

September 13, 2022

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on September 13, 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, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Hale.

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

Motion to accept the minutes of August 23, 2022. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

HYDRANT FLUSHING - Notice from the Town of Dover that they will be doing hydrant flushing. Dates are 9/13/22 thru 11/18/22. Flushing will be done during daylight hours Monday through Saturday.

Motion to accept the correspondence by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

VOUCHER REPORTS

Date of Council Meeting:
August 23, 2022

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payable to:</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check #</u>
09-01-2022	ATT Long distance service	Utilities	\$ 87.12	
09-02-2022	Dover Water Borough	Utilities	\$ 329.17	
09-03-2022	Feintuch	Legal OE	\$ 490.00	
09-04-2022	Ideal Air Inc	Bldgs and grounds	\$ 375.00	
09-05-2022	JCP&L Street Lights	Utilities	\$ 660.27	
09-06-2022	Leticia Diaz	Clerk OE	\$ 69.67	
09-07-2022	NJLM	Mayor/Council Admin OE	\$ 115.00	
09-08-2022	NJNG Firehouse	Fire OE	\$ 297.00	
09-09-2022	Nisivoccia inv# 89490-89491-88674	Annual Audit	\$ 17,610.00	
09-10-2022	R and L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 260.00	
09-11-2022	Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Auth	RVRSa SHARE	\$ 10,063.00	
09-12-2022	Verizon	Utilities	\$ 154.17	
09-13-2022	Eduardo Martinez	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 3,218.60	
09-14-2022	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 1,821.60	
09-15-2022	Leticia Diaz	Admin SW	\$ 1,240.00	
		TOTAL	\$ 36,790.60	

VOUCHERS CONTINUED:

The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions on the vouchers? Councilman Lorenzo asked about voucher #09-03022. What is the change in separation pay? We needed to know what the separation pay would be for someone retiring. Our policy manual states that when someone with 25 years or more retires, they get paid out all time for unused sick time.

The attorney explained that there was a new law that came into affect in 2010 that does not have to do with employees that have been here before 2010. This only applies to those that have been hired after 2010. This is for sick time only.

Motion was made to pay the bills by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Abstain
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

HIRING RESOLUTION FOR NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER -

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICIAL

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Victory Gardens has been advised that the current chief Financial Officer (CFO), JOSEPH COSTANTINO, has retired, and


WHEREAS, the statutes of New Jersey require every municipality to engage a CFO; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has engaged in an interview process and has determined that JOSEPH KOVALCIK has the appropriate, statutory requirements to fill the position of CFO;

NOW THEREFORE, on this day, September 13, 2022 it is resolved that JOSEPH KOVALCIK is appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Victory Gardens for the period of four (4) years commencing on September 1, 2022 and expiring on August 31, 2026.

FURTHER, the stipend to be paid JOSEPH KOVALCIK is established at Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$19,960.00) per annum, payable monthly at the rate of One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and Thirty Three Cents (\$1,633.33). There are no benefits other than his remuneration.

FURTHER, his hours are flexible at his option.


DAVID HOLEMAN, MAYOR

I, DEBORAH EVANS, CLERK OF THE BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION PASSED AT A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WHICH MEETING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, September 13, 2022


DEBORAH EVANS, BOROUGH CLERK

9/13/2022

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

HIRING OF NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER -

Motion on the hiring of the new Chief Financial Officer made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Abstain
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

MEETING DATES FOR 2023 - The Clerk said she gave a copy of all the meeting dates to the Council. The Mayor asked if everyone was okay with the dates and the Council said yes.

The Re-Organization meeting for the Board of Health for the Borough of Victory Gardens, Morris County, has been scheduled for January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall, 337 South Salem Street, Victory Gardens.

Immediately following the Re-Organization meeting, the first regular meeting of the year will be held at the same location.

The following dates are the remainder of the Board of Health meetings for the year 2023.

April 18, 2023	at	6:00 p.m.
July 18, 2023	at	6:00 p.m.
October 17, 2023	at	6:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at Borough Hall, 337 South Salem Street, Victory Gardens.

All residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

The following dates have been scheduled for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, Morris County, as their meeting dates for for the year 2023:

January	3rd			Re-Organization Meeting
January	10th	&	24th	
February	14th	&	28th	
March	14th	&	28th	
April	11th	&	25th	
May	9th	&	23rd	
June	13th	&	27th	
July	11th	&	25th	
August	8th	&	22nd	
September	12th	&	26th	
October	10th	&	24th	
November	14th	&	28th	
December	12th			

All meetings are held at 337 South Salem Street, Victory Gardens at 6:00 p.m.. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Budget meetings for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, Morris County, have been set for the following dates for the year 2023.

February 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

February 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

March 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at 337 South Salem Street, Victory Gardens at the Borough Hall.
The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

HIRING OF NEW DPW WORKER - The Clerk said she should have worded it differently for the agenda, but basically, Eddie is retiring at the end of the year. He is leaving December 31. We need to start the process to hire someone new. It's on the website, its in the Daily Record, and it is on the League website. It is also on the flier that is going out tomorrow.

Councilwoman Montes asked who the resumes are going to? The Clerk said they are going to her. Eddie has a full time position with us? Yes. He gets benefits? Yes. Would it be feasible to hire 2 part time workers instead of 1 full time? This way we don't have to pay health benefits or pensions.

The Clerk said you still have to pay pension. Part time people are enrolled but its not PERS its called DCRP. They also still have sick time.

The Attorney said that you would have a problem with who does what work. Councilwoman Montes said that Hector would be moved up into Eddies position and then the other person would work under Hector. That is if Hector wants the position.

Councilman Glass said that we have to consider that Eddie did a lot of the maintenance onthe trucks, the plows, etc..

Councilwoman Montes said well if we have to send stuff out to get fixed that is what we will have to do. We can also change the hours for DPW. They can work 8-4.

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

Jim Janone - What is the closing date to accept applications? October 14th. That's like 2 weeks away. The Mayor said it is a month away. The ad says it is mandatory that you have to climb a ladder which I thought was odd. A flier is going out to the residents? Yes, it will go out tomorrow is the men have time to do it. Councilwoman Montes asked the Clerk who she discussed this with because it wasn't discussed with her as Administration Committee. I called the Attorney and asked him who would be the Committee that would interview the position and he said it would be the Committee for who oversees the DPW. So it was discussed withthem. Why do we do meeting dates so early? The Clerk said she always does them this early. I know but no one else does it that early. The Clerk said she doesn't care what everyone else does. Does everyone know that the insurance rates are going up 24% . It hasn't been established yet. They are talking about increases but they haven't finalized what it will be. Dover Water will be bonding alot for money to repair water lines. Have they told us anything yet? No. Are they doing anything with our lines? They haven't said anything to us yet.

Councilwoman Montes asked who is supposed to be hiring the new DPW worker? The Council the Attorney said. Who does the interviews? The same people. The committee makesthe recommendation to the Council.

Joan Cegelka - When do you plan to hire the new employee? When are the applications due? They are due by the 14th of October. Once the interview process is held, then the Council will hire. How much time will you hire him before Eddie leaves? That depends on who hires him and how much time the Council thinks the new person would need to be broken in. How hard is it to break someone in? They basically have a routine everyday of things that they do. What jobs do they have to know? Councilman Glass said they need to know how to drive the trucks, how to put the plows and the samders on the trucks, the bucket loader, they need to know how to lift the manhole covers and to check the sewer lines to make sure everything is open to name a few of the things.

Valerie Williams - For this new opening, are you hiring a supervisor or is Hector moving up and then you hire someone under him. The ad was for a DPW worker. We have to sit down and talk to Hector to see if he is interested in being the supervisor. Someone will have to be the Supervisor. Do they go thru training for the job? Only what they are taught here. They do go some training. I'm trying to justify the salary that these people will be getting. No one said anything yet about salary. If Hector moves up to that position he should get the salary that Eddie was getting. He should be getting close to what Eddie was making. You have to think about these things. Who is bonded to take money to the bank. We all are on a bond that covers us all. Special bonds are for the Collector, CFO, Assessor. We are covered under a blanket bond.

PUBLIC PORTION CONTINUED:

Valerie Williams Continued - Will the new people be a part of the Emergency Operation Plan? The Mayor said yes. When is the last time someone went before the Water Commissioners to find about the water situation and how everything is maintained? Who can make complaints and who can follow up on questions? The Clerk said anyone can go to their meetings and ask questions. Do they have a plan on what they are doing or what they are going to do? Who on our Council goes to these meetings? The Clerk said she doesn't think anyone goes.

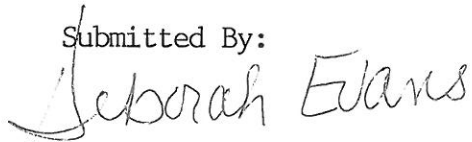
Councilwoman Montes asked if we can have someone come to our meeting? The Clerk said she can ask them but it would have to be someone in charge. I will call and see what I can find out.

The Mayor said that our lines are the lines that have been here forever. Dover comes in and makes repairs when something breaks.

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 Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk