

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

PUBLIC PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING

October 21, 2013

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Council President Steve Cascio with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Joseph D'Urso, Fred Goetz, Richard Hrbek, Steven Cascio. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Absent: 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 the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso seconded by Mr. Goetz to open the general public discussion.

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

Nays: None

Sharon McDonough – She was at the meeting to clarify some things. She does a lot of volunteering in this town and recently a neighbor has been calling up and putting complaints against her. She admits that there has been a mess in her yard for a while but said that it has been coming from the neighbor's yard, and it is cleaned up now. The neighbor is still calling the Township with more complaints. She then stated that the neighbor called the Mayor and the Mayor was yelling about her and she stated instead of the Mayor yelling about her, why didn't the Mayor just call her. She then called up Mr. Tucker of the Zoning Board because she wanted to ask Mr. Tucker what could be done to make it right. She did have some wood on her deck and backyard, which was put in a dumpster bag and the company did come out and pick it up but the bag broke and there was still some wood in the backyard. She then called Margaret Koesel, because she was going out of town for the weekend and told Mrs. Koesel she knew that things were happening. Mrs. Koesel advised her to call Mr. Tucker. She then called Mr. Tucker twice and he never got back to her and then she found out that there was another complaint against her and she is in contempt of court. She then asked Mr. Tucker why he didn't get back to her and he told her that he cannot return her phone calls because he is taking her to court. She then asked who is she supposed to speak to so she can be told you have to do this and that to get it right and you have this long to fix it. She then stated she has lived in this town for a long time, and she does not understand why this person in this town has so much power. People listen because this woman screams and yells. She would like to know why Mr. Tucker can't talk to her to help her figure out what can be done. The Mayor then stated the first complaint did not come to the Mayor but it came to Councilman D'Urso. The Mayor was told that Councilman D'Urso had been at the neighbor's house and could not understand why the neighbor was allowing the mess next door. The Mayor then stated that other complaints did come in. Councilman D'Urso comments that his name has been coming up a lot lately. The Mayor stated it was asked of her what happened and she is now telling everyone what happened. The Mayor stated that she told Mrs. Steinel, administrator, about the problem and Mrs. Steinel informed Mr. Tucker. The Mayor did receive several other phone calls that the stuff was still there. The Mayor then stated that Ms. McDonough did call the Mayor while the Mayor was at a Planning Board meeting and the Mayor did return Ms. McDonough's phone call twice, but Ms. McDonough never called the Mayor back. The Mayor believes that Mr. Tucker or someone took pictures and that a letter was issued for the removal of the stuff. The Mayor then

indicated that she herself did drive by a couple of times and the stuff was still there. She said that they did give her some time to remove it, but this has been going on for months and months. The Mayor does not understand why Ms. McDonough was not advised of the court date. Ms. McDonough did receive the postcard from the post office to go pick up the letter between the hours of 10:30-2:30 but Ms. McDonough works during the week and also on Saturdays and Sundays. If it was sent out regular mail Ms. McDonough would have received it. Ms. McDonough then stated that she is being held in contempt of court and she is going to go to trial. Ms. McDonough states that there was stuff there and yes the yard is a mess. Ms. McDonough further stated it cost her \$1200 to clean up the yard and now with everything else it is over \$2000, but her neighbor is still going for the jugular and even trying to get other neighbors to sign a complaint. None of the other neighbors will sign it. The Mayor indicated if everything is cleaned up, we will then take care of the court. Ms. McDonough stated why didn't Mr. Tucker call me, talk to her and help her with this. The Mayor replied she does not know what Mr. Tucker said to Ms. McDonough. Ms. McDonough stated Mr. Tucker did not return any of her phone calls because Ms. McDonough was issued a summons. The Mayor will check with the administrator as the administrator is not here today. She said that she will be in tomorrow and the Mayor stated that they will call Ms. McDonough and the Mayor asked Ms. McDonough to then return her call. Ms. McDonough stated she will return the Mayor's call. Dr. Cascio asked Mr. D'Urso if he had anything to add. Mr. D'Urso then stated the Mayor is throwing his name around. Mayor Sobkowicz added that it is how the Mayor was told it started.

Raymond Bernroth, 838 Crest Place – Wanted to compliment the food vendors at Town Day. The vendors did a terrific job and the hot dogs and hamburgers were wonderful. He did have a question why there are no signs at crosswalks that state you must stop for pedestrians, which is a state law. He also stated he understands that the cell tower is going to start going up tomorrow, which he feels is a wonderful thing. He would like an answer with regard to the signs that indicate you must stop for pedestrians. Dr. Cascio replied as a council we have not discussed it. The Mayor indicated that she did speak to the police department and they are not in favor of putting up those signs. The Mayor continued that the police department feels that they are more unsafe than they are safe and the police are not in favor of having them on the street. Mr. Bernroth asked how can the signs be unsafe and that it is state law. He asked if she was saying that people don't count. The Mayor replied that Mrs. Steinel did look into it with the police department and that is the answer that was given. Mr. Bernroth stated that maybe the Mayor should talk with the police department again. The Mayor replied she will. Mr. Bernroth stated that she should tell the police department that there is a resident who feels that pedestrians count and that motorists should stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk. It is a state law that you have to stop. The Mayor replied she will try again. Dr. Cascio stated it will be on the next agenda. Mr. Bernroth thanked council.

There being no further comments or questions, the General Public Discussion were closed on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Hrbek.
Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek, Cascio
Nays: None.

Ordinances

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 13-22 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SCHEDULE FOR NO STOPPING OR STANDING DURING CERTAIN HOURS was introduced and passed at first reading at a meeting of the

Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 21st day of October, 2013;

A motion was made by Mr. Goetz, seconded by Dr. Cascio to introduce and pass Ordinance 13-22 at first reading by title.

Dr. Cascio stated that he does second it, but there is a slight revision to the ordinance. Dr. Cascio further stated that on the first page it has the name Hickory Street marked south on the ordinance and it would be west. On Palm Street it should not be east but it should be south. Dr. Cascio further indicated Hickory Street runs north and south, but there would be parking on the west and east side. Hickory Street would be west and Palm Street would be south. You are referring to the side of the street which you are limiting the parking.

Mr. Beckmeyer also asked if dialogue could be set up with George School and the Board of Education to see if they could come up with something because Mr. Beckmeyer feels that this is not going to solve the problem. Dr. Cascio asks Mr. Beckmeyer if he would like to be a liaison to the school, to talk with them. Mr. Beckmeyer replied yes. Dr. Cascio asked if anyone would like to join him and Mr. Goetz indicated he would.

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

Nays: None.

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

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

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, Ordinance 13-22 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE SCHEDULE FOR NO STOPPING OR STANDING DURING CERTAIN HOURS was introduced and passed at first reading by title at meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 21st day of October, 2013;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 12th day of November, 2013 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 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hrbek stated he would like to remove number four for discussion. Dr. Cascio asked if anyone else would like anything else removed. Dr. Cascio then asked Mr. Hrbek what he would like to discuss. Mr. Hrbek stated he has a concern about it. With regard to cancelling some grants, either they are used up or they are not and are we going to use them. Mr. Hrbek then stated one was fireman assistance and there was \$3000 available. He asked if any of it was used. Mr. Hrbek stated that he was trying to understand what it was and if there is any money left on the table there and if it is something that we just decided not to use. The Mayor stated all of it was not used and this was the recommendation of the auditor. Mr. Hrbek asked what was it for and the Mayor replied she does not know what it was for and she does not know what year it was for either. Dr. Cascio asked would that be in the same year as the reserve and the Mayor replied no, different years. Mr. Hrbek stated he would be curious to find out what year it was and how old it is. It is leaving almost \$9000 of unused money and Mr. Hrbek would be interested to know if these are no longer available to us to take advantage of and is that what is indicated

by Mayor Sobkowicz. The Mayor replied that the town didn't use all of the money at the time. Mr. Hrbek asked are we sure we can't find something to use it for and if it is available to us. The Mayor indicated you would have to ask the administrator. The administrator prepared this based on the audit. Dr. Cascio replied we can table it for next time until we can ask the administrator. Mr. Hrbek replied he was just curious if there was money left over and if we can try and use it. Dr. Cascio replied we will make a motion to table it until the administrator gets back. The Mayor replied we have to talk about it.

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

#4 was pulled from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Community Development Grant of \$3,274 has been proposed by the Township of Washington for Senior Citizen Activities in the municipality of the Township of Washington; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Service Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of the Township of Washington; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the aforesaid CD funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Township of Washington hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County community Development Program so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington will receive \$3,274.00 from the 2013 Community Development Block Grant Senior Activities and wishes to amend the 2013 Budget to include this amount as revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Washington hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2013 in the sum of \$3,274.00 which is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues

Special Item of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written
Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Additional Revenues offset by appropriations.

Appropriations:

Community Development Block Grant Senior Activities
FY 2013

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$3,274.00 is and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(a) Operations excluded from 5% CAPS

Public & Private Programs offset by Revenues

Community Development Block Grant FY 2013

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution is forwarded to the Director of the Local Government Services for approval.

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington has received grant award for \$2,442.00 from the Department of Law and Public Safety for the purpose of Police Body Armor and wishes to amend its 2013 budget to include this amount as Current Fund revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Township of Washington in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2013 in the sum of\$2,442.

Which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior

Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services

Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations

Reserve for Body Armor Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of \$2,442

Be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(a) Operations Excluded from Caps

Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues

Reserve for Body Armor Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

WHEREAS, Celeste Marino posted engineering and soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 2505, Lot 7, 993 East Glen Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated October 3, 2013, C.O. No. 06-296,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated September 24, 2013,

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 \$120.00 to the above.

During the Conference Session a short discussion was held with regard to the following resolution of the FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Goetz to approve the FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM.

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

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, on November 6 through November 9, 2013, the New Jersey State Attorney General's Office, in collaboration with various state agencies and in cooperation with the New Jersey Judiciary, will be sponsoring a FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM designed to offer an opportunity for individuals wanted for nonviolent offenses in New Jersey to turn themselves in and, in the same day, remove any warrant filed against them and to adjust the underlying municipal or state summons or complaint filed against them; and

WHEREAS, individuals that qualify for this program must report to the Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church at 661 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on those days; and

WHEREAS, a Hotline has been established so that residents may get more information as to how they may avail themselves of this opportunity at www.FSSNJ.com or by calling 855-FSS-NJ12; and

WHEREAS, this governing body supports the Attorney General's Office and the FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM, as it will allow many otherwise law-abiding citizens to resolve warrants and outstanding complaints and criminal cases against them so that they may no longer live under the cloud of being a fugitive and to get a fresh start.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Mayor and Council do hereby support the FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM, the New Jersey State Office of the Attorney General and all other program collaborators and participants based upon the significant benefit afforded to the residents of the State.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Dr. Steven Cascio, Council President