

February 27, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on February 27, 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: Attorney Feintuch

Motion was made to accept the minutes of 1/23/24, 2/6/24 and 2/20/24.
Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments on the vouchers? We are doing the set of vouchers from the meeting of 2/13/24 and for 2/27/24. Hearing none he asked for a motion to pay the bills.

Motion to pay the vouchers made by Councilman Glass, 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

VOUCHER REPORTS
COUNCIL MEETING
February 13, 2024

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
02-01	American Asphalt and Trucking	Engineering	\$ 15,708.49	
02-02	Cargill Inc	Building and grounds	\$ 2,373.56	
02-03	Culmac Investors Inc	Tax Collector	\$ 52,518.32	
02-04	Dept Of Community Affairs	Fire OE	\$ 323.00	
02-05	Dover Board Of Education	School taxes	\$ 97,057.00	
02-06	Dover Court-Shared Sevices	Shared court services	\$ 1,655.83	
02-07	Feintuch Porwich and feintuch	Legal Services	\$ 2,204.22	
02-08	Feintuch Porwich and feintuch	Legal Services	\$ 3,279.40	
02-09	Henry O Baker	Other Insurance	\$ 448.00	
02-10	Home Depot Inc	Building and grounds	\$ 1,365.53	
02-11	I Deal Air Inc	Building and grounds	\$ 457.50	
02-12	Ismael Lorenzo	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 253.10	
02-13	JCPL	Street Lighting	\$ 1,370.00	
02-14	Micro System -NJ	Tax Assessor	\$ 687.36	
02-15	Micro-systems nj .com	Tax Collector	\$ 120.00	
02-13	Montville animal Shelter	Dog OE	\$ 726.92	
02-14	NJ Conference of Mayors	Mayor and Council	\$ 295.00	
02-15	NJNG Fire House	Fire OE	\$ 274.99	
02-16	Office Concepts Group	Clerk OE	\$ 27.13	
02-17	R & L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 687.00	
02-18	RVRSA	RVRSA Shares	\$ 27,122.00	
02-19	Wex Bank Shell	Road OE	\$ 400.89	
02-20	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,695.45	
02-21	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,880.00	
02-22	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,312.50	

TOTAL VOUCHERS \$ 216,243.19

VOUCHER REPORTS
COUNCIL MEETING
February 27, 2024

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
02-23	Advanced Auto Parts	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 21.07	
02-24	Henry O Baker	Other insurance	\$ 448.00	
02-25	Ideal Air Inc	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 1,246.00	
02-26	Interstate Waste Services	Trash Removal	\$ 12,267.58	
02-27	JCPL Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 458.17	
02-28	JCPL Fire House	Fire OE	\$ 152.61	
02-29	JCPL Street Lights	Street Lighting	\$ 687.42	
02-30	Morris county MUA	Road OE	\$ 193.50	
02-31	NJ State League Of Municipalities	Mayor/Council	\$ 115.00	
02-32	Rockaway Township Health Services	Health Con Services	\$ 6,838.75	
02-33	Verizon Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 161.43	
02-34	Viking Pest Control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 157.46	
02-35	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and roads SW	\$ 2,899.43	
02-36	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,600.00	
02-37	Manuel Venereo	Streets and roads SW	\$ 2,487.50	
TOTAL VOUCHERS			\$ 29,733.92	

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Building Department - 3 permits issued. Total value of construction: \$49,000.

Property Maintenance - Everyone has a copy of the report. Councilman Glass said he went around town and he didn't see any problems with the commercial vehicles. You can have one commercial vehicle. The Clerk said she would ask Ron about it because many times there are more than one on the properties. Especially with the optimum trucks.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked about the trees on Taft Avenue - which ones? I don't know I don't do the report. I will ask and find out for you. There are no trees on the property except in the back. Councilwoman Hedgepath said if they are the ones in the back then she believes they are the towns.

Municipal Court - We received \$55.04 from the court.

Tax Collector - Total Tax Receipts Month To Date: \$129,868.22
" " " Year To Date: \$129,868.22

Registrar - There was one marriage license issued at a cost of \$28.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recreation - Councilwoman Montes said that they are planning the Easter party. It will be held on March 30, 2024 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the firehouse. For ages 1 to 12 and they must be a Victory Gardens resident. Bring your own bags or basket to collect Easter eggs.

Motion to accept hte reports and put on file by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Councilman Glass said he is talking to the company that put the railing in by our sidewalk coming into the building. If we can save it we will save it. The Clerk said she spoke to Leon about that today. He said it may not be cheaper to have them come in and remove it and then have to pay the other company to reinstall. Councilman Glass said it won't hurt to have him look at it.

Councilman Glass asked about the resit of the sidewalk where there is no railing currently? The Clerk said all that would have to be put into the bid specs. If you have suggestions talk to Leon before he goes out to bid.

Councilwoman Montes said across the street from Councilman Lorenzos house there was a manhole that was up in the air. It is closed now. If it was up the Clerk said the DPW probably fixed it. Sometime the way a car hits it it will bring it up. No, it wasn't in the street it was on the sidewalk. The Clerk said she would have the DPW look at it.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF GAP ORDINANCE - The Clerk said we do this every year. Everyone has a copy of the ordinance.

Motion was made to approve the Ordinance by Councilman Glass, 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

(See Ordinance Next Page)

CALENDAR YEAR 2024
MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Victory Gardens in the County of Morris finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2024 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$11,469.88 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

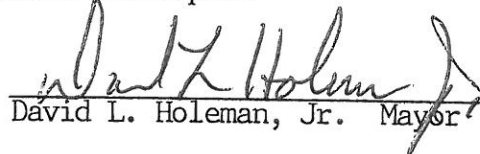
WHEREAS the governing body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough of Victory Gardens, in the County of Morris, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2024 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Victory Gardens shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$40,144.58, and that the CY 2024 municipal budget for the Borough of Victory Gardens be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.


David L. Holeman, Jr. Mayor

ATTEST:


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

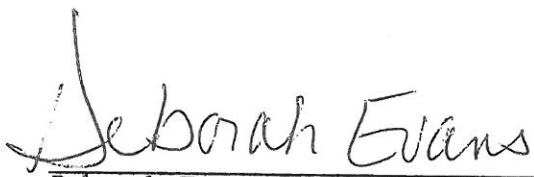
RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TAX COLLECTOR -

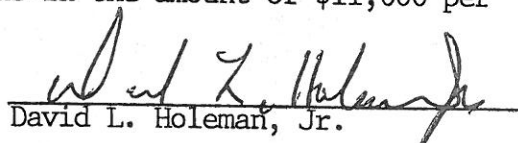
RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TAX COLLECTOR
FOR THE BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Victory Gardens, Morris County, New Jersey is obligated to maintain a Municipal Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, Linda Roth has met the requirements of the position; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens that Linda Roth be appointed as the Tax Collector for the Borough of Victory Gardens in the amount of \$11,000 per year.


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk


David L. Holeman, Jr.

ADOPTED: 2-27-24

**** This appointment is for a 4 year period beginning March 1, 2024 and ending February 28, 2028.

The advertisement for this position was in the Daily Record and also on the leagues website. We had 9 applicants. Everyone has a copy of the Resolution. Councilwoman Montes asked what she is being paid? She is taking \$1,000 less.

Motion to approve Linda Roth as the new Tax Collector for the Borough. 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

LETTER FROM TAX ASSESSOR REGARDING RE EVALUATION OF BOROUGH - Everyone was given a copy of the Assessors letter. In part the letter says: The Morris County Tax Board has ordered the Borough to do a town wide reevaluation for the year 2026. A complete reval would cost \$30,000 plus. Also, with a complete reval you have to upgrade your tax maps which could cost another several thousand dollars. Glen is suggesting that we do a reassessment. This way it could be done by him with the help of an outside firm. It would cost less. Approximately \$6,000 less. You would not have to update the tax maps. The County Tax Board needs to know this right away. Glen would send them a letter telling them what we are going to do. Joe said we will put half the money in this budget year and half in next year. The whole town has to be done. We rather go with our Assessor than having an outside firm do it.

Councilman Glass asked the Clerk to make the Tax Assessor an offer of \$11,000. Motion to offer by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

REVAL CONTINUED:

Roll call vote:

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JASON GABLOFF AS A PART TIME TREASURER FOR THE BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Victory Gardens has determined the need for a part time Treasurer for the Borough of Victory Gardens

WHEREAS, Jason Gabloff is willing to accept the position on a part time basis, and

WHEREAS, Jason Gabloff has all the necessary credentials to fill the position of Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, from discussion the Chief Financial Officer has determined that Jason Gabloff will be hired part time as treasurer with a salary of \$12,000 per year. Said money is to come out of Chief Financial Officers salary.

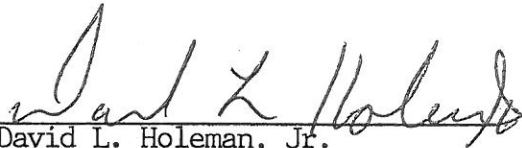
WHEREAS, the hours devoted to this position shall be flexible; and

WHEREAS, Jason Gabloff agrees to accept such sum as full compensation for the duties required of this position, and is entitled to no other benefits such as health insurance and holidays.


WHEREAS, some of the duties under this position are as follows:
Bank Reconciliations
Ledger Postings
Any other treasurer functions

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens appoint Jason Gabloff as Treasurer for the Borough of Victory Gardens at a monthly stipend of \$1,000.00 per month and no other benefits and he shall commence his duties beginning January 9, 2024.

This appointment is for a 4 year term beginning January 9, 2024 through December 31, 2027.


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 a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Mayor and Council, held on 2-27-24.


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESSS CONTINUED:

Motion to appoint Jason Gabloff as the Treasurer for the Borough. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

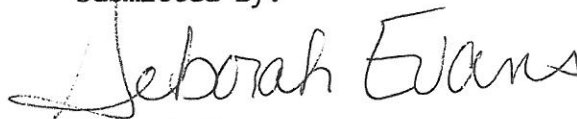
Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - Can we get an update on the RVRSA litigation and the school litigation? Yes, when the Attorney is here. I know the last time he talked about the school they were still waiting on the Judge to make his final decision. I believe they were waiting on the same thing for the school. When you have your next budget meeting you might think about putting some thing in for a neighborhood party. What railings are you talking about? The ones right here as you come into the building. Why would the Engineer say you can't use them. He didn't say you can't use them He said he didn't know if the the company coming in would use them. All that will be figured out when Leon is in the process of doing the bids. What is the difference in a reassessment and a reevaluation? A reassessment is cheaper. You don't have to do the tax maps. You can have you Assessor do the reassessment with the help of an outside company. With a reeval you are paying for all new tax maps to be made, you are paying more to the company doing it. Are you talking about a major tax increase throughout the town? I don't think so. It depends on what they see when they do the work.

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

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

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk