

May 28, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on May 28, 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, Councilman Hale, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Hedgepath & Councilman Lorenzo.

** Attorney Feintuch was also present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of May 14, 2024 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

At this time Mayor Holeman asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business so we can introduce the budget. We have present tonight our Auditor and our Treasurer.

Motion to go out of the regular order of business by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

At this time the Mayor turned the meeting over to Jason and Man so they can discuss the introduction.

The overall levy will be \$838,061.00 which is the local portion. The proposed 2024 local rate will be 1.186 which is 4.8¢ over the prior year. That comes out to \$97.00 per year increase on a home assessed at \$173,000.

How many homes in here are assessed at \$173,000 Councilwoman Montes asked? We take the total number of residential properties and divide that into the residential assessed value. That is how we come out with an average home.

The Mayor asked if everything is now complete with the budget? Man said it is. If Council votes to night to introduce, then it will be sent down to the State for their review. If the State is okay with everything then we plan to adopt at the June 25th meeting.

Councilwoman Montes said that she asked Joe to work on not having a tax increase tax year.

The Mayor asked if this budget is handed in on time or will we be getting a penalty for it being so late? Man said if we introduce tonight and it passes tonight and then we adopt in June we should be okay.

Jason says he feels pretty comfortable. He spoke with the State a few weeks ago and I gave them a schedule and they were okay with that. I don't think we should have any issues.

The Mayor said that is providing we introduce tonight? Yes. Councilwoman Montes said next year we need to do this earlier because this is the latest we have ever introduced. Jason said he would like that too.

Councilman Suarez asked if the recommendations we got in our audit last year - will we be better this year? The audit is still in process. Tonight is just the budget. Man said the auditors were in today and we may need another 1/2 day.

Motion was made to introduce the 2024 budget. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman glass	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

The Mayor said this has nothing to do with the budget, but asked Jason how it's going with getting Manny into the health benefits? Jason said he is working on it. I am having a problem with the Benefits Solver. I have called them, they are not returning our calls. I emailed their help desk. Manny is in the system. I can see Manny and his whole family is in. I can't make his selection for the health benefits. I know what one he will have but they aren't letting me do it. I am going to try to create an account for him. I will sign in as the employee. I will try it that way and see if I can get in that way.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the vouchers? Councilwoman Montes said the JCP & L bill is high. How come? We pay it every month the Clerk said. It either crossed in the mail or they hadn't received it at the time they sent the new bill out.

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

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

**VOUCHER REPORTS
COUNCIL MEETING
May 28, 2024**

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
05-25	Advanced Auto Parts	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 28.67	
05-26	AJM Contractors Inc	Clean Communities	\$ 16,623.25	
05-27	Gannett New Jersey	Clerk OE	\$ 971.77	
05-28	Henry O Baker	Other Insurance	\$ 10,441.00	
05-29	Interstate Waste	Trash Removal	\$ 13,003.62	
05-30	Jcpl	Street Lighting	\$ 1,369.36	
05-31	JCPL Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 811.44	
05-32	JCPL Firehouse	Fire OE	\$ 182.36	
05-33	Morris County Assessors association	Assessor OE	\$ 195.00	
05-34	Morris County MUA	Road OE	\$ 369.00	
05-35	Optimum Internet	Clerk OE	\$ 22.76	
05-36	RVRSA Sewerage	Rvrsa Shares	\$ 13,561.00	
05-37	Verizon	Utilities	\$ 72.47	
05-38	Vision Service Plan	Group Insurance	\$ 277.46	
05-39	Wex Bank -Shell Fleet	Road OE	\$ 467.33	
05-40	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,797.44	
05-41	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 2,320.00	
05-42	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,400.00	
		TOTAL VOUCHERS	\$ 65,913.93	

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Building Department - 1 permit issued. Demo permit.

Property Maintenance - No report.

Municipal Court - We received a \$200.00 check from the court for the bail account. The check was not cashed so it is being returned to us.
We also recieved a check in the amount of \$513.12 .

Tax Collector - No report

Registrar - 1 marriage license issued. Total collected \$28.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Glass said the sweeper that we talked about at the last meeting has been put in the paper. Bids are to be in by June 7th. They will be opened on June 10th.

Councilwoman Montes asked which sweeper it is? This one is 20 years old. Now that the sidewalk is done, the person putting up the railing will be here in June to put the railing back on. We had to wait until the concrete was hard enough.

Motion to accept and put on file all reports by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION TO MUNICPAL BUDGET - Done earlier in meeting.

The Clerk said that the 2 resolutions for liquor licenses will not be done tonight. They have nto reveived their tax clearance yet and we can't do the resolutions until they have their tax clearance. we will try for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

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

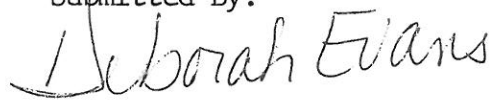
Jim Janone - Who is doing the railing and how much is it costing?
Councilman Glass said it is the same company that repaired it the last time. It is costing \$75 per hole and whatever else has to be done to it.
How many holes is he putting in? I think there was 10. Council has discussed this before. Jim said they didn't as he would remember since he comes to every meeting. The Attorney said he may have missed one. I don't think so. I will put an OPRA in for that estimate that you said we have. When are we going to sell the vacuum for the leaves? That has been sitting out there forever and as long as it continues to sit there we are losing money. we should get rid of the other sweeper and the vacuum also. There was no report for property maintenance. Does that mean we don't pay him? No, it doesn't mean that. He has been in but nothing was written up yet. Will we get a report next month? I'm sure. I saw over the weeknd that there was a tractor parked up at Boytons house on Monroe. Did anyone see it? the Clerk said she did but when she was coming in, that was going out. Has there been a response from the Dover Board of Ed? Nothing. We emailed them and haven't heard anything back. Does the Attorney have an update on the ordinance we did for lead inspections? We notified everyone that they had to do the inspections on their own. We don't have a person on staff that can do these inspections.

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

Councilwoman Montes asked the Attorney what is happening withthe money we are holding on the Dover BOE? We are still holding it. They are raising issues about the time frame for collecting money. We are still fighting them. Their Attorney wants to make a deal. I told him to come up with a number and I will bring it to the Council. It doesn't mean that whatever they offer we will do? Of course not. Council would have to make a decision.

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

Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Evans". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed text "Submitted By:". The first letter 'D' is capitalized and has a large loop.

Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk