

May 25, 2021

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on May 25, 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 Hedgepath, Councilwoman White, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

*** Attorney Feintuch was also present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of May 11, 2021 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR BUSING - I gave every one a copy of what I received from the Superintendent of Schools regarding the costs of the busing.

ATTORNEY FEINTUCH - I received a copy of the letter the Attorney sent to the Commissioner of Education. He has filed a petition.

Motion to accept the correspondence as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payable to:</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5/17/2021	Advance Auto Parts	Streets & Roads	136.39
5/18/2021	Anderson & Denzler Assoc. Inc.	Engineering & 64 Adams Escrow	3,159.99
5/19/2021	AT&T	Utilities	48.14
5/20/2021	City Connections	Clerk OE	2,000.00
5/21/2021	Deborah Evans	Clerk OE - petty cash receipts	45.04
5/22/2021	Dover Board of Education	School Taxes	92,746.67
5/23/2021	Econo Signs, LLC	Streets & Roads	234.49
5/24/2021	Feintuch, Porwich & Feintuch, ESQ	Legal Services, mothly	2,150.46
5/25/2021	Gannett New Jersey Newspapers	Clerk OE	60.20
5/26/2021	Henry O. Baker Insurance Group	Other Insurance	12,729.00
5/27/2021	International Code Council	Clerk OE	81.50
5/28/2021	Interstate Waste Services, Inc.	Trash removal	10,933.33
5/29/2021	JCP&L - #1 - Fire	Fire OE	138.43
5/30/2021	JCP&L - #2 - Main	Utilities	306.25
5/31/2021	JCP&L - #3 - Street Lighting	Street Lighting	622.84
5/32/2021	JLM Computers	Clerk OE - April IT services	95.00
5/33/2021	Morris County Farms	Clerk OE	36.00
5/34/2021	Optimum	Utilities	11.45
5/35/2021	Postmaster General - Dover	Clerk OE - Stamps	330.00
5/36/2021	Rockaway Valley Reg. Sewerage Authority	RVRSa Share	10,608.00
5/37/2021	Sheaffer Supply, Inc.	Streets & Roads	41.73
5/39/2021	Verizon - #2 - 366-5312	Utilities	250.57
5/40/2021	WEX Bank, Shell Gas	Streets & Roads	477.53
		TOTAL	137,243.01

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:

DOT GRANT CONTINUED - Does anyone have suggestions for the DOT grant? At the last meeting the Clerk said she asked Council to go around and see what they think needs to be done. Leon said we should think big like doing as much of Washington as we can.

Councilwoman Montes asked about the work on Monroe Avenue with the sidewalk? I think that is one we are doing this year. I think that is what Leon has done for this time around.

Councilman Lorenzo said the sidewalk in front of the mini mall. I can ask him to look at that, but it is a County Road and I think the County would have to do it.

The Mayor said curbing needs to be done on left side of South Salem by the doggie daycare, curbing by Victory Hill East Apartments, curbing by 337 Washington Avenue and there are speed bumps that need to be done.

The Clerk said she will give this to Leon.

ADOPTION OF 2021 BUDGET - The Clerk said we did not get approval of our budget yet. The State is so far behind, we don't know when they will approve it. I will continue to put it on the agenda until we actually get it adopted.

CANNABIS DISCUSSION - There were a few changes that the clerk mentioned. Disciplinary action for the first offense should be \$500 and the second offense should be \$1,000. This is what the Council said at the last meeting but it wasn't changed. The Mayor had some changes that the Attorney will look over.

The Mayor mentioned that we will be going into closed session to discuss possible litigation.

Attorney Feintuch said that he wanted to put something out there to the Council regarding codification of the ordinances. I know that Debbe has been trying to get you to do this codification. It is very important that this get done. The code is not on the internet and is no longer on our website. Victory Gardens is one of the few towns that do not have their ordinances codified. It is very important that this book get updated. It isn't that expensive and you need to have that available for the public. I strongly suggest that you think about this and get it done.

Councilwoman Cheatham agreed and said we should do it and then maybe after it gets done we will be able to start doing it on our own.

The Clerk was instructed to put this on the agenda for the next time.

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

Jim Janone - What is the closed session about? You just can't say you are going into closed session. Repair of the sidewalk across the street. That is a County road. Our ordinance says that property owners are responsible for repairs and maintenance. Why are we going against our ordinance book? Before you go out to bid on the garbage, I think there is a way for you to do a trial run on limiting households to say 4 bags of garbage a week. This way you would have the tonnage report as to how much is being dumped. The Mayor said he doesn't think that will work. Especially now with the holidays here and people having cookouts and parties. The Clerk said that Council just said they didn't want to limit anything. They want to keep the garbage as it has been and they don't want residents having to pay for bulk items. While your Engineer is out and through the town, why doesn't he give you a report of the condition of the roads from worst to good. He is thru the town all the time. Who better than to give us a list? No body talked about the firehouse curbing and pavement. That is actually low and when the water comes down it goes all over the sidewalk. These code updates - how much and when will it be done? I know you got something from the Dover Board of Education. What is the cost for the busing? \$390,000.

Joan Gegelka - Joan said she was sorry to the Attorney for not getting back to him. They had a family emergency. When did we start in that combined situation the attorney asked? Betty Simmons was on Council at the time because she was the liaison from the Council. She was at the meeting where Mr. Vilaridi was present. It was for leased busing. It has been quite awhile. We had one company busing our kids but the runs were ending about 6 at night. We had to get rid of them and look for a new company. When we went out to bid, because they wanted to change the contract, they wanted aides on the buses as well as cameras, any change to the contract, we had to go out to bid all over again. We had to do emergency bids.

PUBLIC MEETING CONTINUED:

Joan Cegelka Continued; We ended up having to go with Byram Bus Lines and it cost a lot of money and that is when Mr. Vilardi suggested we do the leasing.

The Attorney was saying that he feels that for \$390,000 we could probably get our own buses and have our own driver and it would cost less than that. I don't know if we can do that because we are not a Board of Education. I don't know what the process would be. We could probably do this with one bus.

Joan said no. When she was doing this she thinks there were 5 buses. The Clerk said looking at the paperwork from Dover they have 9 routes listed.

Joan asked if the State Commissioner could help? The Attorney said that is why he filed the paperwork. Dover wants Debbe to sign off on the A4F. I told her not to sign because we don't agree with it. Did Dover ever give you a budget? No. We asked for the costs per child by grade. We haven't gotten that either. I did get a list of the kids a few days ago. I am still going through that to see how many kids we have coming out of the houses. Joan said she thought that Victory Gardens was suppose to pay 20% of the budget and Dover paid 80%. They weren't suppose to be charging you per child.

Chief Filosa Dover Fire Department - Mayor, I owe you reports. I will get them to you. Councilwoman Montes asked the Chief what happened to the money you collected from EMS calls that you billed the insurance company? We haven't see any money from those calls. We have to get a report for the billing from the company that does it. I will look into it.

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

Motion was made to go into closed session by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Closed session typed separately.

Motion was made to close the closed session by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion made to go back into the regular order of business 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:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk