

May 11, 2021

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on May 11, 2021.

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 Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman White, Councilman Lorenzo.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Hedgepath and Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

At this time the Mayor asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business so that our CFO and Auditor can discuss the 2021 budget. The CFO stated that the State has not reviewed our budget yet. So all we can do tonight is open the meeting to the public.

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

Joe said as he was stating, the budget review has not been done by the State as of tonight. Since the public hearing was scheduled for tonight, we have to go through with that. When the State review is done at that time all we have to do is adopt. No other public hearing as it is being held tonight.

Mayor Holeman asked for a motion to open this portion of our meeting to the public for the hearing on the budget.

Motion made by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - What is the percent going up in the budget? Joe said the actual budget has gone down. It is lower than last year. If you are asking what the tax rate is - it is 3½%. Is that by law? Yes, we passed an ordinance. Why did that go up to 3½%? Because revenues have been down. We lost money in interest, court, sewer and construction. The money that we are supposed to get from the State, will that help us? It depends on when we get it and how much we get. I can't anticipate that money in with this budget because we don't have it. We took a significant hit from all these items I mentioned.

Motion to close this portion of the meeting to the public by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

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

Motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2021 as received by Councilwoman Cheatham, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. Councilwoman White abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE:

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH - Peter wanted us to know, for those that don't know, Mega sites are now accepting walk ins for the COVID shots. They want you to call if possible, but you don't have to. You can just walk in. Hours are from 8 am until 3 pm.

CURRENT COVID CASES - We now have 247 confirmed cases in Victory Gardens. Last report we had 235 so we are up 12 more cases. 123 male, 124 female. The Mayor asked if Peter said anything about getting vaccines through Rockaway Township? Right now they haven't received any. We are on the list to have a clinic here if and when they get vaccines. At that time they will also do our shut ins.

Motion to accept the correspondence as received by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHER REPORTS

Date of Council Meeting:

May 11, 2021

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payable to:</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5/1/2021	Deborah Devery	Clerk OE	31.98
5/2/2021	Dover Court	Shared Court Services - Dover - May	1,623.36
5/3/2021	Econo Signs, LLC	Streets & Roads	78.01
5/4/2021	Feintuch, Porwich, & Feintuch	Legal Services - Bid for Solid Waste	2,750.00
5/5/2021	Metro Flags Company	Clerk OE	240.10
5/6/2021	Morris County MUA	Shade Tree- April - Road	585.00
5/7/2021	Morris County Overhead Door Co.	Fire OE	150.00
5/8/2021	Nisivoccia - Auditors	Finance - Audit	7,500.00
5/9/2021	NJNG - #1 - Fire	Fire OE	185.00
5/10/2021	NJNG - #2 - Borough Hall	Utilities	759.00
5/11/2021	Protective Measures - Sec. & Fire	Bldgs. & Grnds	2,440.86
5/12/2021	R & L Data Centers, Inc.	Finance	250.00
5/13/2021	The Hartford Insurance	Other Insurance	2,399.00
5/14/2021	Verizon - #1 - 263-0001-56	Utilities	73.90
5/15/2021	State of NJ - Div. of Pensions & Bene Group Insurance		5,794.88
5/16/2021	State of NJ - Div. of Pensions & Bene PERS - retirement		36,011.00
TOTAL			60,872.09

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

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman White	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

DONATE OLD COMPUTERS/KEYBOARDS/TOWERS - I gave everyone a list of items to get rid of . We have 8 keyboards, 1 monitor, 7 towers and 2 printers. We donated items last time to a company that wipes everything clean so there is no information on it, and they redo them and give them to those in need.

Motion was made to donate the items by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman White	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET - Done earlier in the meeting.

DOT GRANT SUGGESTIONS - The Clerk said that Leon asked if Council had any specific project they would want done for the DOT grant. DOT grant is for milling, paving, curbing.

Councilman Lorenzo said the corner of Washington and Washington the concrete is in bad condition. Ok I will tell Leon. If everyone could think about it and look through town have more suggestions for the next meeting. The application has to be in by the middle of June. Councilman Lorenzo said there are sidewalks that need to be done. Bid opening for sidewalks will be done June 15, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:

SIGNING OF GARBAGE CONTRACT EXTENSION - The Clerk said that we talked about the extension of the garbage contract for one year since we were having trouble with getting companies to bid. Council approved the extension. We have the contracts back and we need to have the Mayor and Myself sign them. This is for a one year term at the same price that we were paying last year with Rubinetti.

We will have to start the talks on garbage collection and what we are looking for in the new contract.

Motion to give the Mayor and Clerk permission to sign the extension on the garbage contract. Motion made by Councilwoman Cheatham, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman White	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes

CANNABIS DISCUSSION - We are holding off on this tonight since the Attorney is not here.

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

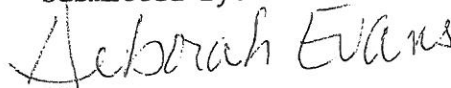
Chris Trotsky - Do you get itemized bills from the Attorney when he submits for payments? The Clerk said she believes all of his bills are itemized. The only one I think isn't is for his monthly retainers. Do you know what his hourly rate is? I think it is \$175. How much time did he spend on the garbage contract? I don't know. We have talked about this on and off for some time. We went out to bid and he reviews everything. There is no breakdown on the voucher for tonight. It just deals with solid waste. Attorneys are suppose to put down how much time they spend on certain items. I think he usually does.

Jim Janone - The Attorney usually does itemize his bills. Did the Attorney file the complaint regarding the Dover Board of Ed? I don't know. Council gave him permission to do so. He is out of the office this week. The public assets that you are donating does state law permit that? I believe so. We have done it in the past. This is a donation. Normally things are auctioned. Yes, we have auctioned in the past. Is Coolidge Avenue still being done under a grant? Yes. We have bid openings for the project for May 27. Franklin Road is suppose to be milled and paved by Friday. I haven't heard when they would complete. When you do the new garbage bids, this is something that Council will discuss before hand? I hope so. We have a few things they need to talk about. You could limit the amount of bags people put out. Yes, the Clerk said along with that we have discussed making residents pay for large items, for appliances. There are people that put out a lot of garbage.

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

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

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk