

September 14, 2021

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council held on September 14, 2021.
Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Cheatham.

*** Attorney Feintuch was not present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of August 17, 2021 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

THANK YOU NOTE - We received a thank you from Councilwoman Hedgepath for your kind expression of sympathy.

FREE LIBRARY - Free library is going extremely well. They will replenish books every week. They wanted us to know that someone already broke the latch.

COVID UPDATE - We have 4 new cases of Covid. Our last report which was on 5/28/21 was 249. This report is 8/20/21 and we now have 253.

RESIGNATION LETTER FROM COUNCILWOMAN WHITE - Everyone has a copy of the letter she sent.

PRODUCE POP UP - They will be at the firehouse again on 9/23/21 and they will be there from 4 to 6 p.m..

RIGHT TO KNOW SURVEY - John went through the garage and said it was a mess. I gave Eddie a list of what he said was wrong and they have to get it cleaned up. He will be back for an inspection in a month.

HOPE ONE - They will be at the church on December 7th. They do social services, give out free lunches, they have someone there that will help with drug and alcohol abuse. We don't know what time yet. The Clerk spoke with Pastor Tim and he will get more information to us.

Motion to accept the correspondence as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

Motion to approve the vouchers for payment by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

(See Vouchers Next Page)

VOUCHER REPORTSDate of Council Meeting:
September 14, 2021

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount
9/1/2021	Amsterdam	Comm. Deve. & Clerk OE	2,122.44
9/2/2021	Atlas Mechanical Services	Bldgs. & Grnds.	285.00
9/3/2021	Deborah Evans	Clerk OE - Petty cash receipts	44.62
9/4/2021	Dover Court	Shared Court Service - Sept. Serv.	1,623.36
9/5/2021	Dover Water Commission	Utilities & Fire OE	835.69
9/6/2021	Eric M. Bernstein & Assoc., LLC	Planning Board	1,380.00
9/7/2021	Feintuch, Porwich & Feintuch	Legal Services OE	3,290.00
9/8/2021	Groff Tractor Mid Atlantic LLC	Streets & Roads	8.00
9/9/2021	Home Depot	Clerk OE	122.35
9/10/2021	MicroSystems - NJ.com, LLC	Tax Assessor	350.00
9/11/2021	Morris County MUA	Streets & Roads	1,003.50
9/12/2021	Mount Freedom Printing, LLC	Clerk OE	339.00
9/13/2021	NJNG - #1 - Fire	Fire OE	246.00
9/14/2021	NJNG - #2 - Borough Hall	Utilities	901.00
9/15/2021	Optimum	Utilities	11.45
9/16/2021	R & L Data Centers, Inc.	Finance OE	250.00
9/17/2021	Sheaffer Supply, Inc.	Streets & Roads OE	63.80
9/18/2021	ULINE	Bldgs. & Grnds. Eye wash st & clock	181.06
9/19/2021	Verizon - #1 - 361-8121	Utilities	65.00
9/20/2021	State of NJ - Div. Pensions & Bene.	Group Insurance	5,794.88
		TOTAL	18,917.15

NEW BUSINESS:

UPDATE TO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE - The Clerk said that everyone was given a copy of the new part of the code. I sent this to Council in June. When we were going to discuss this the last time Council wanted Ron here so he is here tonight.

Ron said that he spoke with the Borough Attorney regarding the property maintenance code. I suggested to him that we go with the International Property Maintenance Code. This covers more in depth as to what we need. The Attorney looked through the code and made up what you have in front of you.

If anyone has questions about what you have I can answer you on those questions. I did speak with Councilman Glass on some issues.

The Mayor said he had questions on the height of the grass. It is not clear as to what you want. The grass is staying at 10 inches. I think this is too high but you want it at 10 and that is where it stays.

Christmas ornaments will be allowed up for 60 days. Toys can be in the yards. A lot of people don't have any placeto store them. Lawn furniture can remain outside. We do have people that have sofas and household items in their yards. They have sofas right in the middle of the yard.

The Mayor asked about inoperable cars. Do we remove them? No. Ron will discuss that with the Attorney.

Ron said that Councilman Glass said something to him about trees, shrubs. Mr. Glass gave me some addresses to look at where hedges are a true concern. Especially at the intersections where they are blocking views. I can write tickets for hedges but your current Ordinance says that I can only do that if there is a Resolution by the Governing Body saying these hedges are overgrown and need to be cut down or trimmed. This is for just hedges that are a problem on corners where you can't see around them to come out safely.

So far I have looked at 5 areas where Councilman Glass said to go look. But I need the Resolution from Council before I can do anything.

Councilman Glass asked me to look at the church trees. The trees have been trimmed at the church. Councilman Glass said that all is okay there.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE UPDATE - Ron said there are problems with hedges on Adams, Taft, Washington. Councilman Glass said that behind the church sheds, up from there needs to be trimmed. Memorial trees at church are ok. Councilman Glass said that Eddie can cut that brush back there. Councilman Glass said things with the church property are cleaned up and all is okay there. Councilman Glass said behind the Wilder house there is a lot of growth and you can't see over there. Ron said it may be County property. Make sure it is Victory Gardens and not the County.

Ron said there are 5 properties where there is an issue with hedges. I need Council to look at them. They are at 9 Taft Avenue, 134 Monroe Avenue, 305 Washington Avenue, the corner of Adams and Roosevelt - which is a one way. 375 Washington Avenue coming up out of Victory Hill East Apartments if someone wants to make a turn you can't see around the hedges. Again, I need Council to do a Resolution to say these areas need to be cut back or down whatever the need is.

Ron is going to speak to the attorney about some of these issues and then Council has to go out and look at these areas you spoke about regarding the hedges and see what they say about those. Correct.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked if Ron ever spoke to the person at 9 Taft? No. I can't do anything until Council passes the Resolution.

Mayor Holeman asked about penalties? we have them already in the other ordinance. It would be as high as \$2,500.

Councilwoman Montes asked about how gravel has to be down so people don't get in trouble for parking on the grass? We have to talk to the Attorney and see how much gravel has to be put down. Just to park on grass our Ordinance says you can't do that. you have to park on cement, blacktop or gravel. We have to say how much gravel. I will find that for the attorney and it will have to be added in.

We have to get the feedback from our attorney. We will discuss with the Attorney.

FILL VACANCY FOR COUNCILWOMAN WHITE - The Clerk said there is really nothing that we do next. The Clerk will get in touch with the local Democratic Committee people and they will get back to us with a list of people wanting to fill the vacated position. Once I get that from them, then it will come before Council and Council will have to pick an applicant.

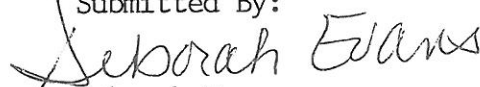
Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - One thing about the property maintenance code - you may want to be careful with the interpretations. Franklin Road is a County road. You may want to be careful with what you tell the DPW to do. You should put something in the code about bamboo. A lot of towns have that now. Debbe I still haven't heard from you as to who asked that the Borough cut the grass by the Showplace. I sent you an email Jim. I gave you all the info. have we received anything from RVRSA? Not recently unless the Attorney has something. He isn't here tonight so we will have to find out. The Attorney wrote a letter but he didn't tell you anything? Well, I'm sure if he had an update he would be telling us tonight. There is a listing that Mine Hill gets on students every year but we don't get it. So you have a resignation from Tara White. Will be recouping money that we paid her? She attended every Council meeting over the phone. How is it going to be worked out for the company going in next door to pay property taxes? We are doing an "In Lieu of tax Payment". the Attorney is working on that.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:


Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk