

January 23, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on January 23, 2024.

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 Suarez, 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 12/12/23 and 1/2/24 as received by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on verbal vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

H O BAKER - I spoke iwth Charlotte at the insurance company. We received a letter saying that we have cooperated and complied with the provisions of the policy contract. She was going to reach out to the company and redo the application for the workers Comp. We are not covered yet, but hopefully by the end of the week we should have coverage again. I am just waiting to hear back from her.

STATE PENSION - I have talked to the pension people today. I was on the phone with them for quite some time going over different items. They said that the 4th quarter pension report and monies were not filed with them and it hasn't been paid. While I was talking to her, she was looking back and said they haven't received a pension report or contribution since 2022, last quarter. Jason got back to me and said the pension payments were made. I don't know when they were made because when I spoke to her this morning, she told me they weren't made. I do not know for sure if they were paid.

I did find out, while talking to this person, how to change the name of the certifying officer so it would now be the new Joe and not the old one. Joe said he didn't know how to cahnge it so I found out for him and printed it out so he can do it.

Joe has a few other things to do in order to get Letty into DCRP and get Manny into the PERS.

The Mayor asked how long it should take to get them into the two different plans? It should have been done immediately. Letty will be here almost 2 years and Manny has been here for over a year. As I was speaking to the pension person, she said that it is a liability to the employer and the employer could be liable for paying the back monies to both programs.

I also asked if Joe ever called them to talk to them about getting this work done and they said they have nothing saying he ever called. I asked them if he took the class he had to take for the certifying officer and they said they had no record of it. I told them he was a full time CFO in Wharton and would it be under that and she said no. He has to take it for each town.

AUDITORS - I received an email from the auditors that was sent to Joe and they were asking if is doing the Annual Financial Statement or are they doing it. I believe Joe did say he was doing it - but the auditors don't have it as of yet. I did speak to Jason today and he said they are working on the AFS and the auditors shouldn't have to do it.

TAX COLLECTOR - Angel is going to resign her position withthe Borough. She is pursuing another career opportunity. She can work through the end of February. I have put a few calls in to find out if anyone is interested. I'm waiting to hear back from them.

CLERKS VACATION TIME - The Clerk said she has 11 vacation days that she wasn't able to use in 2023. I want to know if I can carry thej over. We are onlu allowed to carry over 5 days, but everytime I tried to take time off Iwas called into the office to do other work such as bank issues, insurance issues, property maintenance court, building issues.

Councilwoman Hedgepath made a motion to let the Clerk take the 11 days as long as they are used up by April 1 of this year. Seconded by Councilwoman Montes. Approved on roll call:

Roll call: Councilman Suarez Yes
 Councilman Glass Yes
 Councilwoman Hedgepath Yes
 Councilman Hale Yes
 Councilman Lorenzo Yes
 Councilwoman Garcia Montes Yes

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

VOUCHERS:

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

Motion to apy the vouchers by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

VOUCHER REPORTS
 COUNCIL MEETING
 January 31,2024

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
01-28	Advanced Auto parts	Buildings and grounds	\$ 21.07	
01-29	American asphalt & trucking LLC	Engineering OE	\$ 6,892.85	
01-30	Anderson & Denzler Associates	Engineering OE	\$ 2,816.69	
01-31	County Of Morris Dept of Finance	Clerk OE	\$ 62,499.91	
01-32	Glass garden Inc (shoprite)	Recreation	\$ 525.21	
01-33	Interstate Waste Service.	Trash removal	\$ 12,267.58	
01-34	JCP&L	Utilities	\$ 578.55	
01-35	JLM Ccomputers	Clerk OE	\$ 97.00	
01-36	Morris County MUA	Road OE	\$ 292.50	
01-37	Postmaster	Clerk OE	\$ 514.00	
01-38	Protective Measures Security and fire	Fire OE	\$ 588.00	
01-39	Protective System Services	Clerk OE	\$ 300.00	
01-40	PWANJ	Streets and Roads	\$ 90.00	
01-41	R&L Data Center INC	Clerk OE	\$ 574.00	
01-42	The Hartford	Other Insurance	\$ 5,792.00	
01-43	Verizon Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 161.43	
01-44	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 3,015.99	
01-45	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 2,040.00	
01-46	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,587.00	
Total Voucher			\$ 101,653.78	

The Clerk said she is putting the vouchers from the last meeting into these minutes. The vouchers were signed off on by the Finance Committee - we just didn't have a meeting - it was cancelled because of the weather.

VOUCHER REPORTS
COUNCIL MEETING
January 09, 2024

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
01-01	Advanced Auto Parts	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 9.59	
01-02	Barco Dog Products	Dog OE	\$ 449.71	
01-03	Cargill Salt road Safety	Streets and Roads	\$ 2,209.90	
01-04	City Connections	Clerk OE	\$ 2,400.00	
01-05	Dept of children and Family	Clerk OE	\$ 75.00	
01-06	Dover Board Of Education	School Taxes	\$ 97,057.00	
01-07	Dover Court -Shared Services	Shared Court Services	\$ 1,655.83	
01-08	Glass Gardens Inc (shoprite)	Recreation	\$ 585.50	
01-09	Henry O Baker Insurance Group	Other Insurance OE	\$ 492.00	
01-10	Ideal Air Inc	Clerk OE	\$ 770.00	
01-11	Insync Municipal systems	tax collector OE	\$ 1,025.00	
01-12	Kendyll Hedgepath	Recreation	\$ 200.73	
01-13	Morris County MUA	Road OE	\$ 789.75	
01-14	New Jersey Registrar's Association	Clerk OE	\$ 25.00	
01-15	NJ Dept of Community Affairs	Clerk OE	\$ 172.24	
01-16	Office Concepts Group	Clerk OE	\$ 398.83	
01-17	Petty Cash	Clerk OE	\$ 62.20	
01-18	Protective Measures	Fire OE	\$ 198.00	
01-19	Rutgers Center for Government Service	Clerk OE	\$ 1,306.00	
01-20	Verizon -Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 156.82	
01-21	Viking Pest control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 11.66	
01-22	Vision Service Plan -VSP	Group Insurance	\$ 138.74	
01-23	Wex Bank Shell	Streets and Roads	\$ 344.77	
01-24	Feintuch Porwich & feintuch	Legal Services OE	\$ 2,204.22	
01-25	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,564.32	
01-26	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,800.00	
01-27	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,200.00	
Total Voucher			\$ 119,302.81	

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 2 permits issued for a total value of construction: \$11,000.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - No report.

MUNICIPAL COURT - We received \$133 from the court.

TAX COLLECTOR - No report.

REGISTRAR - 1 marriage license issued. total collected \$28.00

The Clerk said with the court, the Judge says that she agrees with the decision of the Council to give Mr. Soto until March 31, 2024 to finish his work. So we don't have to worry about going back to court.

Councilman Glass asked what the date was for him to be completed? March 31, 2024. How could he work on anything over the winter? That is the date that Council gave him.

Councilwoman Montes said the Council should extend it because he can't work in the winter.

Motion was made to extend the time for Pete Soto to finish the work at his house. Extended time is until September 1, 2024. The Clerk said she would send a letter to the court.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Glass - He said the salt is low. He spoke to Debbe and she said that Letty ordered it.

Councilman Lorenzo - He said the men told him a brake line on the small truck was broken. They told me and they fixed it. The other lines are bad from what they told him. The truck is not worth fixing. This truck is used for salting. We should have the other lines fixed. The truck is corroded from the salt. The truck is used in the winter only. The truck has 46,000 miles on it. Councilman Lorenzo said we need to look at replacing the truck in the future. If we do that, we need to get a liner for the bed to protect it from the salt. We should get the other lines replaced over the summer. They replaced the piece that was broken.

No other reports from Council.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

IDEAL AIR HEATER IN GARAGE - everyone has a copy of the estimate from Ideal Air. They said that the control board is no good and obsolete. The heater would cost \$3,800 to replace and he would need a list to get to the heater. The rental on the lift would be \$400. I spoke with DPW and they said they can change the board. It would cost about \$300. This is in the bay where the salt is kept. I think we should let them replace the Board and see if that works.

Councilman Lorenzo said he spoke to them about this. I told them to switch the boards. Take the one out of the good heater and put it in the old one. When they did that it worked. So I think it is the Board and not the heater.

Motion was made to have DPW buy the Board and install. Councilman Lorenzo said he would do it. Motion made by Councilman Lorenzo to buy the Board and install it for a cost of about \$300. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JASON GABLOFF AS TREASURER - Council asked that this be held off until they come to the next Council meeting. They would like Joe and Jason to be here for that meeting.

Councilman Suarez asked if Manny has his health benefits yet? No. I mentioned that earlier. When I spoke with Trenton they said they did not have any calls from Joe. So if he had an accident with the truck he would have no coverage? No. The town would have to pick up the cost of everything. Councilman Lorenzo asked if we have Workers Comp? No, I said that earlier. The insurance company was going to call in the application today but I may not hear anything until the end of the week as to if we are covered or not.

The Mayor said we gave Joe until the end of December 2023 to get this stuff done. We should have him at the next meeting. Notice him and have him here for our next Council meeting.

The Clerk said that Jason has already received a paycheck. Joe split his salary and Jason got a paycheck for January.

RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE - everyone has a copy of the resolution. Motion to approve the Resolution by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

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

(See Resolution Next Page)

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

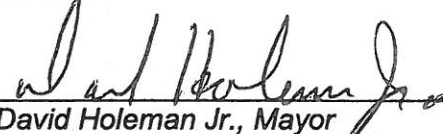
WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Morris;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

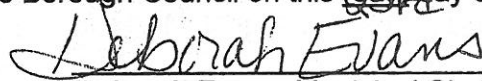
1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Dover/Victory Gardens Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$10,543.00
Cash Match	\$2,635.75
In-Kind	\$7,907.25
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: 
David Holeman Jr., Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Deborah Evans, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Borough Council on this 20th day of Jan., 2024


Deborah Evans, Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEW COURT JUDGE FOR DOVER - Everyone has a copy of the Resolution. Motion was made for the appointment of the new Judge in Dover. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Suarez | Yes |
| Councilman Glass | Yes |
| Councilwoman Hedgepath | Yes |
| Councilman Hale | Yes |
| Councilman Lorenzo | Yes |
| Councilwoman Garcia Montes | Yes |

(See Resolution Next page)

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
VICTORY GARDENS, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
APPOINTING AND DESIGNATING MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE OF THE SHARED
MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS AND THE TOWN
OF DOVER

WHEREAS, the Town of Dover is required to appoint a Municipal Court Judge in
accordance with NJSA 2B:12-4; and

WHEREAS, the Assignment Judge of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage has authorized
the appointment of a municipal court judge for the upcoming 3 year
term and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory
Gardens that the Honorable Cecilia Guzman be appointed as one of the
Municipal Court Judges for the Shared Municipal Court between Dover
and Victory Gardens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointment is for three years beginning
January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

ATTEST: Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

David L. Holeman, Jr.
David L. Holeman, Jr. Mayor

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 Gardnes, held on 1-23-2024.

Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

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

Jim Janone - Does anyone know about hte new bar next to Alonzos? Yes, we know.
I don't think they are a new bar. I think they are in with Alonzos. I told
Kevin about it. We took pictures of the sign in the window. Who is
enforcing when the residents throw snow in the roadway? DPW was told that if
they see anyone putting snow in the street to let us know. We will send
letters to them. Did you ever get a list of students from the Dover Board
of Ed? No, nothing at all. Are we going to live streaming of the meetings?
We haven't thought about it. We get no one at meetings. There is a cost for it.
We haven't had any requests for it. Ron Young - people said that he isn't doing
his job because he is driven around by someone. That is his wife. Ron's
doctor hasn't released him to drive so his wife brings him. He is still doing
his job. He doesn't come in every day. The Clerk said he never came in
everyday. He is here at least once a week. Sometimes more. Is Ron doing his
reports? Yes, he does the inspections. Letty types them up. Debbie use to
type his reports nad now Letty does it. This is one reason she was hired.

Christopher Trotsky - I've called a few times about getting fliers in our
mailbox. I feel violated. My personal mail is in the mailbox and fliers should not
be put in there. After you called, did they still put stuff inthere. We told
them not to do it. Where would you like them to put fliers? There is a mailbox
underneath the regular mailbox they can put it in there.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath 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

Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk