

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
ORDINANCE 22/04**

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 PERCENT CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 *et seq.*, provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% or the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), whichever is less, over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14 provides that a municipality may, in any year in which the COLA is equal to or less than 2.5%, increase its final appropriations by a percentage greater than the COLA, but not to exceed the 3.5% rate as specified in the law, when authorized by ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the COLA for 2022 has been certified by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs as 2.5% and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, in any year in which the COLA is equal to or less than 2.5%, 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 Borough Council of the Borough of Watchung in the County of Somerset finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2022 budget by more than 2.50% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$290,651.48 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council 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.

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
ORDINANCE 22/04**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the Borough of Watchung, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Watchung shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N. J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5% amounting to \$406,912.07 and that the 2022 municipal budget for the Borough of Watchung 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.

ATTEST:


Edith G. Gil, Borough Clerk

APPROVED:


Keith Balla, Mayor

INTRODUCED: JUBIN
PASSED: APRIL 7, 2022
PUBLISHED: APRIL 14, 2022
ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022

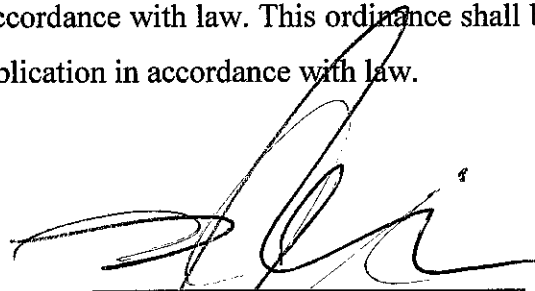
INDEX: FINANCE-BUDGET
C: B. HANCE

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R1**


BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance OR:22/04 entitled:

“ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK WHEN THE COLA IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2.5 PERCENT (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)” can now be adopted after public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to publish notice of adoption in accordance with law. This ordinance shall become effective after final passage, adoption and publication in accordance with law.



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: FINANCE-BUDGET,
C: B. HANCE,

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
ORDINANCE NO. 22/05**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF PARK EQUIPMENT AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$500,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Be it hereby ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Borough of Watchung, New Jersey, as a general improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 2 there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$500,000 from the capital improvement fund.

Section 2. The improvement hereby authorized is the acquisition and installation of park equipment and related improvements in the amount of \$500,000.00.

Section 3. The said improvements or purposes described in Section 2 of this ordinance are not current expenses. They are all improvements or purposes that the Borough may lawfully undertake as general improvements, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

Section 4. There is no debt authorized for these improvements or purposes.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage in accordance with law.

INTRODUCED: JUBIN
PASSED: APRIL 7, 2022
PUBLISHED: APRIL 14, 2022
ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022

INDEX: FINANCE-BUDGET
C: B. HANCE

ATTEST:



Edith G. Gil, Borough Clerk

APPROVED:



Keith Balla, Mayor

I, Edith G. Gil, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Watchung, in the County of Somerset, certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an ordinance duly adopted at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held on _____, 2022.

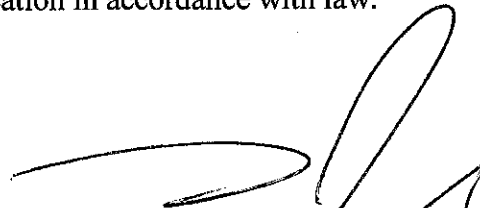
Edith G. Gil, RMC

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R2**


BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance **OR:22/05** entitled:

“AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF PARK EQUIPMENT AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$500,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND” can now be adopted after public hearing.

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Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: FINANCE-BUDGET, PROPERTIES,
C: B. HANCE,

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R3**

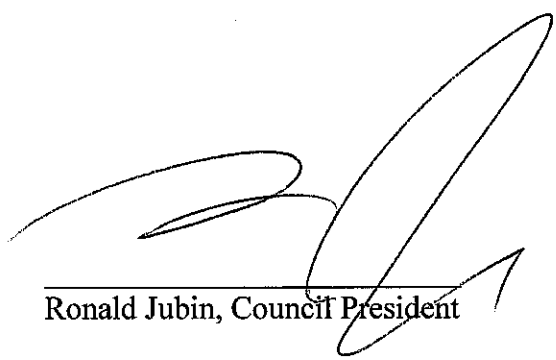
WHEREAS, Section 2-25.13 of the Code of the Borough of Watchung requires that contracts for purchases or services involving more than two thousand dollars be awarded by a resolution of the Mayor and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to issue Purchase Orders as follows:

Vendor: Grove Lock & Safe Co., 8 Grove Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060
Item: Fire Department Lock System
Total Price: \$9,100.00
Charged to: C-02-417-A16 and 2-01-610-202

Vendor: SF Mobile Vision, Inc. 11375 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S, Houston, TX 77031
Item: PD-Extended Maintenance Agreement for car video and body worn camera server and software; back-office solution, command/redact maintenance
Total Price: \$9,603.45
Charged to: 2-01-190-273 and 2-01-190-271

Vendor: BIS Digital, Inc., 1350 NE 56th Street, Fort Lauderdale, NJ 33334
Item: PD-Revcored Call Recorder Server
Total Price: \$19,821.73
Charged to: C-02-815-B01



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: PURCHASING
C: B. HANCE,

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R4**


WHEREAS, a tax payment was made by NJ Lenders for the 4th Quarter 2021 and the 1st and 2nd Quarters 2022 taxes on Block 4303/ Lot 3 also known as 65 Crestwood Drive in error;
and

WHEREAS, they are requesting a refund of the overpayment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the refund of said payment be made per the details listed below:

Block 4303 / Lot 3
65 Crestwood Drive, 07069
Payment made to:

NJ Lenders
219 Paterson Avenue
Little Falls, NJ 07424
Amount: \$9,112.03



Ronald Jubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: FINANCE-MISC.,
C: B. HANCE, D. GAEBELE

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R5**

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MAY AS "BAG UP NJ" MONTH

WHEREAS, P.L.202, c.117, signed into law on November 4, 2020 is the most progressive disposable bag law in the country, with the goal of phasing out single-use plastic and paper bags and encouraging the use of reusable bags throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is working to reduce reliance on single-use products to ensure that future generations have a clean and healthy environment to live, work, and recreate in; and

WHEREAS, banning or limiting the use of single-use plastic and paper carryout bags is a significant step in this effort; and

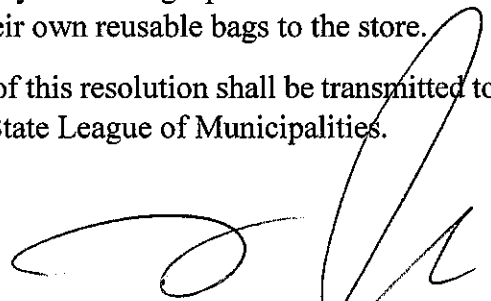
WHEREAS, the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Department of State, policymakers, environmental and business groups, as well as other stakeholders, are working together to educate consumers, businesses, and communities about the new law and encouraging residents to "Bag Up" before the ban on single-use plastic bags goes into effect on May 4, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive "Bag Up NJ" campaign will include educational programs, public and media engagement and reusable bag distribution programs throughout the state, with an emphasis on underserved communities; and

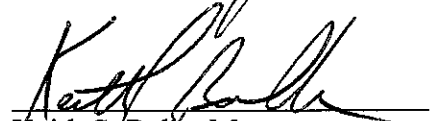
WHEREAS, this statewide public education campaign will provide residents, businesses and visitors with information about the types of reusable and sustainable bags and containers that they may use and where to access these products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Watchung in the County of Somerset that it is critical to educate the public about this new law and one way to gain important recognition is to deem the month of May each year as "Bag Up NJ" month in Watchung, as a further reminder that all residents should bring their own reusable bags to the store.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the NJ Clean Communities Council, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.



Ronald Jubin, Council President



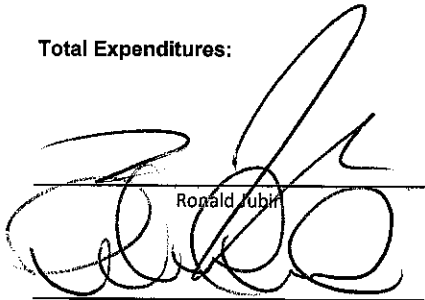
Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: MISC., GREEN
C: ENV. COM, NJLM

RESOLUTION R6


BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung,
that the Borough Treasurer be, and is hereby directed to pay bills in the amount of
\$4,600,059.38 per the attached bill list. The expenditures can be broken down into
the following categories:

Grant Fund	\$	612.50
Capital Fund	\$	155,200.50
Developer's Escrow	\$	9,722.71
Other Escrow	\$	38,726.50
Somerset County Taxes	\$	1,461,579.18
Somerset County Open Space Taxes	\$	138,251.07
Somerset County Library Taxes	\$	213,292.12
Watchung Board of Education Taxes	\$	1,024,190.00
Watchung Hills Regional High School Taxes	\$	596,529.00
Current Fund	\$	961,955.80
Total Expenditures:	\$	4,600,059.38



Ronald Jubin

Wendy Robinson

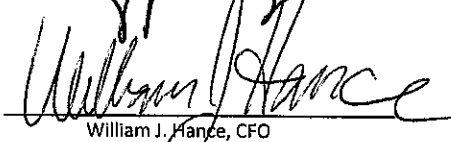


Freddie Hayeck



Pietro Martino

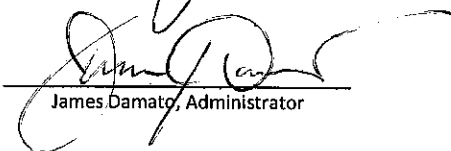
Curt Dahl



William J. Hance, CFO



Keith Balla, Mayor



James Damato, Administrator

Date: April 21, 2022
Index: Finance
C: Finance

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R7**

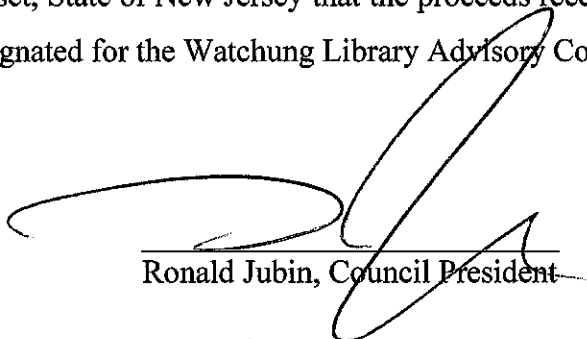
WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council previously consented to an agreement with New Legacy Books, LLC via resolution R7 adopted on November 4, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council had previously designated the proceeds of any donated books to New Legacy Books for the Watchung Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey recently ended the practice of charging late fees whose proceeds formerly benefited the Watchung Library Advisory Committee's Escrow Account; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council now wish to designate that the proceeds received from New Legacy Books, LLC be redirected to the Watchung Library Advisory Committee's Escrow Account.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the proceeds received from New Legacy Books, LLC are hereby designated for the Watchung Library Advisory Committee's Escrow Account.



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 14, 2022
INDEX: MISC., FINANCE-BUDGET
C: W. HANCE, LIBRARY COMM.,

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R8**

WHEREAS, Mayor Keith S. Balla has recommended the re-appointment of the individual for the term as listed below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the following re-appointment is hereby confirmed:

GREEN TEAM ADVISORY

Term

Margaret Ponzio

1-Year Term, Ending on April 20, 2022



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: APPOINTMENTS
C: GREEN TEAM

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R9**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung has received a Field and Facility Permit Application which has been reviewed by the Recreation Coordinator; and

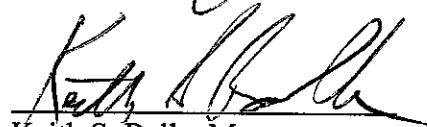
WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey wishes to authorize said application.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that the use of Best Lake Parking Lot is authorized for the intended use as noted below and is hereby approved:

1. The Garden Club of Watchung, plant sale, from 7 AM to 1 PM, on May 14
Rain date: May 21.



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: RECREATION, MISC.
C: LM

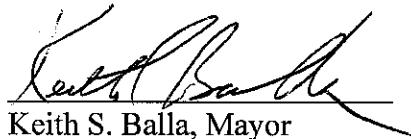
**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R10**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the base salary of Public Works employee, **Joseph Buro**, be hereby adjusted to **\$45,000.00**, for having successfully completed his probationary period of employment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is hereby ratified to authorize salary adjustment effective February 1, 2022.



Ronald Jubin, Council President

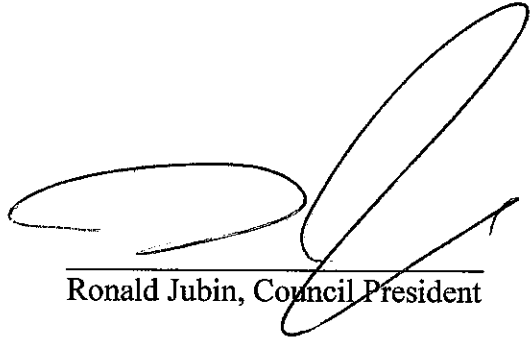


Keith S. Balla, Mayor

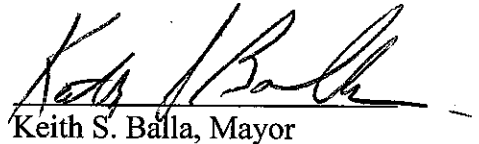
ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: PERSONNEL, FINANCE-MISC.,
C: B. HANCE, E. HORSFALL

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R11**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the appointment of **Nicole Izzo** as **Part-Time Tax Assistant** at an hourly rate of \$26.00 per hour, effective May 1, 2022, is hereby confirmed.



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022
INDEX: APPOINTMENTS
C: FINANCE

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R12**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

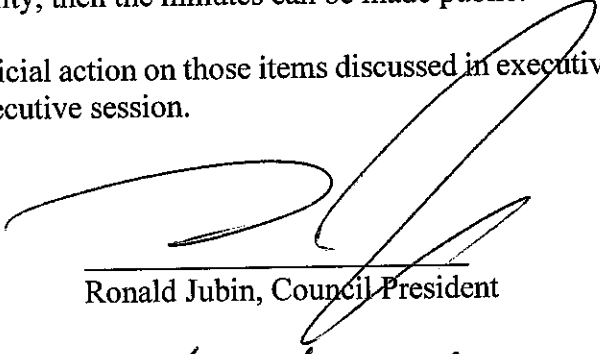
WHEREAS, the Governing Body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the closed session of April 21, 2022.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Anticipated Litigation:
King v. Borough of Watchung, et al.
Docket No.: SOM-L-186-22

3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.
4. The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in executive session upon completion of the executive session.



Ronald Jubin, Council President



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: APRIL 21, 2022

INDEX: MISC.

C: