

January 14, 2025

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on January 14, 2025.

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

Motion to accept the minutes of 12/10/24 and 1/7/25. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed. Councilman Lorenzo abstained from the minutes of 12/10/24 as he was not present at the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

RESCHEDULED 2025 PRIMARY ELECTION DATE - Governor Murphy has changed the elction date for the primary election this year. It was June 3, 2025 and he changed it to June 10, 2025. This was done in observance of the Jewish holiday Shavuot.

Election day will now be on our Council night. I need to know if you want to change the date of our meeting or would you rather not have a meeting. If you would rather not have a meeting then we would only have one meeting for June.

The Mayor asked the Council what they wanted to do? Council said to cancel the meeting.

Motion was made to cancel the June 10th meeting due to the election date being changed. Motion made by Councilwoman Hedgepath, 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 accept and put on file 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 on the vouchers? Councilman Lorenzo asked about #1-04. This was for the heating system at the firehouse. Also voucher #1-06. What insurance is that for? Workers Comp. Also # 034. State of New Jersey Family Services. That is the Registrar reports for marriage licenses to the State. It wasn't done all year and they sent us paperwork saying it had to be done. Also, did we cut trees down? We had one cut last year. We didn't have a meeting so it is being paid now. It was approved by the Council. It was on the corner of Jefferson. That was a lot of money for one tree. Yes, but it is always more expensive when you just cut one down instead of many.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked about #1-21. JCP & L. We have a lot of street lights out so why are we paying them? The Mayor said he has been giving lists. He will send them a letter with the lights that are out and we will tell them that if they don't get fixed they won't be paid.

Motion to pay the vouchers by Councilman Suarez, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilman Suraez	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Abstain

(See Vouchers Next Page)

Voucher Reports
Mayor and Board Council Meeting
January 14,2025

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
01-01	Advanced Auto Parts	Buildings and Grounds OE	\$ 185.95	
01-02	Anderson & Denzler Associates	Engineeing OE	\$ 768.00	
01-03	ANJEC	Mayor And Council	\$ 450.00	
01-04	Atlas Mechanical Services	Fire OE	\$ 732.95	
01-05	Barco Products LLC	Dog OE	\$ 359.25	
01-06	CNA Insurance Companies	Other Insurance	\$ 7,545.00	
01-07	County Of Morris Dept Of Finance	Clerk OE	\$ 5,162.03	
01-08	Dover Board Of Education	School Taxes	\$ 97,057.00	
01-09	Dover Court -Shared Services	Shared Court Services	\$ 1,655.83	
01-10	Eric M Bernstein & Associates LLC	Planning Board	\$ 60.00	
01-11	Feintuch ,Porwich & Feintuch	Legal Services OE	\$ 2,204.22	
01-12	Gannett Newspaper	Clerk OE	\$ 51.19	
01-13	Glass Gardens (Shoprite)	Recreation OE	\$ 175.31	
01-14	Henry O Baker Insurance	Other Insurance	\$ 492.00	
01-15	Home Depot Inc	Buildings and Grounds OE	\$ 301.16	
01-16	Ideal Air Inc	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 425.00	
01-17	Insync Municipal Systems	Tax Colector OE	\$ 1,050.00	
01-18	Interstate Waste	Trash Removal	\$ 12,635.60	
01-19	JCPL Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 908.11	
01-20	JCPL Fire House	Fire OE	\$ 304.11	
01-21	JCPL Streetlights	Streetlights OE	\$ 1,508.15	
01-22	Konica Minolta Business Solutions	Clerk OE	\$ 137.87	
01-23	McDonalds Randolph NJ	Recreation	\$ 285.00	
01-24	Morris County MUA	Road OE	\$ 787.50	
01-25	Municipal construction Officials of NJ	Clerk OE	\$ 75.00	
01-26	NJ Department Of Community Affairs	Clerk OE	\$ 51.71	
01-27	NJNG- Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 822.00	
01-28	NJNG -Firehouse	Fire OE	\$ 297.00	
01-29	Office Concepts group	Clerk OE	\$ 224.67	
01-30	Optimum Borough Hall	Clerk OE	\$ 232.45	
01-31	Protective Measures Security and Fire	Clerk OE	\$ 1,176.00	
01-32	R & L Data Centers Inc	Clerk OE	\$ 280.00	
01-33	Scotty Tree Experts	Engineering OE	\$ 3,100.00	
01-34	State Of New Jersey Children and Families	Clerk OE	\$ 600.00	
01-35	State Of New Jersey Dept Of Labor	Clerk OE	\$ 1,082.80	
01-36	Viking Pest Control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 157.46	
01-37	Wex Bank -Shell Fleet Plus	Road OE	\$ 410.30	
01-38	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 3,350.93	
01-39	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 2,162.40	
01-40	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,856.00	

TOTAL VOUCHERS

\$ 136,944.06

NEW BUSINESS:

CAP ORDINANCE - Everyone has a copy. This is something we do every year and it was sent over by the Auditors.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2025
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 2025 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 \$11,830.78 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

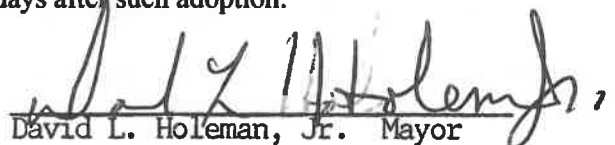
WHEREAS the governing body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.


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 2025 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 \$41,407.73 and that the CY 2025 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



Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

Introduced: 1-14-2025

Adopted: _____

Motion to approve the CAP Ordinance on introduction by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

ANIMAL CONTRACT WITH MONTVILLE - I just received this in the mail. This is our new agreement with Montville for services. Things went up a few cents on different items. The big change was the Capital Contribution. That is what they make each town pay for updates to the kennels or whatever they need to upgrade. That was \$1,200 last year and this year it is \$1,000. The last contract with them was for 2 years. This one is for 5 years.

Motion to approve the contract with Montville 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

The Mayor stated that before we close out the meeting tonight we have to go into closed session regarding the Dover Board of Education.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

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

Jim Janone - How come we don't ask for a credit with the JCP & L light bill? We have in the past and they ignore us. The Mayor said he is going to write to them and tell them we want a credit as well as getting all these lights fixed. We have been doing this for years with them. What is the update on the RVRSA litigation? It is still ongoing. There are 2 cases with them. One has been decided the other is still pending. We are waiting on a trial date. The American Flag at town hall looks small. We ordered the same one as in the past. We will check on it and see what we need. Did we ever do Resolutions for the Equal Opportunity Commission? Or for an ADA Coordinator? And the other one is for the Morris County Recreation Commission? How come we don't do this? I never heard of it the Clerk said. If we get information on any of these we would look at them and see if it covers us or if it would be for us. Also the Department of Community Affairs has a local recreation improvement grant that has to be filed by 1/31. We didn't know anything about that either. Who handles our grants? Leon when he knows about them. He does our DOT and Community Development.

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

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

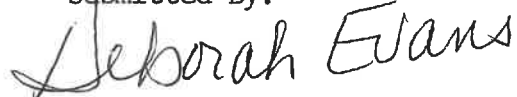
Closed Session Typed Separately.

Motion to close the closed session meeting by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to go back into the regular order of business 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 Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk