

July 12, 2022

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on July 12, 2022.

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 Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: None

*** Attorney Feintuch was also present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of June 28, 2022 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

SCHOOL TAXES - School taxes are going up \$65.00 more a month. So we are paying them \$65 more a month than we were last year. That cost will be divided amongst everyone that pays taxes in Victory Gardens.

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

VOUCHERS:

Councilwoman Montes asked if we can hold off on vouchers until later as we are just looking at them now. Council is ok with that. They will be approved later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION FOR THE DOT GRANT APPROVAL FOR WASHINGTON AVENUE - The Clerk said we approved the grant but you always have to do the resolution to go with the grant. Everyone was given a copy of the Resolution.

Motion on approval of the resolution by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	No
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

(See Resolution Next Page)

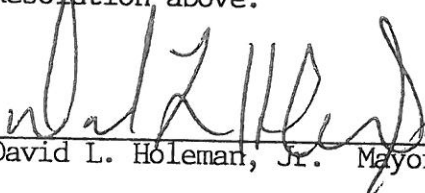
BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS
RESOLUTION

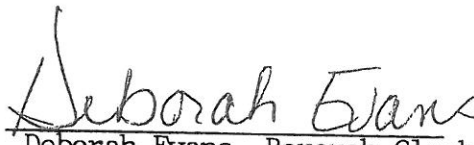
RESOLUTION: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the project named: Washington Avenue Improvements

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

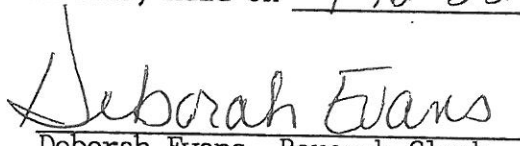
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic application identified as 00055 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Victory Gardens.

My signature and the Clerks seal serve to acknowledge the above Resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the Resolution above.


David L. Holeman, Jr. Mayor


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

This is certified as a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on 7-12-22.


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

AUDIT APPROVAL - The Clerk said that everyone has a copy of the Audit. We have the same comments we have every year. Councilman Lorenzo asked if we can do this for the next meeting as he didn't have time to go over everything.

Motion was made to table the Audit for this meeting and put it on the next meeting. Motion made by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

HIRING PERSON FOR CLERKS OFFICE - Councilwoman Montes said the Administration Committee got together. We received several applications and out of them we wanted to bring 2 names to the Council. Letitia Diaz and Kelly Jacobus.

Councilwoman Montes said she is making a motion to hire Letitia Diaz. She is bilingual and she has a lot of experience with computers. Her company that she is working at now gave her rave reviews. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath. Roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	No
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	No
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

Councilwoman Montes said it is good for our town because she is bilingual as our town is over 50% of latin decent or hispanic. Councilman Lorenzo asked how much we are paying an hour? \$20.00 per hour. She is willing to go to school. Attorney Feintuch asked if anyone received the resume on this person? The Clerk said she did not get a copy of the resume. Council said they received it. The Clerk stated that she did not receive her resume. I just skimmed over the copy that Councilman Hale has. It says that she has worked from 2019 to 2020. Has she not worked since then? Councilwoman Montes said she is working now. Where? Councilwoman Montes asked the Clerk what the problem is? The Clerk said she has to work with the person you hired. The person you hired - the Clerk said she did not hire anyone. Councilwoman Hedgepath said to hire her. We had the other lady stay on until we found someone. The Clerk said she didn't vote. I don't have the authority to vote. The Clerk said I am looking at a resume that was just handed to me because I never got one. This resume does not say anything about a current job. Attorney Feintuch said as a matter of management prerogative, wasn't it

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

HIRING PERSON FOR CLERKS OFFICE CONTINUED - or shouldn't it be up to Debbe to be able to see that resume so she could review it? After all, she will be working with her? Shouldn't Debbe have done the review and be able to give her comments?

Our CFO is here tonight and he would like to speak on this matter. Joe said that he has to work with this person as well. It is highly irregular that a candidate is hired before the people that the person will be working with, had a chance to review the qualifications. Usually it goes to the Council after that.

Councilwoman Montes said that when she wasn't here and the hiring was done the wrong way, we went out with an ad again to see if anyone would apply. Usually we bring 3 applicants names to the Council, if we have that many.

Joe said what is irregular is that in house interviews weren't done first with the people that would be working with this person and then have it go to the Council for final review.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said that Debbe was here for the interviews for this person. We don't have you guys interview if we hire someone else. It is unfortunate that you are knocking her down before you meet her. She has a great letter of recommendation from her current employer and she knows computers and is very nice to get along with. And, we do need someone that is bilingual.

Councilman Lorenzo said that if you go by all the applications no one really had the needed qualifications except the lady that had to wait 6 months for the job because of her pension. Councilwoman Hedgepath said that she was looking for only something that was temporary.

Councilwoman Montes said we are trying to find the best person for this town. That is what we should be doing.

The Clerk asked when this person will be starting? She has to give her current employer 2 weeks notice. Councilwoman Montes will get in touch with her and find out the date.

Councilman Glass wanted Council to know that the front end loader is out of service and we are going to try to get it fixed. It may cause a problem with pickup of recycling.

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

Chris Trotsky - For the open position, can you explain to me about the previous employment that Jacobus has? The Mayor said it is a mute point, we just hired someone.

Jim Janone - Compliment to Council for hiring the right person for the position. Bills from the Attorney for the Board of Ed litigation. It goes back to April of last year. How come? It was done in bits and parts. It would probably been better done in last year. It says something about the Town of Dover getting involved with this suit. Why are they in it? It impacts their tax structure. Dover made inquiry with the Judge and the Judge allowed them to come into the case. Is this Judge with the County? No, he is an Administrative Court Judge. Is there a case number on this? You have to look at the case and look it up.

Joan Cegelka - What was Debbie D's salary? When she left she was making a little over \$20 per hour the Clerk said. What did you hire her at? Joan said it was either \$12 or \$14 per hour. She came back after schooling and asked for more money and you gave it to her.

With raises Debbie D. reached \$20.54. Why are you starting a new hire at \$20 per hour? Why aren't you starting her at a lower rate? That was 8 years ago when Debbie D. started. Anyone that put applications in wanted \$20 or more per hour Councilwoman Montes said. The person we hired will be working for less than our temporary person. Duties will be the same as Debbie D's? Yes. How many applicants did you get? I commend you on getting the person in that you have. What was the main qualifications for this job? Councilwoman Hedgepath said the use of the computer and bilingual.

The Mayor asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion made Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHER REPORTS

Date of Council Meeting:
July 12, 2022

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
07-01-22	AT&T	Utilities	\$ 42.73	
07-02-22	CY Drake Locksmith	Clerk OE	\$ 34.95	
07-03-22	Dover BOE	School Taxes	\$ 96,200.00	
07-04-22	Dover Court Shared Service	Shared Court service	\$ 1,655.83	
07-05-22	Dover Water	Fire Hydrant	\$ 5,382.00	
07-06-22	Town of Dover	Fire Dept Adm & Exec	\$ 16,500.00	
07-07-22	Feintuch, Porwich & Feintuch	Legal OE	\$ 2,204.22	
07-08-22	Handyman's	Road OE	\$ 469.00	
07-09-22	Henry O. Baker	Other Insurance	\$ 9,211.00	
07-10-22	MCANJ	Clerk OE	\$ 100.00	
07-11-22	Performance Ford Lincoln	Road OE	\$ 306.98	
07-12-22	RVRSAs	RVRSAs Share	\$ 10,063.00	
07-13-22	Sheaffer Supply	Clerk OE	\$ 17.95	
07-14-22	R&L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 260.00	
07-15-22	Sunnyside Florist	Clerk OE	\$ 253.00	
07-16-22	Viking Pest Control	Bldg & Grounds	\$ 301.00	
07-17-22	White Iron LLC	Bldg & Grounds	\$ 1,600.00	
07-18-22	Vision Service Plan	Group Insurance	\$ 98.70	
07-19-22	Eduardo Martinez	Streets & Roads SW	\$ 2,942.72	
07-20-22	Hector Lorenzo	Streets & Roads SW	\$ 1,821.60	
07-21-22	Kelly Jacobus	Admin SW	\$ 1,375.00	

TOTAL \$ 150,839.68

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

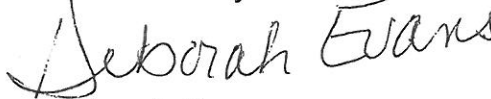
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

Councilwoman Cheatham asked for a copy of the vacation schedules and how much time is left for the year. The Clerk said she would get that to her.

Councilwoman Montes asked about the Dog Day Care. They have 2 businesses in there? Yes. Both the same owner. Grooming and day care.

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

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk