

September 23, 2025

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on September 23, 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, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Hale, Councilman Lorenzo.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Garcia Montes & Attorney Feintuch.

Motion to accept the minutes of 9/9/25 as received by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

DOVER WATER - We received a letter from Dover about the water lines. Everyone received this letter probably about a year ago. This is the first one we got here at the Borough Hall.

The State is mandating that all lead and/or galvanized pipes be replaced with copper. Dover sends the letters because they are our water supplier and the State said they had to send out the letters.

This changeover has to be done by 2031. Councilman Glass said but this doesn't have to be done in the houses. Yes, it does. Unless you already have copper lines in your house.

Councilman Suarez asked if Dover is going to be giving any assistance to the homeowners? I don't think so. They have been going for grants but I think it iss for their lines.

The Clerk said that a year ago when we got the first letter, I called Dover and told them I did not know what I had. They did send someone out. They went in my crawl space and then looked outside in the pit and they said my lines were galvanized. So, I think if you call them they will come out and check for you. They will then let you know what you have.

Councilman Lorenzo said you have to go by what you see in your house. You can't see what is under the ground.

Councilman Glass asked the Clerk if she has a crawl space? No, it's bigger than that. You can actually stand up down there. You can't see it from underneath. That is just the vertical part. It will cost him about \$30,000 to do that.

Councilman Suarez said if you have copper inside the house then it will cost you easily about \$10,000 to change over. The Clerk said they can't expect seniors and others to pay for that!

The Mayor said that everyones house in Victory Gardens is the same. Unless you had the pipes replaced.

Councilman Lorenzo said that when he got the first letter he took a picture and sent it to Dover. I have copper in the house. They told me I don't have to worry about it that I am good.

Councilman Suarez said that he knows inside his house is copper. Maybe that is because before I bought it, the house burned down and when they rebuilt they put the copper in.

The Clerk said it doesn't pertain to homes built after, I believe, 1970. That is why the condos don't have to worry about this. They were built in the 80's.

Councilman Glass said you would have to tear up under the house to get to the pipes. Then he has a long driveway, a sidewalk and all that would have to be ripped up.

Councilman Suarez said that his neighbor was saying that maybe we could get several people together to get the ovrk done and use one contractor and then everyone split the bill. That's a good idea. The problem is we don't know what we have between the house and the street.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

DOVER WATER CONTINUED - Councilman Lorenzo said he doesn't think it would be galvanized from the street to your house, and then you have copper. That isn't the way it works. They take the line completely and put copper in from the street all the way through.

Councilmen Suarez and Glass said not always. When my house burnt down, they put copper in, but the main was never changed. That was left as it was.

Motion to accept and put on file the correspondence by Councilman Suarez, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

VOUCHER REPORTS

Date of Council Meeting:
September 23, 2025

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
9-18	R & L Data	Payroll	386.00	
9-19	NJNG	account # 11-1152-5050-1Y	2,634.00	
9-20	Handyman's	fuel line & filters	65.94	
9-21	Morris County Communications	Dispatch Services -911	5,500.00	
9-22	Interstate Waste Services	invoice # 11218274	11,394.13	
923	Acrisure NJ	Bond license & permit	700.00	
9-24	Montville Twp	invoice # 15-00425	1,000.00	
9-25	R & L Data	invoice # 1145922	386.00	
9-26	Optimum Business	account #07876-590466-01-7	11.46	
9-27	JCP&L	account # 100 048 053 209	537.16	
9-28	JCP&L	account # 100 000 976 678	234.32	
9-29	Amsterdam	invoice # 7919213	92.20	
9-30	JCP&L	street lighting	788.68	
9-31	Navitend	invoice AGR434049	105.45	
9-32	Anderson & Denzler	prof. serv. Victory Highlands	354.38	
9-33	Wex Bank (Shell)	fuel	323.98	
9-34	Advanced Professional	customer # 1872700114	69.01	
9-35	Optimum Business	account # 07876-655264-01-7	481.98	
9-36	Hector Lorerenzo	payroll	2,876.72	
9-37	Manny Venereo	payroll	2,324.08	
9-38	Diane Feola	Payroll	400.00	
			30,665.49	

Mayor Holeman asked if there were any questions on the vouchers? Councilman Suarez said he didn't sign a voucher for the 911 Dispatch Services. The Clerk said Jason held off on that one because it wasn't due yet. It is for next year. we will pay it in December. We pay that every year? Yes. R & L is on the listing twice. Yes, that was in error. It should be there only once. No other questions on the vouchers.

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

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Building Department - 2 permits issued. Total value of construction was \$2,560.
- Property Maintenance - Everyone has a copy of the report.
- Municipal Court - We received \$285.00 from the court.
- Tac Collector - Total Tax Receipts Month to Date: 303,073.10
" " " Year To Date: 1,594,355.14

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

Motion to accept and put on file all reports by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

FLU CLINIC - Reminder that the clinic is this Thursday 9/25/25 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m..

IDEAL AIR CONTRACT - The Clerk said we do this contract every year. The cost has been the same over the past several years. It is for \$1,700. Councilman Suarez asked what the contract includes? The Clerk handed him the contract. They are quarterly inspections. They still charge for parts and labor? Yes.

Motion to approve the contract for Ideal Air by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Abstain

PROBLEM WITH FINDING ROAD SALT - The Clerk said she is having a problem finding someone to supply our winter salt. The company that we have used for the past 40 plus years is no longer doing contracts. From what I gather, talking to them last year when we had a problem getting salt, they got in some type of trouble by over extending themselves and several places could not get salt with them even though they had contracts. They aren't doing any new contracts. I told them we have been a customer for over 40 years. we are not new! They said no more contracts for anyone. I have been calling around to different companies. I contacted 4 different places. One was in Utah and another in Pennsylvania. I only had a response from one of the four I contacted.

I heard back from Salt Depot. Their cost is \$101.50 a ton, delivered. Cargill, our past supplier, was \$98.00 per ton. I don't want to have to worry about getting salt during the winter. For \$3.50 more a ton, I rather get it and not have to worry.

Councilman Glass asked where they are from? Wayne, New Jersey. Councilman Suarez said that price is it with delivery? Yes. Councilman Lorenzo asked how much we get delivered? Every year I ask for 100 tons. However, we usually only order 50 tons and then if we need more I order it. Councilman Suarez asked how much I would order now? I start with 50 tons. If we need more later on I will order again.

Motion was made to order our salt from Salt Depot at a cost of \$101.50 per ton. Motion made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call vote:

Councilman Suarez	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	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 - I also got the notice from the water department. You have to understand how that works. The water company is responsible up to the meter. You are responsible from the meter on.

PUBLIC PORTION CONTINUED:

Jim Janone Continued - When you say meter that means the one in front of the house where they would turn the water off? Yes. That's why they want you to take pictures. You may have galvanized going into your house but the other side of the meter could be copper. Inside your house is your responsibility. Dover is only doing the water supply side. From the meter to the main line. So, if they have to rip up your driveway that is all on Dover to put back together. What type of plan does Dover have for doing these lines? I know I was told when I asked about it, that Dover is going for grants. They have to apply every year. They also said, the grants are for them doing their lines. I believe the first money they received for a grant was used to do the study and to start replacing lines in Dover. The last time I spoke to Dover Water they do have a capital plan.

Jim said he is confused by the voucher list. Who does it? Diane. We don't need the account numbers we need a description. I will ask her to do that. For Anderson & Denzler at the condos, what are we doing there? We aren't doing anything up there. The condos needed some guidance on a project they were doing. They wanted Leons input. I told them that was okay as long as they are paying for his time. We have an escrow account set up for that. Leon billed us and the condos paid the fee.

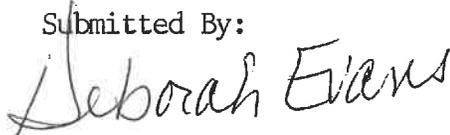
Dover is projecting to have around 1,000 new homes going up. I want to know if the Attorney can find out how we can be precluded from any additional school kids coming from those homes? They will say we have to build another school. We are the same. We can't grow. Why should we have to pay for another new school when it isn't our kids going there? Is there anyway we can get ahead of this? They are in the process of building right now. I don't think we should have to pay for a new school if our kids aren't the problem.

Councilman Suarez said our Attorney said we aren't responsible for their debt service. We are responsible for new debt which a new school would be. We are not responsible for their old debt. There should be some type of agreement that Dover won't charge us for a new school. The Clerk said she doubts very much they would ever sign something like that. Councilman Lorenzo said we can have the Attorney send them a letter addressing this issue. We are all built out. Dover has a lot of room to build. Our Boards have been merged. Mine Hill is a legitimate sending district. The Clerk said she would talk to the Attorney and have him send a letter. Is there any update on the paving? I spoke to Leon today. Bill Ryden had a meeting with the contractor. I believe that was last week. We don't have a start date yet. I told Leon when the schools would be closed for teacher conventions. Leon wants to get the work done before then. We have to get it done before the weather gets to cold otherwise there will be a problem with the hot asphalt. Yes, I did speak to Leon about that. Councilman Lorenzo said about a half hour ago he saw some heavy equipment going up the hill. I don't know if that was our contractor.

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

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

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk