
AGENDA

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NJ

**February 20, 2024
6:00 PM**

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Express-Times and Star Ledger and posted on the Boroughs website stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL Brown, Cox, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Musick and Conry.

2024 BUDGET Discussions

AUDIENCE/COUNCIL APPEARANCE

Remarks, petitions, statements and testimony from guests

MINUTES

February 6, 2024

REPORTS

Committee Reports

VOUCHERS-Approval of Claims

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda-Continued

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Firefighter application for : Jason Roldan

ORDINANCES 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 2024-01

An Ordinance of the Borough of Washington Amending Section 94-62 entitled, “Signs,” and the Downtown Redevelopment Plan Regarding Freestanding Signs on Sidewalks in Certain Zones.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2024-48

TRANSFER

RESOLUTION 2024-49

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

RESOLUTION 2024-50

RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 2024-51

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RESOLUTION 2024-54

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD ON THE 2024 FIRST QUARTER SEWER AND GARBAGE INSTALLMENT

RESOLUTION 2024-55

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RECREATION FEES FOR 2024

RECAP

COUNCIL REMARKS

Remarks, Reports, Discussions

February 20, 2024

Draft-subject to change

EXECUTIVE SESSION-if needed

ADJOURNMENT _____ P.M.

February 20, 2024

ORDINANCE 2024-01

An Ordinance of the Borough of Washington Amending Section 94-62 entitled, "Signs," and the Downtown Redevelopment Plan Regarding Freestanding Signs on Sidewalks in Certain Zones

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council seek to revise the regulations concerning freestanding signs on public sidewalks within the commercial zoning districts (B-1, B-2, and Downtown Redevelopment Area) in Washington Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, that the Code of the Borough of Washington be amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 94-62(C)(7) of the Code of the Borough of Washington is hereby amended as follows (additions noted in bold italic **thus** and deletions noted in strikethrough ~~thus~~):

In addition to the foregoing provisions, the following requirements shall apply to signs in the **B-1 Highway Business District and B-2 Central Business District**. Where there is a conflict between the provisions of Subsection C(1) to (6) above and the provisions of this Subsection C(7), the provisions of this subsection shall apply.

Section 2. Section 94-62(C)(7)(d)(1) of the Borough Code regarding freestanding signs certain zones is hereby amended as follows (additions noted in bold italic **thus** and deletions noted in strikethrough ~~thus~~):

(1) **Frees**Standing signs. ~~S~~**Freestanding** signs, that is, moveable "A-frame" or ~~easel~~ **other signs designed for and** generally placed along a sidewalk or other area intended for the view of pedestrians, shall be permitted, provided that any such sign, **except for "feather signs"**, shall not exceed six square feet in total size per side. **Feather signs may not exceed 12 feet in height and 2.5 feet in width.** The maximum width of such signs shall be 24 inches and the maximum height of such signs shall be 36 inches. The overall height of the sign, including a support frame, shall not exceed 42 inches. The following **additional** limitations shall apply:

[a] Only A-frame, ~~feather or easel-frame~~**and other signs which are designed for, and generally used on sidewalks,** signs are permitted.

[b] No more than one **freestanding** sign shall be permitted for each business and only first-floor businesses may use such signs.

[c] ~~S~~**Freestanding signs** may be displayed only during the hours when the business is open.

[d] ~~S~~**Freestanding signs shall be constructed of weather resistant materials (no paper, fiberboard, foamcore board, corrugated paper or unfinished wood materials shall be permitted).** Signs may be constructed of painted wood, metal or plastic with professional quality painted messages, chalkboards, dry erase boards or boards with changeable letters. No other construction materials are permitted. **S**~~F~~**reestanding signs shall be constructed and/or weighted so as to be impervious to the effects of strong winds. S**~~F~~**reestanding signs shall be maintained at all times in good repair and shall not be permitted to weather, fade, peel, crack or otherwise deteriorate.**

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[e] ***Freestanding signs*** may be located only adjacent to the building within the side property lines as extended, in an entrance alcove.. ***The placement of freestanding signs must allow for at least a 5-foot wide unobstructed pathway.***

[f] No ***freestanding*** sign shall block pedestrian movement, access to benches, access to parking meters, ***fire hydrants***, or access to motor vehicles. The Building or Zoning Officer may direct that any ***freestanding*** sign which violates this chapter or creates a safety hazard be removed, modified or relocated.

[g] Only businesses registered with the Borough in accordance with Section 54 of the Borough Code may display a freestanding sign.

[h] The business must provide the Borough with proof of insurance with a minimum liability coverage of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) and must specifically provide coverage for the sidewalk area the freestanding sign will be displayed and the Borough must be a named insured on the policy.

[g] Notwithstanding anything contained in this ordinance to the contrary, the Zoning Officer, Fire Marshal, and/or Chief of Police shall have the right to prohibit or further restrict the location of any freestanding sign which, in their sole discretion, they deem by virtue of the freestanding sign's construction or location, to constitute a safety hazard to the public.

Section 3. The Page 40, Signage” of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan is hereby amended to add the following:

Freestanding signs shall be permitted on the public sidewalks in compliance with Borough Code Section 94-62(C)(7)(d)(1)

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to such inconsistencies.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

Introduce: January 16, 2024

Public Hearing/Adoption: February 20, 2024

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION 2024-48
TRANSFER**

WHEREAS, various 2023 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills represent obligations of the prior fiscal year, and were not covered at the time of transfers between the 2023 budget in the last two months of 2023; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after close of the fiscal year are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and all transfers to be made from unexpended balances to those which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months of the succeeding year:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the transfer in the amount of \$3,500.00 be made between the 2023 Budget Appropriation Reserves as follows:

Description	Category	From	To
General Government:			
Tax Assessor	Other Expenses		\$3,000.00
Mayor and Council	Other Expenses	\$3,500.00	
Judicial			
Public Defender	Other Expenses		\$ 500.00
Total:		\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00

RESOLUTION 2024-49
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND
DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management requires each municipality to appoint an “Emergency Management Coordinator” pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A9-40.1 and Directive Number 102 Issued by the State Office of Emergency Management March 15, 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management for the Borough shall serve a term of three years, and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for the planning, activating, coordinating and the conduct of Emergency Management operations with the municipality; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Washington to comply with the requirements set forth under provision N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.1 of the State Disaster Control Act and Directive Number 102;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, THAT Ron Hartrum is hereby appointed as the Emergency Management Coordinator, Joe Fox Sr, as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for a term expiring December 31, 2026.

RESOLUTION 2024-50
A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE
As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on October 7, 2021 to FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY, PO BOX 669507, DALLAS, TX 75266-9507, in the amount of \$652.90 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2020 in the name of WONG, DANIEL as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 226 W WASHINGTON AVE, Block 2.03 Lot 11, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #21-00004 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/7/2024 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, CORELOGIC claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$3,141.80 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #21-00004.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of February, 2024 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY, PO BOX 669507, DALLAS, TX 75266-9507 in the amount of **\$5,641.80** (This consists of \$3,141.80 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,500.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 2.03 Lot 11 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION 2024-51
A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE
As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on November 9, 2023 to CHANGSHENG LU, 628 N BUTRICK ST, WAUKEGAN, IL 60085, in the amount of \$978.39 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2022 in the name of GELLER, CRAIG H as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 270 WYOMING AVE, Block 2.05 Lot 19, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #23-00002 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/7/2024 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Investors Bank claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by WELLS FARGO by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$2,004.40 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #23-00002.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of February, 2024 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to CHANGSHENG LU, 628 N BUTRICK ST, WAUKEGAN, IL 60085 in the amount of **\$4,304.40** (This consists of

Draft-subject to change
\$2,004.40 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,300.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 2.05 Lot 19 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION 2024-52
A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE
As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on November 9, 2023 to SMYRNA GROUP, LLC, PO BOX 845, TENAFLY, NJ 07670, in the amount of \$177.70 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2022 in the name of MUGHAL, ALI & AGHEEM, RUKHSAR as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 45 ALVIN SLOAN AVE, Block 2.11 Lot 19, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #23-00004 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/1/2024 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, ALI MUGHAL claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by SMYRNA GROUP, LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$189.70 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #23-00004.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of February, 2024 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to SMYRNA GROUP, LLC, PO BOX 845, TENAFLY, NJ 07670 in the amount of **\$789.70** (This consists of \$189.70 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$600.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 2.11 Lot 19 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION 2024-53
A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE
As per N.J.S.A.54:5

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on November 9, 2023 to BALA PARTNERS LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979, in the amount of \$2,176.81 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2021 & 2022 in the name of CONKLIN, SANDRA J & JAMES V as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 36-36.5 E CHURCH ST, Block 24 Lot 7, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #23-00017 and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/14/2024 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, NEW JERSEY HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE AGENCY claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by BALA PARTNERS LLC by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$3,728.67 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #23-00017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of February, 2024 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to BALA PARTNERS LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979 in the amount of **\$5,828.67** (This consists of \$3,728.67 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$2,100.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 24 Lot 7 from the tax office records.

Draft-subject to change

RESOLUTION 2024-54
RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD
ON THE 2024 FIRST QUARTER SEWER AND GARBAGE INSTALLMENT

WHEREAS, the 2024 first quarter sewer and garbage payments are due on March 1, 2024,
and

WHEREAS, the grace period as set by resolution is for ten days, and

WHEREAS, there is a delay in mailing the sewer and garbage bills, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey statutes require 25 days from the date of mailing the tax bills
before interest can be charged,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of
Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the grace period for the 2024 first
quarter sewer and garbage installment is extended to March 29, 2024.

February 20, 2024

RESOLUTION 2024-55

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF RECREATION FEES FOR 2024**

WHEREAS, the Borough Manager provided the Mayor and Council with a proposed fee schedule for pool and park activities; and

WHEREAS, in that fees were reviewed to determine whether they are fair to the public and fairly reflect the reasonable cost of public facilities, taking into account such municipal expenses as wages and benefits, insurance, utility costs, maintenance and repair costs and other unpredictable costs incurred by the Borough to operate the Borough's recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the attached fee schedule as proposed by the Borough Manager and wish to memorialize the approval of the 2024 fee schedule, a copy of which fee schedule is attached to this resolution and has been posted on the Borough website; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

The 2024 Recreation Fee Schedule, in the form attached to this resolution, is hereby approved.

Washington Borough **RECREATION FEE SCHEDULE**

<u>Pavilion Rental</u>			\$30			
<u>Swim Lessons</u>						<u>2023</u>
	Group Lessons		\$85			
	Semi-Private		\$100			
	Private		\$140			
<u>Pool Fees</u>			<u>P May 1</u>	<u>A May 1</u>		<u>2023</u>
	<u>Pburg</u>	<u>Hack</u>	<u>Belvid</u>			
<u>Seasonal Membership</u>						
	Individual Resident		\$110	\$120	\$110	\$105
	\$75	\$190				
	Individual Non-resident		\$175	\$195	\$125	\$225
	\$125	\$190				
	Family Resident		\$220	\$235	\$200	\$260
	\$200	\$320				
	Family Non-resident		\$305	\$315	\$300	\$475
	\$300	\$320				
	Senior Resident		\$65	\$75	\$60	\$95
	\$30	\$85				
	Senior Non-resident		\$85	\$95	\$60	\$185
	\$30	\$85				
<u>Monthly Memberships (July or August only)</u>						
	Monthly Individual Resident		\$60	\$70	\$55	N/A
	N/A	N/A				
	Monthly Individual Non-resident		\$95	\$105	\$63	
	Monthly Family Resident		\$115	\$125	\$100	
	Monthly Family Non-resident		\$155	\$165	\$150	
	Monthly Senior Resident		\$30	\$35	\$30	
	Monthly Senior Non-resident		\$45	\$50	\$30	
			<u>2024</u>			<u>2023</u>
	<u>Pburg</u>	<u>Hack</u>	<u>Belvid</u>			
Daily	(Prior to 6PM)					
	Adult Resident		\$10		\$9	\$10
	\$7-10	\$10				
	Adult Non-resident		\$12		\$9	\$10
	\$10-15	\$10				
	Child Resident (4-17 years old)		\$6		\$5	\$8
	\$3-5	\$7.50				
	Child Non-resident (4-17 years old)		\$7		\$5	\$8
	\$3-5	\$7.50				

Draft-subject to change				
Infant/Toddler (0 to 3 years old)		Free	Free	
Senior Resident		\$6	\$2	\$8
	\$7-10	\$7.50		
Senior Non-resident		\$7	\$2	\$8
	\$10-15	\$7.50		
Twilight (After 6PM)				
Twilight (after 6 pm) Adult Resident		\$5	N/A	N/A
	N/A	\$7.50		
Twilight Child Resident		\$3		
		\$6		
Twilight Adult Non-resident		\$6		
		\$7.50		
Twilight Child Non-resident		\$4		
		\$6		
Twilight Senior Resident		\$3		
		\$5		
Twilight Senior Non-resident		\$4		
		\$5		

Family shall mean up to 5 individuals that are related and reside in the same household.

Resident shall mean individuals residing more than 6 months in the previous year within the limits of the Borough of Washington.

Replacement season/monthly pass tags shall be \$10 per tag for lost or damaged tags.

Failure to return tags by October 1 shall result in a \$5 fee per tag.