

May 9, 2023

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on May 9, 2023.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance to thee 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 Hale, Councilman Lorenzo.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

At this time the Mayor asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business so that we can discuss the budget. Motion made by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

At this time the meeting was turned over to the CFO and the Auditor.

Joe said since the last time we met, I rather wait until next meeting to introduce. Increase is 3.08%. The average impact on a household would be \$65 a year. That is on a house assessed at \$115,000. The Auditor did not get a copy of the budget document. I will get something out to her. I want the Auditor to take another look at it so we will be ready to go at the end of the month.

When I started here things were charged to different line items that shouldn't have been. I had a lot of catching up to do. After tonight's meeting, I will have something to the Auditor so we can introduce on the 23rd.

We can't adopt until June 23rd. The Mayor asked what is immediately for you, Joe? The end of this week? Next week? I should have it to her by the end of the week. I will send her the draft tonight. Please let Debbe know when you get that to the Auditor and this way we will know. The Mayor said he understands we are way behind on things already.

Joe said he was at a seminar today and there were about 65 towns present. Fifteen towns have introduced already. The rest have not. Being new here, I had to get last year caught up first. Now that I am caught up, I can move forward. The Mayor said we would have liked to have us be one of the 15 that already introduced. This is the first time we have been this late on introducing.

Joe said that if he knew that VG was so far behind I would have had reservations about taking the job. I have about 5 to 10 hours that I can give a week. The Mayor said that he wants to make sure this job isn't too much for Joe to do. Now that I am caught up, we should be fine. I know the other Joe did the best he could but that is what happens with a part time CFO. To start off behind was an issue.

The Mayor asked Council if they have any questions for Joe or the Auditor? There were no questions. The Mayor said then Debbe should have the information by the end of the week? Yes. I will copy her on what I send to the Auditor. I will have it out the end of the week.

The Auditor said she will be away the when we introduce, but I will have someone here if you need. When I get the paperwork from Joe, I will review. I need the AFS documents. I will review before I go away.

Motion to go back into the regular order of business by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to accept the minutes of April 25, 2023 as received by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

** Councilman Glass said he spoke with Debbe about a mistake on one of his votes. No big deal. The Clerk said she typed as the minutes said but Councilman Glass said he thought the vote was different.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF 2023 BUDGET - We are holding off on this until the next meeting.

NEW PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS - The Clerk said there was some sort of question at the Planning Board meeting about some new members. January 17, 2023 Kevin spoke to the Mayor saying he has 2 new planning board members. They were: Angela Ramos and Cathy Pogany. At that time the Mayor told Kevin to put them on the Board. Eric Bernstein the Planning Board Attorney said they didn't have to be appointed by the whole governing body that it is the Mayor's appointment. On February 17, 2023 another new member was added. That was Frank Litts.

Motion was made on the new appointments. Motion made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

** Councilman Glass said there were no planning board approvals with the new people as of yet.

APPROVAL FOR LEON HALL TO REBID SIDEWALK PROJECT FOR COOLIDGE & MONROE AVENUE - We need a motion to have Leon rebid this project.

Motion made to have Leon Hall rebid the project for sidewalks. Motion made by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Abstain
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

The Clerk said this has already been approved. We sent the application in. We just have to do the authorizing resolution for the project. This is for Washington Avenue.

Motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	No
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

(See Resolution Next Page)

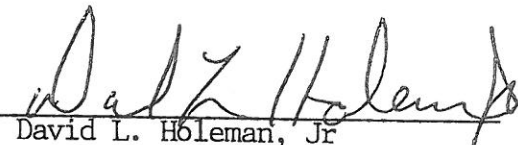
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

At a meeting held on May 9, 2023 the Borough Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens adopted the following Resolution:

The Borough Council authorizes an application to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the Improvements to Washington Avenue.

If awarded CDBG funds, The Borough of Victory Gardens shall implement the activities in a manner to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Dated: 5-9-23


David L. Holeman, Jr
Mayor
Borough of Victory Gardens

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens, do hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on May 9, 2023.


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF TRAFFIC AMENDMENT -

AMENDMENT TO BOROUGH CODE, VICTORY GARDENS TRAFFIC 7-15

Mayor asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion to open to the public by Councilwoman Hedgepath seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - What is this that you are doing? Councilman Glass said if a car is on the street longer than 48 hours the car will be towed at owners expense. we have on the books that there is no parking overnight on any street in the Borough.

The Clerk said this is something that the State Police wanted. They wanted it to say that the cars will be towed at owners expense. Is this selective enforcement? No, it will be across the board for the whole town. The State Police will do the towing.

Joan Cegelka - If you have an ordinance that says no parking on the street, why are you giving them 48 hours. The State Police said we should give them notice.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

ANDERSON & DENZLER - The Clerk said she has a letter from Leon Hall regarding the Coolidge/Monroe Sidewalks. Hestated that prior to rebidding the project, Community Development has to give approval of the plans and specifications. Leon will be going out to bid again.

Motion to accept the correspondence as received by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbalvote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the vouchers? Hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to pay the bills.

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

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

VOUCHER REPORTS
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 09, 2023

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
05-01	Dover Board of education	School Taxes	\$ 96,200.00	
05-02	Dover shared courts	shared court services	\$ 1,655.83	
05-03	Feintuch Porwich and Feintuch	Legal OE	\$ 3,377.50	
05-04	Feintuch Porwich and Feintuch	Legal Services	\$ 2,204.22	
05-05	General Code	Clerk OE	\$ 1,195.00	
05-06	Home Depot credit services	Building and grounds	\$ 351.70	
05-07	Kendyll Hedgpath	Recreation OE	\$ 103.50	
05-08	Kenvil Power	Buildings and grounds	\$ 113.47	
05-09	MRS Municipal record service	Shared Court	\$ 294.00	
05-10	NJNG Firehouse Account	Fire OE	\$ 380.69	
05-11	R and L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 274.00	
05-12	RVRSA	RVRSA Shares	\$ 9,624.00	
05-13	Viking pest control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 145.80	
05-14	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,564.32	
05-15	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,750.00	
05-16	Manny Venero	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,200.00	
Total			\$ 122,434.03	

Councilman Glass said he has areport that he would liketo give tonight. We have a tree that is falling down across Franklin Road. It's an emergency situation. I talked to the Mayor and severla other Councilpersons about this. they are coming out tomorrow to remove it. The cost will be about \$800.00 . There are other dead trees we have in the area. i will have Leon go out and take a look at them. If they are not on town property, we will send letters to the homeowners for them to have them removed.

Motion was made to removed the tree ata cost of \$800.00 . Motion made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:

MOTION ON ADOPTING TRAFFIC ORDINANCE -

Motion was made to adopt the amendment to the traffic ordinance. Motion made by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

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

Scott Miller and Kim Phillips - They are here to discuss for a minute the Citizen Advisory Committee. we would like someone from Victory Gardens on the Committee. we are creating this committee and we are seeking input from the community. This is because fo the failed referendum. we realize that we need a lot more information from the communities. There are also other programs that we would like to have input from the communities on. The Committee will be for about 10 people and the information will be going out on social media. There will be an application to be filled out.

Jim Janone - Is that 10 people total or you want 10 from Victory Gardens? Ten in total. The 2022 budget is still not on the website. we will call the auditors again. Where is this tree on Franklin Road. It is by the shed on the churches property. are you sure **that it is not** on the churchs property? How are you going to tell homeowners what trees need to come down?

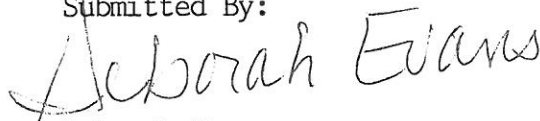
The Clerk said she missed something. Who said we are sending letters to homeowners? Councilman Glass said that h~~a~~d said that. If Leon determines that the tree is not on Borough property then a letter will go to the homeowner. The Clerk said we are not sending any letters out to homeowners unless Leon said there is a problem and they have to be notified. The washington Avenue project is that paving? Yes. Probably curbing if needed, speed bumps ifthey have to be redone. Where is this at? Roosevelt to the intersection of Washington and Washington. When is this litigation with the Dover Board of Education getting over with? Who is dragging their feet on this? The Clerk said it is on Dover. They were supposed to get an agreement to our Attorney for review. They have not done that yet. The Clerk said we just got the billing for the new school year and it is going up over \$3,000 a month. I sent that to Phil's office when I got it.

Joan Cegelka - Councilman Glass when the minutes were being approved, you said you had a correction for them. What was the correction? I abstained on something and Debbe put down that I said no. It doesn't make a difference Councilman Glass said.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbalvote. None opposed.

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk