

August 13, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on August 13, 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, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilman Glass and Councilman Lorenzo.

Motion to accept the minutes of July 23, 2024 made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Councilwoman Montes stated that in the last minutes, the Clerk mentioned that the monies from the grant for Roosevelt Avenue was returned to the County because no one remembered saying it was okay to do the project. At the time we put in for a generator and they told us they don't do generators. Our Engineer said Roosevelt Avenue can be done. Then Councilman Glass went up and looked at Roosevelt Avenue and he said it didn't need to be done. Some of the other Council people went up and they agreed that it didn't have to be done. Only thing that needed to be done was the inlets. So why fix something that isn't broke. Inlets may cost around \$7,000 but with the other project we would have been putting in more than that of the taxpayers monies. We appreciate the grant that they were going to give us, but it doesn't have to be done. I wanted that on the record.

CORRESPONDENCE:

THANK YOU NOTE - From the Cegelka Family - Thank you for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness during the most difficult time of our daughter Dawns passing. It is appreciated and will be remembered always.

DIVISION OF PENSIONS - I received the card back from certified mail that was sent with the checks for the back pension payments.

DOVER WATER - I am waiting for them to come to my house to show me what they are looking for in regards to the notice that everyone in town received. I thought that if I could see what to do then I might be able to relay that to the residents.

They do have a project planned for Victory Gardens. They are working on a grant to get funding. The planned project for Victory Gardens are: Jefferson Avenue, Taft Avenue, Cleveland Avenue, Garfield Avenue, Polk Avenue (Washington Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue) and Washington Avenue (Adams Avenue to Monroe Avenue).

Councilman Suarez asked if they said when they were going to start this project? No. They may be doing Washington Avenue in the future and we don't want them ripping up our new road. The Clerk said she will ask Leon when they are doing Washington Avenue. Dover comes in after we do work and they rip our roads up and never fix them back the way they are suppose to.

NEW SIGNS IN BOROUGH - I need to purchase 12 No Overnight Parking Signs and 12 No Parking Anytime Signs. the ones we have are faded out and some you can't read. It will cost about \$654.00 .

Councilwoman Montes asked where these signs are going? Throughout the town. They don't listen to the signs that are there now. That is right the Clerk said. However, the State Police said the signs have to be able to be read. The Mayor and I are seeing the police at the end of the month. One of the things we are going to tell them is that they have to come in and start writing tickets for parking. The Mayor said that they already started writing tickets on his street because people are complaining about it.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

SIGNS CONTINUED - Motion was made to order the signs by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on roll call:

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

MEETING DATES FOR 2025 - I was looking through the calendar for next year to set our meeting dates. November 11, 2025 is a meeting date for us but that is Veterans Day and we are closed. So we can have back to back meetings on November 18th and 25th or we can have just one meeting in that month on November 25th. I need to know what Council wants to do so I will be able to advertise.

Councilwoman Montes said the bills need to be paid. Yes. Councilwoman Montes made a motion to have meetings on the 18th and 25th of November 2025. No one seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Hedgepath made a motion to skip the meeting of November 11th, 2025 and just have one meeting that month on November 25th, 2025. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on roll call:

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

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

VOUCHERS:

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

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

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

(See Vouchers Next Page)

**Voucher Reports
Mayor and Board Council Meeting
August 3, 2024**

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
08-01	Acrisure	Other Insurance	\$ 248.00	
✓08-02	Anderson & Denzler Associates	Engineering OE	\$ 4,203.65	
✓08-03	AT & T Long Distance	Utilities	\$ 6.86	
✓08-04	Barco Products	Dog OE	\$ 385.83	
✓08-05	Dover Board of Education	School taxes	\$ 97,057.00	
✓08-06	Dover Court -Shared Services	Shared Court Services	\$ 1,655.83	
✓08-07	Eric Bernstein & Associates	Planning Board OE	\$ 2,052.00	
✓08-08	Feintuch Porwich & Feintuch	Legal Services	\$ 2,204.22	
✓08-09	Henry O Baker	Other Insurance	\$ 299.00	
✓08-10	Interstate Waste	Trash Removal	\$ 12,635.60	
✓08-11	JCPL Street Lights	Street Lights	\$ 750.35	
✓08-12	Konica Minolta Business Solutions	Clerk OE	\$ 31.23	
✓08-13	Leticia Diaz	Planning Board	\$ 90.00	
✓08-14	Montana Construction Corp Inc	Engineering OE	\$ 14,138.50	
✓08-15	Morris County League Of Municipalities	Clerk OE	\$ 100.00	
✓08-16	Morris County Mua	Road OE	\$ 310.50	
✓08-17	Navitend Phones-internet	Clerk OE	\$ 1,386.87	
✓08-18	NJNG FireHouse	Fire OE	\$ 275.00	
✓08-19	Office Concepts Groups	Tax Collector	\$ 31.98	
✓08-20	Pro Cap 8 FBO First Trust bank	Tax Collector	\$ 842.79	
✓08-21	R & L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 280.00	
✓08-22	RVRSA	RVRSA SHARES	\$ 13,561.00	
✓08-23	Sheaffer Supply Inc	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 144.76	
✓08-24	Verizon Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 180.09	
✓08-25	Viking Pest Control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 157.46	
✓08-26	Vision Service Plan -VSP	Vision Insurance	\$ 237.00	
✓08-27	Wex Bank Shell Fleet	Roads	\$ 457.48	
08-28	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,564.32	
08-29	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,760.00	
08-30	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,200.00	

TOTAL VOUCHERS

\$ 160,247.32

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION FOR TAX LIEN - The Clerk said everyone has a copy of the Resolution. This is for Block 10 Lot 1.65 .

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

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

(See Resolution Next Page)

**BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS
RESOLUTION OF REDEMPTION
TAX TITLE LIEN**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received payment for redemption of Tax Title Lien #23-002 on **BLOCK 10 LOT 01.65** known as 65 Victory Ct. in the name of **Vicital, Barbara A., and**

WHEREAS, reimbursement is now required to be made to the following Lien Holder,

Pro Cap 8 FBO Firstrust Bank
PO Box 774
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774

To return the amount of the Lien, Penalty, Interest, Costs and Premium:

TAX TITLE LIEN: \$ 542.79
PREMIUM: 300.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Borough Treasurer be authorized to prepare a check in the amount of **\$842.79** made payable to:

Pro Cap 8 FBO Firstrust Bank
PO Box 774
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Borough Chief Financial Officer.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens at a duly convened Meeting held on July _____, 2024.

David L. Holman, Jr
Mayor

Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED -

The Clerk said we have other items to vote on tonight. Jason was supposed to be here with the person he wanted as Treasurer. He called me today and said they changed the date for his son to move back into college. The date was scheduled for tonight between 4 and 8 p.m.. He called to say he couldn't make it tonight.

So two items on the agenda you can do tonight if you want. That would be accepting the current CFO's resignation letter and the other one would be to appoint Jason as the new CFO. However, before you do that I would suggest if you are hiring Jason as the CFO then let it be for a 90 day probationary period. We want to make sure everything works out and that there is no problem with him doing the work.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked if Jason knows it would be a 90 day probationary period. No, but anyone you bring on is always a 90 day probationary period.

Councilwoman Montes asked if the current CFO is working on something for us? Yes. Jason also said he would like to keep Joe on until we get transitioned from Quick Books to MSI/Edmonds. How will we work that? Well, we can keep Joe on until the end of the year so he can get this finalized and then the new Treasurer can start in January. So Jason and Joe would be here until the end of the year. Jason would be the CFO and Joe can stay on as the Treasurer until the end of the year. Then, the person Jason wants in as the new Treasurer will begin in January.

VOTE TO APPOINT JASON GABLOFF AS THE NEW CFO - This position would start immediately and it would be for a 90 day probationary period. Begin 8/19/24.

Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

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

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE CFO RESIGNATION - Joe Kovalcik said he is resigning his position as CFO . The Mayor said we need a motion to accept his resignation.

Motion was made to accept Joe's resignation letter by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

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

VOTE TO APPOINT NEW TREASURER - We will hold this off until the next meeting when Jason can be here with the person he wants to put in for the Treasurer.

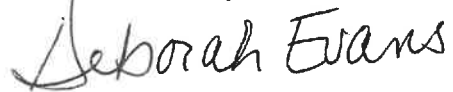
Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - Why are we still paying a Verizon bill? We have not totally transitioned to the new phone system yet. Were you aware that the Dover BOE had 2 vacancies? No. I don't know if they are still open but I will find out. We should have someone on the Board. Attorney Feintuch said he doesn't think we are allowed to have someone on there. We had someone run last year but they lost the election. Is there any update on the re-org meeting for the Planning Board that we talked about? No more than what I told you today. You were talking about signs in the Borough. There are some dog signs that are faded. I will have the DPW check them out. When will the Victory Grdens sign get painted? I don't know. Whats the update on the community gift we talked about for the cannabis retailers? Nothing yet. The Mayor and I are meeting with Alex this week to talk about it. I have several ideas. But it is something that the Council would have to agree on and then paperwork would have to be drawn up for a formal agreement. You didn't mention what salary would be given to the new CFO or the Treasurer. It would be the same as they are getting now. You had closed session at the last meeting. When will those minutes be available for the public? when the matters are finalized. The audio? As soon as the matter is finalized. Can you give a date when that might be? Probably in january of 2025. Did you do any voting in the closed session? The Attorney called it a straw vote to see how the Council would vote.

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:

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 name.

Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk