

April 9, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on April 9, 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, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Hale, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilman Glass.

\*\* Attorney Feintuch was also absent for this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of 3/26/24 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LETTER TO RESIDENT REGARDING TREES - A letter did go out to the homeowner telling him he was responsible to pay the bill for Master Tree on his tree that fell onto Franklin Road during a storm. He did call and say he would pay the bill.

PENSIONS - I did speak to Jason who is now working with our CFO. Jason managed to get Manny into the pensions, finally. He needed more information in order to enroll him into health benefits which I sent all that to him. I asked about Letty into DCRP and he is still working on that. He did ask Letty for more information and she provided that.

Councilwoman Montes asked if there was anything else they owed us? I think these issues were the biggest. We have Workers Comp back in effect again. What about signature cards? I don't think Joe ever went to the bank. I know Jason is working with the Provident Bank where he works in Mendham. It is closer to him and if there is an issue he is right there to handle whatever needs to be done.

Motion to accept correspondence as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo 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 approve the vouchers for payment by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

(See Vouchers Next Page)

**VOUCHER REPORTS  
COUNCIL MEETING  
April 09,2024**

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
04-01	Advanced Auto Parts	Buildings and Grounds OE	\$ 49.75	
04-02	Anderson Denzler associates INC	Engineering OE	\$ 4,957.05	
04-03	Att Long distance	Utilities	\$ 32.31	
04-04	Dover Board Of Education	school Taxes	\$ 97,057.00	
04-05	Dover Court Shared Services	Shared -Court Services	\$ 1,655.83	
04-06	Eric M Bernstein	Planning Board	\$ 1,548.00	
04-07	Feintuch Porwich and Feintuch	Legal OE	\$ 2,204.22	
04-08	Leticia Diaz	Planning Board	\$ 90.00	
04-09	NJ Department of Community affairs	Clerk OE	\$ 170.64	
04-10	NJNG-Firehouse	Utilities	\$ 275.00	
04-11	Norberto Suarez	Recreation OE	\$ 88.99	
04-12	R & L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 580.00	
04-13	Rockaway valley regional sewerage Auth	RVRSA Shares	\$ 13,561.00	
04-14	Rutgers Center For Government	Clerk OE Classes	\$ 653.00	
04-15	Viking Pest Control	Buildings and Grounds OE	\$ 314.92	
04-16	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,797.44	
04-17	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 2,000.00	
04-18	manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,400.00	
<b>TOTAL VOUCHERS</b>			<b>\$ 123,237.71</b>	

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE RESOLUTION - The Clerk said that everyone has a copy of the Resolution.

Mayor Holeman asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Motion made by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

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

(See Resolution Next Page)

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 2025 in the amount of:

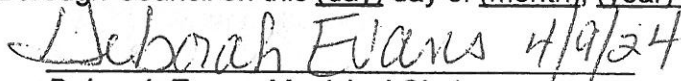
DEDR	\$9,778.00
Cash Match	\$2,444.50
In-Kind	\$7,333.50

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 (day) day of (month), (year).

  
 Deborah Evans, Municipal Clerk

EDMUNDS PROPOSAL - Everyone has a copy fo the proposal. At one of the last meetings when Joe was here you gave him permission to move forward with this proposal. They are working on it now to get it up and running. Everyone was given a copy of the proposal. What account is this coming out of? I believe Joe said it would be Capital.

Motion to approve the Edmunds proposal by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

NEW PHONE SYSTEM - Joe has looked this proposal over. He said it looks good to him. This is for 9 phones with answering machine. They will send up email addresses for all 9 phones. If anyone calls needing a certain person, then it will go straight thru to their voice mails. We are buying the phones. The system includes the hardware, 9 phones, cloud, email addresses and the 9 phones. That cost is \$5,550.70. There is a monthly fee of \$756.39 . Right now we are paying 2 verizon accounts, AT & T and JLM Computers. we no longer need those services. That cost us currently \$470.31. We will be keeping Optimum for internet services. We will have a phone system again and be able to use both phone numbers. When will we get the new phones? As soon as we call them they will come in. Councilman Suarez asked about the cloud. We get a cloud with Edmunds and one with the phone system? Yes. We asked Joe about that and if we can get the cloud coverage removed from the phone since we have it with Edmunds. He said no they are two different types of clouds.

Motion was made to buy the phones system. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

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

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING - We have a Board of Health meeting scheduled for April 16, 2024. All members need to be present. I spoke with Jaime and he or Peter will be here.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS - It is that time of year to file your Statements. The deadline is 4/30/24. Please make sure you do it so that you do not get fined.

OLD BUSINESS:

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE -

The Clerk said this has to be read by title only. We introduced last month and now need to get it adopted.

Borough of Victory Gardnes Municipal  
Stormwater Control Ordinance

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

No comment from the public.

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

Motion to adopt the Ordinance by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

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

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Hale nad pproved on verbalvote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - Who is happening withthe Dover Board of Education litigation? We went into closed session at the last meeting. We are still in litigation. Waiting on stuff from Dover. There was a water main break on South Salem and we were without water for many hours. Is there a way we can have them tell us when something like this happens? They are supposed to notify us but we never heard anything. What is the model number for the phone system? YeaLinkMP50 . The water was out for about 8 hours. The Edmunds does that include fixed assests? I think Joe said it does. He said it would clear up one of the recommendations in the Audit that we have every year. How much money is left in the American Rescue Plan and what are we doing with it? I don't know how much is left but we are doing the rest of the sewer scoping.

Public Portion Continued -

Jim Janone Continued - What type of system is it for the phones? VOIP I think is what they said. So you will be keeping Optimum? Yes. What are you dropping? AT & T, 2 Verizon accounts and JIM computers.

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

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked the Clerk to reach out to Dover Schools person in charge of transportation. For the last month the kids are getting home 40 minutes after school lets out. These older kids have to meet their younger siblings at the bus stop in order to walk them home. The younger kids are just waiting at the bus stops for the older kids to get there and take them home. I did call myself. Mr. Franks is now back as transportation. The kids are standing outside the school waiting on the buses to get there and then the buses go to the parking lot and they don't pick the kids up from in front of the school. They also have 2 buses for the high school kids only. There is 1 bus for freshman and sophmores and then another bus for juniors and seniors. This makes no sense. Then there is a late bus. When the kids are picked up for school in the morning they are picked up by Roxbury buses. Going home they are on Dover buses.

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