

**WASHINGTON BOROUGH PLANNING BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
JUNE 8, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Washington Borough Planning Board was called to order by Chair VanDeursen at 8:00 P.M. in the second floor Court Room/Council Chambers of the Borough Hall. Chair VanDeursen read the following statement into the record: "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 Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of the Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law." Chair VanDeursen led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Valentine, Post, Aron,  
McDonald, Fitting, Jewell, VanDeursen  
Absent: Truman  
Also Present: Stuart Ours, Attorney  
William Gleba, Board Engineer  
Heather Zieziula, Planner

Tina Truman is away.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Meeting of May 11, 2009: Chair VanDeursen stated that in regard to the creation of a land use board discussion she would like to see the exact comments of each Board member reflected in the minutes. Therefore it was moved by Post, seconded by Jewell to approve the minutes with the correction discussed.

ROLL CALL: Valentine, Post, Aron,  
McDonald, Fitting, Jewell, VanDeursen  
Ayes: 4; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 3  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION:** None

**APPLICATIONS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Abandoned Properties Ordinance:

The ordinance allows for notice to be given to property owners to remediate problems. Pat Post asked about eminent domain. Chair VanDeursen stated that it does not give the Borough more power. The public officer would be the Borough Manager or designee such as code enforcement or fire official. Attorney Ours noted that this is one more step to maintain unkempt property and strengthens the Borough's position in due process. An abandoned non-conforming use would be put back into use with the current zoning. Council would not have to act if it chose not to. Would include inhabitable or dangerous buildings. Justin Jewell noted that this ordinance is important for the safety of emergency services also. Dan Aron asked about the six month time frame. Mayor McDonald stated that he believes the time frame is from NJ statute.

Therefore, it was moved by Aron, seconded by Fitting to recommend to the governing body to adopt the ordinance.

ROLL CALL: Valentine, Post, Aron,  
McDonald, Fitting, Jewell, VanDeursen  
Ayes: 7; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Motion carried.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

Creation of Land Use Board:

Chair VanDeursen stated that she would like to see the exact wording from each Board member reflected in the response memo to Council. Clerk will retype and forward to Chair for review before submitting to Council.

Attorney Ours noted that the Board of Adjustment letter was essentially the same as the Planning Board. Mayor McDonald stated that Council felt it was time to examine the possibility of combining boards.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:** None

**UNAGENDIZED STATEMENTS:**

Heather Zieziula, Senior Planner, from Heyer, Gruel, introduced herself and stated that she had worked with Chuck Latini and was familiar with the Borough. She is currently working on 3<sup>rd</sup> round COAH.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia L. Titus, Planning Board Clerk