

July 19, 2022

This is a special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on July 19, 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 Meeting 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.

At this time, Mayor Holeman asked for a motion to go into closed session for discussion on personnel.

Motion made by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Attorney Feintuch said there are 2 points that he would like to make. First, a question came up as to whom can call a special meeting. you have to give adequate notice of a meeting which is 48 hours. We did 42. The Mayor has a right to call for a special meeting. The Mayor called for a meeting for 2 reasons. The Council didn't give the Clerk direction as to when Kelly's last day would be and when the new hiree will be starting. Councilwoman Montes said she told Debbie on the 13th that Kelly's last day would be July 22 and that the new person would start on July 25th. Attorney Feintuch asked her if the Council was aware of those dates and did they vote on it? No. Councilwoman Montes said that Kelly wasn't an employee. The Attorney said she was an employee. She worked for the town and she was paid a salary. There is not anything that says what the procedures are. This is a personnel matter and it is discussed in closed session. No one has the right to determine anything unless the Council votes on it. Attorney Feintuch said there was no resolution hiring the new person. there was a vote taken to hire her but no resolution was done on when she would start, when Kelly's last day was and no mention of how much an hour this person would receive. This was part of the reason this meeting was called. Councilman Lorenzo said then we should say that Letitia Diaz is hired as July 25 at \$20 per hour. Attorney Feintuch asked who is going to break the new hiree in? Councilwoman Hedgepath said that when they went through the first interviews, Debbie D said she has everything on the computer as to what needs to be done on a day to day basis, and she has a calendar marked for those things. Joe and Karen went over everything with Kelly. If they don't want to do that for the new person that is fine. Debbie D. told Kendyll that everything is on the computer. Attorney Feintuch said never mind as the Attorney, but as a friend, Councilwoman Montes said you are our Attorney and you give us legal advice. That is true but if anyone asked me, I would have given you some common sense advice. Councilwoman Hedgepath said that before this whole process started with the interview, Debbie D. said that everything was on the computer. I don't have a problem with Kelly staying for the 25th to show the new hiree what to do. She can go over what she does for Joe and Karen. I don't have a problem with Kelly staying on the 25th to show Letitia what to do. She can be here with her from 9-3 that day. If she doesn't want to, I totally understand. Attorney Feintuch said he thinks ego's got involved here. I don't know either one of these ladies. You had someone here for 7 or 8 weeks that was trained, had everything down pat, there were no complaints about her, and you just dismissed her. Now, in that regard, I got a letter from an Attorney.

Councilwoman Hedgepath made a motion that Letita Diaz will start on July 25 at a rate of \$20 per hour and her hours will be Monday thru Friday 9-3. Kellys last day will be the 22nd and if she wants to stay until the 25th to break the new person in she can. The option is hers. Motion seconded by seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

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

Motion was made to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - Was this meeting to basically go over what was decided at the last meeting? It was never put in motion form.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham 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.

After meeting was closed there was one item that needed to be taken care of so the Council reopened the meeting.

Motion to reopen the meeting for regular business by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Attorney Feintuch said as a result of the termination of Mrs. Jacobus, I received correspondence from an Attorney challenging it. I need to respond to that letter and hopefully that is where it will stop. Attorney Feintuch said he needs the authority to answer this letter. I will need to take whatever steps are necessary.

Motion was made to have the Attorney respond to the letter and take whatever steps are necessary. Motion made by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

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

Motion was made to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - Can you repeat what you said so we understand? The attorney said that Kelly engaged an attorney challenging the actions of the Board. What was the reason? It doesn't specify. It's just a broad statement.

Joan Cegelka - When Kelly came to work in the office what was she told? Councilwoman Hedgepath said after the initial interview, I didn't realize it had to go to the full Council, Debbie asked what we are doing and she asked if she should make an offer. Attorney Feintuch said although the Council didn't approve her they did allow her to work and she was paid for that work.

Motion was made to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.