

October 25, 2016

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on October 25, 2016.

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: Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Jacobus, Councilman Lorenzo and Councilwoman Garcia-Montes.

Attorney Feintuch was also present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of October 11, 2016 was made by Councilwoman Garcia-Montes and seconded by Councilman Jacobus and approved on verbal vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LETTER FROM RESIDENTS - This is from Valerie Williams and Johnnie Mae Williams at 7-11 Adams Avenue. They are requesting a on street Disabled Parking Designation in front of their home at 7-11 Adams Avenue. The Borough Attorney responded after being informed of this request that they must produce the registration issued by the Motor Vehicle Department to the owner of the auto. A letter was sent to Ms. Williams and Ms. Williams requesting this information.

LETTER FROM SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY.- The Borough received notice that they are by Valerie Williams for damaged done to her driveway by the Borough snow plow. There was no date on the notice as to when this damage occurred.

Motion to accept the correspondence as received by Councilman Jacobus, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments on the vouchers? There were none. Motion to approve the vouchers for payment by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia-Montes and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Jacobus	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia-Montes	Yes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 5 permits issued for a total value of construction: \$388,000 by residents and or commercial property owners.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - Everyone has a copy of Deb's report.

MUNICIPAL COURT - We received \$1,499.19 from the court.

TAX COLLECTOR - Total Tax Receipts Month to Date: \$ 26,474.38
Total Tax Receipts Year to Date: \$1,374,722.31

REGISTRAR - All marriage licenses are being issued through the town of Wharton, while the Registra is out on sick/medical leave.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Cheatham - She attended a Community Deveoplement meeting in Morristown on October 20, 2016. It was primarily a workshop on preparing for grants. They have made a few changes this year. One change is that the request for grants must be submitted by the 16th of December there are also some additional forms that HUD is requesting. These documents must accompany the grant request. If your information is incomplete you will be allowed up until December 30th to submit the paperwork, including the Mayor's signature. Councilwoman Garcia-Montes asked if we have received any funds from them. Councilwoman Cheatham said we have not, but we are still hopeful. Councilwoman Hedgepath said that a lot of their focus in on seniors and upgrading their locations for the growing older population. It was mentioned that many of these towns have grant writers which we do not have.

Councilman Glass - No report..

Councilwoman Hedgepath - No report.

Councilman Jacobus - DPW made their trips to the bank and post office. They picked up recycling and delivered flyers around town regarding the Halloween party. Lawns were mowed at Borough Hall and the Fire House. Rotated tires on the trucks. Move the salt around the garage and piled it up in anticipation of a delivery that is going to be made. They re-caulked around all the windows in the Borough Hall. They made several trips to MUA to dispose of leaves and tree debris. They cleaned the Fire House in preparation for the Halloween party. They also cleaned Franklin Road of leaves and tree debris.

Councilman Lorenzo - He noticed a couple of "PODS" at a few addresses in town and wanted to know if we had any kind of ordinance for them. He also asked if there was any progress on the light pole between the Borough Hall and 327 Salem Street. Mayor Holeman explained that it is in progress. We did have an electrician look at it. There are three different companies/people who need to coordinate to fix the pole.

Councilwoman Garcia-Montes - The Halloween party is scheduled for October 31st. Form 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.. At the firehuse. For ages walking to 13 years old. Costumes are to be worn and prizes will be given out. She asked if it could be posted on the web site and Debbie informed her it was.

Councilwoman Garcia-Montes asked if Mayor Holeman has heard anything about the firetruck that Dover Fire department may be selling which once belonged to the Borough. He stated he has not heard anything but they did purchase a new pumper. He explained that we do not have a truck anymore we gave it to Dover when they took over our fire department needs. Councilwoman Garcia-Montes questioned on whether we gave them the truck or they were just using it and would return it when and if we had our own fire department again. Mayor Holeman and Attorney Feintuch said we will have to look at the contract and see what that states.

Motion to accept and put on file all reports by Councilwoman Cheatham, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on a verbal vote.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

CAMPER/TRAILER ORDINANCE - Attorney Feintuch was expecting feed back from committee members, he had not received much information. He will work on an ordinance for the next meeting.

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilman Jacobus and approved on verbal vote.

Jim Janone of Franklin Avenue. He said he did not believe we do have an ordinance on PODS, other towns do. He also stated that they can be extended 30 days as long as the person renting it is willing to pay for the extra time. He asked when was it decided to use the electrician for the light pole. He believes that there should be three quotes and the Mayor should not have made the decision using a particluar electrician. He also asked about the grants and when Council is going to make a decision on what grants to apply for because deadline is coming up. He suggested the Mayor and Council look into getting the fire house and make it ADA compliant. He asked about the charges that were to be filed against a resident and how the Council said they were going to do this at the last meeting. What exact charges are you going to file? Attorney Feintuch answered with "destroying public property." He asked if they charges were filed and the attorney replied no they have not been filed yet. The Attorney explained he does not file the charges it had to be done by a Borough official. He asked about the letter we received from Valerie, was that her notice of intent to sue the Borough. Attorney Feintuch said no it was a suit from Superior Court. He questioned how Debbie read the permit fee and how it could be misleading into someone thinking the town is receiving that money.

Motion was made to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Garcia-Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia-Montes to discuss litigation and approved on verbal vote.

Motion to re-open the meeting from closed session was made by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote.

Motion to authorize the Attorney, Phillip Feintuch, to defend the Borough with regards to the Superior Court suit brought forth by Valerie Williams. Councilman Jacobus made the first motion, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham, and approved on roll call:

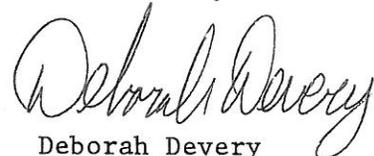
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Jacobus	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia-Montes	Yes

The Attorney stated we need a motion to file a complaint against Valerie Williams regarding the repainting of the street lines in front of her home. Councilman Glass made the motion to have this complaint filed, seconded by Councilman Jacobus and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Jacobus	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	No
Councilwoman Garcia-Montes	No

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman Garcia-Montes and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:


Deborah Devery
Secretary