard is a good individual. Mr. Snyder feels this may be a good time to speak to him and discuss certain things. Mr. Snyder read from a grant written by the Department of Transportation for bike lanes going down Pascack Road. Mr. Snyder also states this is a great idea to separate bicyclists from vehicles. Mr. Sears would like a copy of what Mr. Snyder is reading from.

Julie Lipnick, 184 Finnerty Place – Ms. Lipnick states reference to the cell tower, if you have a smart phone you do have four bars, but the minute you use the phone it drops to two bars. Ms. Lipnick states she did call Verizon and was told there is a problem with the cell tower, is that true. Mr. Poller states no, Verizon has never told us that. Ms. Lipnick states her neighbor called and was told the same thing. Mr. Poller states he has no information regarding that. Mr. Poller did contact the representative from Verizon, he is coming back on Thursday, and he will contact him again. Ms. Lipnick states to kindly pass on to Azarian from me and all the neighbors we appreciate them repairing the fence and also repairing the sidewalk. Mr. Sears states he would like to thank Matt, our administrator, for getting involved and getting that mess cleared up. Mayor Sobkowicz states that Matt Cavallo, our administrator is very strict with them, and they are in court this week. Administrator Cavallo states that they are in court for not maintaining the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Mr. Hrbek – Mr. Hrbek states with regard to the library, they control their hours and they have their own budget. Mr. Hrbek suggests if anyone has complaints, the proper forum would be to attend the Library Board Meetings. Mr. Bernroth states he did speak to someone at the library, and they told him to speak to the council to give the library more money so they can stay open. Mr. Hrbek states when he joined council, he did have an idea of starting bike lanes down Sherry Field, to the high school all the way up to the lake.

Dr. Cascio – Dr. Cascio states that the grant states the funding is for bike lanes that lead to mass transit, and the Township does not have a lot of mass transit.

Mr. Beckmeyer – Mr. Beckmeyer spoke of an idea of being involved in mass transit with Westwood, and do a whole system. With regard to the grant, we would have to piggyback on the county, since the county is the owner of the streets and the Township is not. The Township can go in as a partner with the County, but the County would have to be the lead since the right of way is owned by the County.

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.

Dr. Cascio – Dr. Cascio would like to pull Resolution # 14-145 and vote on it separately. Dr. Cascio states as a council we have functions to pass ordinances, pass the budget and we have voting powers. Dr. Cascio further states that clearly the mayor enters into contracts with entities in the borough, not the council and Dr. Cascio feels a little uncomfortable passing this resolution. Dr. Cascio knows that it will be passed, but would like to vote on it separately.

Mr. Sears states that Resolution #14-145 will be voted on separately.

At this time the following Resolutions are approved: Resolution #14-146; Resolution #14-147; Resolution #14-148; Resolution #14-149; Resolution #14-150; Resolution #14-151; Resolution # 14-152; Resolution #14-153.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Resolution # 14-146

Engineering Escrow/ Misischia

WHEREAS, Frank and Barbara Misischia posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 2104, Lot 5, previously Block 2102, Lot 5.5, 692 Hillcrest Road; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated August 5, 2014, C.O. No. 03-093,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated June 24, 2014,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$383.00 to the above.

Resolution #14-147

Tax Refund/Battaglia/R&G Title Agency

WHEREAS, an overpayment was received for Block 4427, Lot 6.01, 2 Morgan Ct, former owner Joseph & Brenda Battaglia, for the 2nd quarter 2014. Payments were received on May 6, 2014 by R & G Title Agency (\$3,039.00.) and on May 7, 2014, (\$3,039.00) paid by lender of record.

WHEREAS, under the New Jersey Statute N.J.S.A. 54:3-27.2, overpayments must be refunded:

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 issue a refund to:

R & G Title Agency
11 DiNallo Street
South Hackensack, NJ 0760

REFUND: \$ 3,039.00

Resolution #14-148

Tax Refund/F&W Investments

WHEREAS, an overpayment was received for Block 3103, Lot 9, 667 Jefferson Avenue, owner F & W Investments, parcel was dissolved as part of a subdivision and taxes paid in the first half of the year were overbilled.

WHEREAS, under the New Jersey Statute N.J.S.A. 54:3-27.2, overpayments must be refunded:

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 issue a refund to:

F & W Investments, LLC
188 West Midland Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

REFUND: \$ 3,612.00

Resolution #14-149

Tax Refund/Tannenberg

WHEREAS, an overpayment was received for Block 4510, Lot 12, 478 Bergen Avenue, owner Tannberg, Kalle & Ines pre-paid an estimated 3rd quarter payment which resulted in an overpayment of taxes.

WHEREAS, under the New Jersey Statute N.J.S.A. 54:3-27.2, overpayments must be refunded:

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 issue a refund to:

Kalle and Ines Tannberg
478 Bergen Avenue
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

REFUND: \$ 688.13

Resolution # 14-150

Community Development Program

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Bergen under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and HOME Investment Partnership Act of 1990, as amended; and Emergency Solutions Grant Act of 2012, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to supersede an existing interlocal services cooperative agreement for the County and its people to benefit from this program; and

WHEREAS, an agreement has been proposed under which the Township of Washington and the County of Bergen in cooperation with other municipalities, will modify an Interlocal Services Program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et.seq.; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of Washington to enter into such an agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the agreement entitled "Three Year Cooperative Agreement": An Agreement Superseding the Cooperative Agreement dated July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2003, to clarify the planning and implementation procedures, and to enable the Municipality to make a Three Year irrevocable commitment to participate in the Community Development Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Act Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant program for the Program Years: 2015, 2016, 2017 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018) to be executed by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk in accordance with the provisions of law.

Resolution #14-151

Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Fire Department has advised the Mayor of obsolete equipment that is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36* authorizes the disposition of personal property not needed for public use without public sale when the estimated fair value of the property to be sold does not exceed the applicable bid threshold in any one sale; and

WHEREAS, the items of equipment set forth below have an aggregate value of less than the bid threshold:

- Ten (10) structural firefighting turnout jackets
- Thirteen (13) structural firefighting turnout pants
- Two (2) pair of structural firefighting boots; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to dispose of said equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the obsolete equipment referenced above which is no longer needed for public use by the Township shall be disposed of according to the manner as prescribed by law.

Resolution # 14-152

Recreation Refunds

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Township Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following recreation fees:

Ann Lawson
919 Ridgewood Boulevard East
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Summer Recreation Trips (2 Swim Club Trips, Monster Golf & Jackals Game)

Refund Amount: \$53.00

Karen Piazza (DePalma)
416 Howard Street
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Summer Recreation Trips (Bowling & Mini Golf)

Refund Amount: \$15.00

Mary Cordo
358 Colonial Boulevard
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Summer Recreation Trips (Movie Trip/Jackals Game)

Refund Amount: \$41.50

Jason Fox
28 Roberts Court
Township of Washington, NJ 07675

Refund for Summer Recreation (Jackals Game)

Refund Amount: \$28.00

Nerissa Paison
893 Washington Avenue
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Football Registration

Refund Amount: \$180.00

Dan Raspanti
610 Van Emburgh Avenue
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Cheerleading

Refund Amount: \$130.00

Resolution #14-153

Tax Lien/ 741 Wayne Place

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington (“Township”) issued and served a notice to Themis Zampamtis on June 13, 2013 for violations under Section 173-7F of the Code of the Township of Washington occurring at property commonly known as 741 Wayne Place, Township of Washington (Block 2208, Lot 3); and

WHEREAS, Themis Zampamtis failed to comply with such notice; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 173-24 of the Code of the Township of Washington, a Tax Lien Certificate dated August 18, 2014, was issued by the Township’s Code Enforcement Official in the amount of \$835.43, which is attached to this resolution, for approval by the Township Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Township Council hereby approves the Tax Lien Certificate dated August 18, 2014 attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Council hereby authorizes the Township Treasurer to take all appropriate action to impose on the property commonly known as 741 Wayne Place, Township of Washington (Block 2208, Lot 3), a municipal lien in the amount of the Tax Lien Certificate, whereupon such amount shall become a municipal lien on such property, and

said amount shall be added to and become and form a part of the real estate taxes assessed and levied upon said property, the same to bear interest at the same rate as real estate taxes, and to be collected and enforced by the same officers and in the same manner as real estate taxes.

SEPARATE VOTE/Resolution #14-145

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Calamari, to approve Resolution #14-145, Police Chief Contract/Glenn Hooper.

Ayes: Councilperson Beckmeyer, Calamari, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: Councilperson Cascio.

Resolution #14-145

Police Chief Contract/Glenn Hooper

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington (the "Township") is in need of a Chief of Police for the Township of Washington Police Department, and Glenn Hooper has been selected for appointment to that position; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council and Glenn Hooper, through his representative have engaged in negotiations for the purpose of agreeing upon and entering into a contract covering the terms of employment of Glenn Hooper for the position of Chief of Police for the Township of Washington Police Department; and

WHEREAS, these negotiated terms have been incorporated into an employment agreement between the Township and Glenn Hooper to serve as Chief of Police, which terms have been approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, that the Township Council hereby approves the employment agreement between the Township and Glenn Hooper to serve as Chief of Police, and further authorizes the Mayor to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Township of Washington.

Elaine Erlewein
Acting Township Clerk

Thomas Sears
Council President

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
CONFERENCE PORTION/PUBLIC SESSION
August 18, 2014**

Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Matthew Cavallo, Administrator.

UPDATES

Road Department – Administrator Cavallo states that D&L Paving is currently finishing up work in River Vale and plans to be in the Township Thursday or Friday, if not definitely next week. Administrator Cavallo states that there is very little concrete work to be done and they will be working east to west. The Township has not received an exact schedule; the concrete work should take about two days. They plan to be here September 8th, the milling and paving work expects to take about six days. There was a discussion with regard to handicap ramps. Administrator Cavallo states that item may not be in this grant, but Mr. Statile did indicate that there may be grants coming down for that.

VFW – Administrator Cavallo states there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday at 2:00 pm, and council also needs to have an internal meeting. Mayor Sobkowicz states that the time of the meeting does not work for her. Administrator Cavallo spoke to the administrator in Waldwick and he also spoke with a former official in River Vale, and they gave us an idea of what the Township would have to do on their part. Administrator Cavallo also spoke to Jacey Raimondo and she confirmed all of this. There was a discussion with regard to having a committee for this project. Administrator Cavallo states that the meeting on Wednesday is on; we will just discuss the time issue. Mr. Hrbek asks if there are going to be internal meetings. Administrator Cavallo states that Council President and Vice President came to the last meeting. Mr. Sears states he would like council to be involved. Administrator Cavallo states that everyone will be advised.

Firehouse – Mr. Beckmeyer states he conducted a walkthrough with Mr. Statile at the firehouse and they spoke of the floor among other things. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke at length with regard to the floor and the base. Mr. Beckmeyer suggested that the firehouse have a committee so council can get a report from them as to what they are recommending and what they need. Mr. Beckmeyer states that committee's recommendation will determine how we replace the floor. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke with regard to lowering the floor or replacing the floor, and if the fire department gets a bigger unit, we would end up ripping it up and lowering it again. Mayor Sobkowicz states she spoke to the director about a month ago and they had already formed a committee. Mr.

Beckmeyer state it all depends on what that committee tells council is needed. Mr. Sears states when he pulled out the fire truck the front end went down. Mr. Beckmeyer asks Administrator Cavallo to put a call out to Mr. Statile and ask him about flow able fill. Mr. Beckmeyer states this is something that can be used to stabilize the floor enough until it can be fixed.

Ecology – There was a discussion with regard to the draft of the ordinance that was sent out. Mr. Hrbek states he believed that the discussions were ongoing, and the intent was not to jump into anything. Mr. Hrbek further states that he believes council was looking to moving forward, identifying the problem and if there was a problem to resolve it. Mr. Hrbek states he knows that council didn't reach any decision and council didn't vote on enforcing the sticker policy. Mr. Hrbek states he doesn't know if it was an administrative decision or a decision within the department to enforce it, he believes it was taken completely out of context and it was not a decision of the council to enforce it or insist on the sticker policy to be enforced. Mr. Hrbek states he

August 18, 2014

want it to be very clear that it was never council's intent to enforce the enforcement of the policy, we wanted to find loopholes and find best ways to close them for the benefit of the resident. Mr. Beckmeyer states he agrees, the intent was to discuss it and not shut down the dump. However, Mr. Beckmeyer thinks council dropped the ball. Once council starts talking about something, and it get out there, talking about permits, council should follow up, relax it until we can solve it. Mr. Beckmeyer further states employees are worrying about their jobs, they are following an ordinance that is on the books, in a way council dropped the ball by not giving instructions. The Clerk was there on Saturday, and that can be continued for a while. Mayor Sobkowicz states that residents were happy that permits were available. Forty one permits were given on Saturday. A majority of the residents that came in for permits on Saturday received the message through the email blast or when they went to the Road Department. Mr. Hrbek states is there any way we can use proof of residency. Mayor Sobkowicz states that now you have to be consistent with what is happening. Mayor Sobkowicz states we sold 700 permits this month already. Acting Clerk Elaine Erlewein states 70 permits. Dr. Cascio states we are just trying to nickel and dime our residents, they pay enough taxes already, they should just show proof of residency, license or registration should be enough. Dr. Cascio states refunds should be given, each resident should be sent a check. Mayor Sobkowicz states this has been going on for years. Dr. Cascio states then the ordinance should be changed. Mayor Sobkowicz states it was in the council minutes that you need a permit to dump. Mr. Sears states he has the minutes and there is nothing in the minutes that states council is going to enforce it. Mr. Beckmeyer states that there is an ordinance on the books that states a permit is required to use the dump and nothing that is stated during this meeting here is going to change it. Mr. Beckmeyer states it is in the books, you have to enforce it, and it is not up

to council to enforce it. Dr. Cascio states the person at the dump dropped the ball. Dr. Cascio further states the received numerous complaints from residents who went to the dump last weekend. Dr. Cascio would like to make a motion that residents just need to show proof of residency, such as a driver's license and do away with the permits. Mr. Poller states that cannot be done by resolution. There was a discussion with regard to changes that were in discussion in amending the ordinance. It was decided that council would hold off until all members read/went over the draft email of the ordinance. Mr. Beckmeyer states in the meantime, if someone needs to purchase a permit someone needs to be there on Saturday. Dr. Cascio states the enforcement officer will be the DPW. There is DPW staff on site on Saturday. All permits issued will be recorded until further decisions are made with regard to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Calamari to go into closed session.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Elaine Erlewein

Acting Township Clerk

Thomas Sears

Council President