

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING

JUNE 11, 2012

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council President, Richard Hrbek. Members present: Steven Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Richard Hrbek. Absent: None. Mr. Goetz arrived at 7:50 p.m. and Mr. Beckmeyer arrived at 10:05 p.m. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Catherine Steinel, 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 Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

The Clerk read the total of various bill paid, a copy of which is attached and made part of these minutes.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Sobkowicz informed the public that Al Cundall, long-time resident of the township, passed away today. He was an active member of the community as an election poll worker, Ambulance Corps. member and VFW member. The Mayor thanked all involved in organizing and marching in the Memorial Day Parade. Jim Malone was Grand Marshall and Congressman Scott Garrett was the guest speaker. She talked about asking the residents to do something special for veterans on that day. She mentioned the great job the committee did on putting together the event and how lots of parents didn't go away that weekend because of the parade. The Fire Department held their 9:00 a.m. service before the parade which honors firemen who passed away during the year. The Mayor attended the Girl Scout bridging ceremony. She spoke to students at Washington School at a special program. The Fire Department had their antique car and motorcycle show on Sunday, June 10. Also, on June 10 she, Mr. Goetz and Dr. Cascio attended an Eagle Scout award ceremony for two scouts, one from the Township of Washington. The Mayor said that she attended the Our Lady of Good Council picnic at the Washington Township Swim Club and everyone had a good time, especially the kids. Also, the annual Lacrosse picnic was well attended. Lt. Hackbarth and Officer Montalbano brought an educational "No Drinking while Driving" program to the high school for the seniors. Rich's Automotive loaned the high school a wrecked car to remind people of the dangers of drinking and driving. The Police Academy program is full. Chief Ciocco and Captain Hooper researched costs for police dispatching and the figures will be given out at tonight's meeting. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke about a little league tournament and congratulated the two teams from the Township who competed. Shredding and E-waste Recycling Day will be June 23, 2012. A new fulltime employee has been hired in the DMF. The DMF is desnagging the brook along the high school area. The sewer jet is back from being repaired and will be put to work. Two pieces of equipment for the DMF will be asked for later in this evening's meeting. Ideas for projects are being discussed before applying to the county for the open space grant, although most likely the township will ask to use the grant money towards Memorial Field. Mayor Sobkowicz said that Administrator Steinel is addressing many issues and concerns including CCO's, property liens, police union contract negotiations, police dispatching, inter-local agreements with Paramus, meeting with library officials, meetings with our Township planner for an overlay of the VFW property and a meeting with representatives of Emerson to address a possible shared dispatch service. The Mayor stated that she has had discussions regarding Verizon cell tower and that an application will come before the planning board as early as July. She

said that she is putting a freeze on the budget that will begin June 12. All requests need Mayor approval prior to purchases. She gave a recap of overtime in the Police Department. She stated that the Planning Board does not approve of the decision of the Zoning Board on the Sky Trading application and will be writing a letter to the Zoning Board stating their opinion. There was a meeting of Township officials with the State Turnpike Authority in regards to Mr. Malazuk's driveway relocation. She thanked Councilman D'Urso and Bill Cicchetti for their response letters in the local newspapers in regards to the Exit 168 situation. She gave the recycling amounts, comparing figures from last year to this year to date. On June 19th a special ceremony in Westwood will honor the lifesaving efforts of several citizens including one from the Township.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Councilman Cascio – Dr. Cascio said that he is glad to see that scouting is popular in the area and he is proud of the Boy Scouts who received their Eagle awards during the recent ceremony. He thanked all the men and women who have served our country in wartime and stated that they should be honored every day for their service. The girl's and boy's Westwood High School track team did very well this year, with one girl coming in second at the state level. The girl's team has been named County Team this year, and they will be competing in nationals. He thanked the businesses in the Township for their support of the track teams. He thanked his fellow Councilmen and the Mayor for their hard efforts preparing the budget this year and keeping the tax rate very low. He congratulated all graduating seniors in Westwood High School and surrounding schools for their accomplishments.

Councilman D'Urso – Mr. D'Urso said that he received a call from the Woodcliff Lake Chief of Police and they had a productive conversation in regards to Exit 171. He will be meeting with the Chief to look into finding a solution to the traffic problems occurring at Exit 168. He stated that on June 19, 2012 the Fire Department held their inspection and dinner. The Memorial Day parade was a success and he thanked all involved for their hard efforts. He felt that the ceremony remembering and honoring those who died in wartime is the most important part of the event and that the day is meant to be solemn and reflective. He said that he was asked why the Council and Mayor do not get along by one resident and feels that the issue should be addressed in the near future. Another resident thanked him for the time and efforts the Council and Mayor have put into researching the Memorial Field project. He said that he went to an event at the Knights of Columbus and thanked them for their service to the community. Mr. D'Urso thanked Roy Scherer and Jack Oppelt for the time and hard work they did to put on the Fire Department's Annual Classic Car Show and thanked Kevin Lynch of Oritani Bank for sponsoring the show. He thanked Porky Products, the company he works for, for their donations to local fund raising and community events. He said that he is a member of the Planning Board and realizes that the work of the municipal boards is challenging and often the decisions made are difficult. He gave as an example the Zoning Board recent decision on the convenience store. He said that he appreciates the time and hard work they put into their positions. He stated that the Mayor has recently taken him off the police negotiation committee for reasons he did not agree with and would like to dialog with the Mayor in regard to the situation. He said that the Mayor and Council are a team and should all work together. Great strides have been made in the police negotiations for all parties. He also hopes that other issues can be resolved by working together including improving the onerous environment in which the employees of town hall have to work.

Councilman Goetz – Mr. Goetz said that he attended the Firemen’s inspection and dinner, the Eagle Scout awards ceremony, and the Firemen’s car show. He thanked the Zoning Board for their hard work; Sky Trading took a lot of time and efforts on the part of all members.

Council President Hrbek – Mr. Hrbek congratulated the boy scouts, girl scouts and graduates. He thanked everyone involved in the Memorial Day event as well as the municipal boards for their volunteerism, dedication and hard work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Goetz to approve the minutes for April 9, 2012, Public and Conference and the minutes for April 23, 2012 Public, Conference, Closed

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D’Urso, Goetz, Hrbek

Nays: None

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. D’Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to open the public portion of the meeting.

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D’Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

Rosa D’Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D’Ambra stated that the Township has opened a can of worms on the corner of Washington Avenue and Pascack Road. She said that the Zoning Board has set a precedent with their decision on Sky Trading and now every corner in the Township is open to commercial zoning. She asked Council if the Planning Board or Council can reverse the decision of the Zoning Board. She asked if the property will revert back to a zone B residential property once the structure is demolished. She asked if the county needs to approve the application. Mr. Poller stated that the Planning Board cannot reverse Zoning Board decisions. The Council can hear an appeal. The zoning of a B zone has not been changed for the applicant. Mrs. D’Ambra asked why the master plan was not followed. She said that the garage has always looked like a dump and people in the community agree.

Raymond Bernroth, 838 Crest Place – Mr. Bernroth said that he agrees with everything Mrs. D’Ambra stated. He said that there are still potholes at the end of Crest Place. He said that he is glad that the cell tower is on the fast track.

Linda Murphy, 675 McKinley Avenue – Mrs. Murphy said that last year she requested that Clinton Avenue, McKinley Avenue, Jefferson Avenue be added to the 7,000 pound limit ordinance and it still is not done. The purpose is to avert disaster. A recent telephone pole repair caused major traffic tie ups on these side roads. She said that the Zoning Board decision on Sky Trading is not final. She has contacted several attorneys. She asked Mr. Poller what type of appeal could be pursued. She stated that vent pipes are not on the plans; the new convenience store does not give enough buffers to neighboring residents; among other issues. New plans need to be drawn with the changes requested by the Zoning Board so the application is not over. Mrs. Murphy stated that the traffic on the corner of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue is going to get worse with new construction in neighboring towns and the reopening of Pascack Valley Hospital.

Sam Batraki, 329 Hudson Avenue – Mr. Batraki said that the air conditioning unit outside of Town Hall has gotten louder and is causing quality of life issues for his family. Mr. Hrbek said that he will have the Administrator address his problem.

Steven Malazuk, 925 Washington Avenue – Mr. Malazuk thanked the Administrator and Mr. Schroeder for setting up a meeting with the Turnpike

Authority in regards to his driveway. Some concessions to the original driveway plans were made on his behalf.

Tom Strickland, 107 Cosman Street – Mr. Strickland asked if there is going to be more desnagging of the brook further than behind the high school. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that there will be a continuation of the desnagging but does not know exactly how far at this time.

Al Gillio, 746 Wayne Place – Mr. Gillio said that he hopes that there will be parking considerations made around the Memorial Field area when the field improvements are made. Residents living around the field have problems getting in and out of their driveways and problems driving due to parked and double parked cars when the field is being used. This happens especially during game times

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman asked about the Open Space Grant resolution on the consent agenda this evening. He asked if the resolution was to file an application or accept the matching grant. Mayor Sobkowicz said that it was to accept the \$25,000 matching grant. The grant money will not be used until Memorial Field plans are finalized. The money is intended for improvements and replacement of playground equipment. The grant is good until July 2013. Mr. Ullman asked if the goose scooper that the Township purchased has been used. Mayor Sobkowicz said that she did not know but would find out. He asked if a block time study has been done by the consulting firm hired by the Township for the athletic field study. Mr. Hrbek said that a block time field use study or master plan was not done although the Council requested one early in the process. The consulting firm worked with individuals and groups within the Township and went right into the field improvement options as requested by those residents. Mr. Ullman said that if we did not get what was requested we should step back and look further into other options. Were the consultants asked if there is an intermediate step that can be taken, fix the drainage problems and use a quality of sod that can stand up to sports? Mr. Hrbek said the consultant was asked to look into different options but only came back with turf.

Timothy Ritter, 699 Jacquelyn Road - Mr. Ritter stated that at the beginning of each year, each sport is allocated dates that they have use of the Township fields. Mr. Hrbek said that a block time study is not the same as that type of schedule. He gave an explanation of Mr. Ullman's question.

Vincent Karabatsos, 163 Walnut Street – Mr. Karabatsos said that in the town where he grew up there were not as many organized sports. Kids today play team sports and use the athletic fields all the time instead of just playing. Fields are being overused by all the sports, not just football. The athletic field needs effort to maintain even if the Township decides not to sod.

Peter Calamari, 28 Gabriel Way – Mr. Calamari stated that perhaps the Township should get the master field plan study done before making decisions.

ORDINANCE:

The Clerk read Ordinance #12-10 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTEES OF THE TOWNSHIP IN CERTAIN ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST SAID OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTEES.

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso seconded by Dr. Cascio to introduce and pass Ordinance 12-10 at second reading by title.

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

Nays: Councilperson Hrbek

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

Ayes: Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that Ordinance No. 12-10 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTEES OF THE TOWNSHIP IN CERTAIN ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST SAID OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTEES be read on second reading and the public hearing be held thereon pursuant to law.

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to open the public hearing and there being no questions or comments was closed on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio.

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

Nays: None

Before Mr. Hrbek called for the motion, he explained why he voted against the ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to pass Ordinance 12-10 at second and final reading, submit same to the Mayor for her approval and thereafter be published according to law.

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz

Nays: Councilperson Hrbek

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 Dr. Cascio.

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

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, Dawn and Girolamo LoPiccolo posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 3103, Lot 38-41, 640 McKinley Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated December 8, 2011, C.O. No.06-160,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated December 7, 2011,

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 \$543.00 to the above.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the following Plenary Retail Consumption License renewals for one year, effective July 1, 2012 be and are hereby approved:

TJG, Inc., t/a Seasons Catering 644 Pascack Road 0266-33-005-004	CB Washington Twsp LLC t/a Charlie Browns 95 Linwood Avenue 0266-33-001-006
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RJC & S Corporation 716 Van Emburgh Avenue 0266-33-002-007	Amy LLC t/a The Dog House Saloon & Grill 270 Pascack Road 0266-33-003-008
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BC Boys LLC t/a Bacari Grill 800 Ridgewood Road 0266-33-004-007	
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following Plenary Retail Distribution License renewal for one year, effective July 1, 2012 be and are hereby approved:

Township Liquors, Inc.
t/a Township Liquors
309 Pascack Road
0266-44-006-008

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following Club License renewals for one year, effective July 1, 2012 be and are hereby approved:

Washington Township Recreation Club
Ridgewood Blvd. North & E
0266-31-008-001

Washington Township Columbian Club
79 Pascack Road
0266-31-009-001

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Municipal Clerk be and is hereby authorized to sign and deliver the respective licensing certificates on behalf of the Township of Washington.

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington has entered into a three year Cooperative Agreement with the County of Bergen as provided under the Interlocal Services Act NSA 40A:8A-1 et. seq. and Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, said Agreement requires that the Governing Body appoint a representative and alternate and that the Chief Executive Officer name a representative and alternate for the term starting July 1, 2012 through the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body hereby appoints Glenn Beckmeyer as its representative and Richard Hrbek as its alternate to participate on the Community Development Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Catherine Navarro-Steinel is hereby appointed as the representative from the Chief Executive Officer and Bernadette Pomykala, as her alternate with consent of the Governing Body.

WHEREAS, the township of Washington ("Township") issued and served a notice to Edward Bonner on May 9, 2012 for violations under Section 173-7C of the code of the Township of Washington occurring at property commonly known as 508 Ridgewood Boulevard North, Township of Washington (Block 2303, Lot 17); and

WHEREAS, Edward Bonner 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 June 7, 2012, was issued by the Township's Code enforcement Official in the amount of \$960.96, 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 June 7, 2012 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 508 Ridgewood Boulevard North, Township of Washington (Block 2303, Lot 17), 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.

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington has by law been administering a LOSAP program for the Ambulance Corps. volunteers; and

Whereas, the Planning Administrator has received the list of volunteers from the Ambulance Corps. who qualify under the program; and

WHEREAS, the list has been reviewed and deemed accurate; and

WHEREAS, it is required under the law that the Township Council of the Township of Washington approve the attached list; and

WHEREAS, the list will be returned to the Township of Washington Ambulance Corps. and Fire Department for a 30 (thirty) day posting;

NOW, TEHREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after the 30 (thirty) day posting the Planning Administrator will issue a check to cover volunteers on the attached list to Lincoln Financial.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Washington wish to enter into a grant agreement with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using a \$25,000 grant award from the 2011 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") for the project entitled Memorial Field Park & Playground Equipment Upgrades located in Block 2325, Lot 1 on the tax maps of the Township of Washington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Mayor Janet Sobkowicz to be a signatory to the aforesaid grant agreement CONTRACT;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Jacqueline Do, CFO to sign all County of Bergen Payment Vouchers submitted in conjunction with the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council recognize that the Township of Washington is liable for a dollar for dollar match for any funds awarded in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements;

This resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Washington at a meeting on June 11, 2012.

WHEREAS, the Uniformed Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq., allows any municipality or county to enter into a contract with any other municipality or county for the joint provision of any services within their joint jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington (the "Township") and the Borough of Paramus (the "Borough") seek to enter into an Interlocal Agreement wherein the Borough will provide street sweeping services for the Township four (4) times per year; and

WHEREAS, the Township has reviewed and approves of the "Interlocal Agreement For The Provision Of Street Sweeping Services" as on file with the Office of the Township Clerk for the one year period commencing June 1, 2012 and ending on May 31, 2013 and the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the "Interlocal Agreement For The Provision Of Street Sweeping Services" as on file with the Office of the Township Clerk.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Richard Hrbek, Council President

