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## AGENDA

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### **BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NJ**

**Date: March 3, 2026 Time: 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 Daily Record and Star Ledger and posted on the Boroughs website stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL** Brown, France, Gorshkov, Infinito, Matteo, Musick and Cox.

#### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

February 17, 2026

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **REPORTS**

Staff, Boards, Committee Reports

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**Agenda-Continued**

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**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion: Solar RFP

**ORDINANCE 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

*(Public Hearing/Adoption: March 17, 2026)*

2026-06 COLA

2026-07 Capital Improvement-DPW Leases

**ORDINANCE 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

None

**RESOLUTIONS**

2026-32 Lien Redemption

2026-33 Lien Redemption

2026-34 Extend Grace Period-Sewer-Garbage

2026-35 Budget Transfer

2026-36 Temporary Emergency Appropriation

2026-37 UTRS Engineering Services

2026-39 Amend 2025-152 Police Radio Purchase

2026-40 2026 Budget-Introduction

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

**COUNCIL REMARKS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**MEETING RECAP-Manager**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Possible Litigation

**ADJOURNMENT \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.**

Next Meeting: Special meeting, March 11, 2026 6PM

Regular meeting: March 17, 2026 6PM

**ORDINANCE 2026-06**  
**CALENDAR YEAR 2026**  
**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS**  
**AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**  
**(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Washington Borough Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2026 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body hereby determines that a 1.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 48,677.00 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

**WHEREAS** the Governing Body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2026 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Washington shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$ 113,579.66, and that the CY 2026 municipal budget for the Borough of Washington be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Introduction: March 3, 2026  
Public hearing/Adoption: March 17, 2026

**ORDINANCE 2026-07**  
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VARIOUS GENERAL**  
**IMPROVEMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON AND APPROPRIATING**  
**\$40,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE “CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND” OF SAID**  
**BOROUGH**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington in Warren County,  
New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. The Borough of Washington in Warren County (hereinafter referred to as “Municipality”) is hereby authorized the following Capital Improvements for the Borough of Washington:

The lease of the DPW vehicles \$40,000.00

Section 2. The work and acquisitions, authorized by Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be undertaken as

a general improvement, the entire cost of which shall be contributed and borne by the municipality as a general

expense, and no part of said cost shall be specially assessed against any property. The estimated cost noted

of such project shall not exceed \$40,000.00 unless this Ordinance is amended.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the undertaking of the aforesaid projects (hereinafter

referred to as “purpose”) is not a current expense of the municipality; and that the total estimated cost of said

purpose is \$40,000.00, the estimated cost for the projects having been noted in Section 1 above.

Section 4. The sum of \$40,000.00 is hereby appropriated for said purpose from the “Capital Improvement Fund” of the municipality for said purpose as required by law and now available therefore under a

budget or budgets of the municipality previously adopted.

Section 5. The Capital budget of the municipality is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of

this Ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as provided by law.

**RESOLUTION 2026-32**  
**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 14, 2025 to CHANGSHENG LU, 628 N BUTRICK ST, WAUKEGAN, IL 60085, in the amount of \$1,004.70 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2024 in the name of STEINER, CREMILDE FKA PORTO, CREMIL as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 51 LAMBERT STREET, Block 2.11 Lot 24, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #25-00007, and

**WHEREAS,** the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/10/2026 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 CHANGSHENG LU by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,086.79 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #25-00007.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026 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 **\$2,386.79** (This consists of \$1,086.79 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,300.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 2.11 Lot 24 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION 2026-33**  
**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 14, 2025 to BALA PARTNERS LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979, in the amount of \$445.08 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2024 in the name of LOEFFLER, SHAWN as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 36 LENAPE TRAIL, Block 101.01 Lot 19, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #25-00060, and

**WHEREAS,** the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 2/10/2026 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, SHAWN LOEFFLER 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 \$1,267.40 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #25-00060.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026 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 **\$2,367.40** (This consists of \$1,267.40 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,100.00 Premium).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 101.01 Lot 19 from the tax office records.

**RESOLUTION 2026-34  
TO EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD  
ON THE 2026 FIRST QUARTER SEWER AND GARBAGE INSTALLMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 first quarter sewer and garbage payments are due on March 1, 2026,  
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 calendar days from the date of mailing the 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 2026 first  
quarter sewer and garbage installment is extended to March 31, 2026.

**RESOLUTION 2026-35**  
**AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS**  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 35,000.00 IN**  
**THE CURRENT FUND.**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58 provides for appropriations transfers during the first three (3) months of the following fiscal year,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is necessary to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in the excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, the Chief Financial Officer Natasha S. Turchan, be and the same is hereby authorized to make transfers

among the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget in the amount of \$35,000.00 in the Current Fund.

Department	Category	TO	FROM
Current Fund			
Tax Assessor	Other Expenses	10,000.00	
Land Use Board	Other Expenses	1,000.00	
Animal Control	Other Expenses	2,000.00	
Traffic Lights	Other Expenses	15,000.00	
Natural Gas	Other Expenses	7,000.00	
Finance	Salaries and Wages		6,000.00
Local Code Enforcement	Salaries and Wages		13,000.00
Engineering	Other Expenses		10,000.00
Insurance Liability	Other Expenses		5,000.00
Group Insurance	Other Expenses		1,000.00

Total \$35,000.00 \$35,000.00

**RESOLUTION 2026-36**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT FUND**

**WHEREAS**, there will be a delay in the adoption of the 2026  
Borough of Washington, County of Warren, New Jersey, Local Municipal Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, a temporary budget in the amount of 35% of the total appropriations in the 2025  
budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital  
improvement fund and public assistance was adopted in January 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, if additional funds are not budgeted the public welfare will be adversely affected;  
and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer this emergency temporary  
appropriation be authorized

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of  
Washington, County of Warren, New Jersey, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20, an  
emergency temporary appropriation be and same is hereby made for in the amount of \$189,354.48  
and that said emergency temporary appropriation shall be provided in full in the 2026 budget.

PERS	Other Expenses	\$183,158.00
Public Defender	Other Expenses	\$2,000.00
Municipal Alliance	Other Expenses	\$4,196.48

**RESOLUTION 2026-37**

**AUTHORIZING 2026 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH UTRS FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Manager of the Borough Manager has determined that there exists a need to provide professional services for the Borough ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council recommends that UTRS (Universal Technical Resource Services, Inc.) be awarded a professional services contract for the year 2026 total amount \$30,000 not including any escrow charges, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the New Jersey Local Unit “Pay to Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., the Borough has sought said qualified professional planning services through the use of a “fair and open process,” as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds will be certified by the CFO; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington enter into a contract with as described hereinabove.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value Certification be placed on file with this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that notice of this action shall be printed once in the official Borough Newspaper

**RESOLUTION 2026-38**  
**AUTHORIZING THE WASHINGTON BOROUGH BUSINESS**  
**IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT TO PLACE A STORAGE SHED AND**  
**DUMPSTER IN BOROUGH PARKING LOT# 1**

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Borough of Washington on June 4, 2003 adopted Ordinance 7-2003 creating the Washington Borough Special Improvement District; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of Borough of Washington designated the Washington Borough Business Improvement District Management Corporation as the District Management Corporation for the Special Improvement District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District Management Corporation Board of Directors has requested to place a storage shed on the concrete slab in the northeast corner of Borough Parking Lot #1 (Midtown/Veterans Park Lot); and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington Borough Business Improvement District Management Corporation Board of Directors has requested to place a dumpster in the parking space next to the storage shed in Borough Parking Lot #1 for the business members of the Washington Borough Business Improvement District to use for solid Waste removal and;

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of Washington Borough has determined that this is in the best interest of the Borough, Washington Borough Business Improvement District and the businesses of the Borough for the placement of a storage shed and dumpster in Borough Parking Lot #1.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the governing body of the Borough of Washington that governing Body of the Borough of Washington, Warren County New Jersey authorizes the Washington Borough Business Improvement District to place a storage shed and dumpster in Borough Parking Lot #1 upon all applicable permits having been obtained by the Washington Borough Business Improvement District.

**RESOLUTION 2026-39**  
**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2025-152 AUTHORIZING THE**  
**PURCHASE OF POLICE PORTABLE RADIOS**

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Communications Center is upgrading their communication equipment, and all Warren County agencies are authorized and mandated to use the P25 StarNet system; and

**WHEREAS**, to be in compliance with the Warren County mandate and purposes of safety the Borough of Washington, County of Warren wishes to purchase fifteen (15) P25 compliant police portable radios; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 2025-152 recommended Industrial Communications Co. as the vendor; and

**WHEREAS**, the police have changed the recommended vendor to Eastern Communications LTD, 48-14 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens, NY 11101-1918 at a cost of \$46,797.60; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington allocated funds for the expenditure within the 2025 municipal budget adopted by Resolution #2025-152; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for this purchase and that the line item has been appropriated for this purpose in Account # 01-2025-0025-0240-2-00028.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren does hereby amend and authorize the Chief Financial Officer to execute any and all documents necessary for the purchase of fifteen (15) Harris XL-185P VHF PARTIAL KEYPAD BLACK Portable Radios from Eastern Communications LTD, 48-14 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens, NY 11101-1918 in the amount of \$46,797.60.

# 2026 Municipal Budget

Resolution 2026-40

For the fiscal year of 2026

## Revenue and Appropriations Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2026	2025
1. Surplus	850,000.00	800,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	2,305,492.27	1,608,820.07
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	371,000.00	400,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	5,796,441.60	5,796,441.56
b) Addition to Local School District Tax		
c) Minimum Library Tax	261,938.44	241,876.15
Tot Amt to be Rsd by Taxes for Sup of Muni Bnd	6,058,380.04	6,038,317.71
Total General Revenues	9,584,872.31	8,847,137.78

Summary of Appropriations	2026 Budget	Final 2025 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	1,241,267.20	1,223,261.00
Other Expenses	5,857,654.31	5,700,216.78
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	453,338.00	339,788.00
3. Capital Improvements	410,000.00	50,000.00
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	558,958.80	633,872.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	950,000.00	900,000.00
Total General Appropriations	9,471,218.31	8,847,137.78
Total Number of Employees		

2026 Dedicated Sewer		Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated		
	2026		2025
1. Surplus	576,500.00		626,500.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	1,700,000.00		1,650,000.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues	2,276,500.00		2,276,500.00
Summary of Appropriations		2026 Budget	Final 2025 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages		240,000.00	240,000.00
Other Expenses		1,466,500.00	1,466,500.00
2. Capital Improvements		100,000.00	100,000.00
3. Debt Service			
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		20,000.00	20,000.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		450,000.00	450,000.00
Total Appropriations		2,276,500.00	2,276,500.00
Total Number of Employees			

2026 Dedicated Solid Waste		Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues	Anticipated		
	2026		2025
1. Surplus	70,000.00		25,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	960,000.00		1,301,000.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)	120,000.00		
Total Revenues	1,150,000.00		1,326,000.00
Summary of Appropriations		2026 Budget	Final 2025 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages		36,000.00	36,000.00
Other Expenses		956,500.00	910,000.00
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service		154,500.00	377,000.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		3,000.00	3,000.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		1,150,000.00	1,326,000.00
Total Number of Employees			