

September 12, 2023

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on September 12, 2023.

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.

ABSENT: Councilman Glass. Councilwoman Garcia Montes arrived at 6:05.

Motion to accept the minutes of August 22, 2023 as received by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

ADVERTISEMENT IN PAPER FOR PART TIME HOUSING OFFICER - I was asked at the last meeting to put an ad in the paper for a part time housing officer. I did that. It ran in the Daily Record from 8/27/23 thru 8/31/23. No one responded to the ad.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH - I received tonight from Peter that they have a doctor available to do our flu clinic on October 24, 2023 from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm. The only problem is that the date falls on our Council meeting night. They are having a problem getting doctors to cover and this is the only date they had available for us.

I told Peter it was a Council night but that we had a meeting tonight and I would ask you if this date was okay. We may have to switch our meeting night for that week or if you want, you can cancel the meeting. I have to let Peter know so he can book the doctor.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said the flu clinic is important so she is okay with cancelling the meeting for that night. All of Council agreed. There will be no meeting on October 24, 2023.

LETTER FROM RESIDENT - There is a resident in town that has been trying to work in his house for some time. He has limited funds and he is doing most of the work by himself. With weather and limited resources it will take him, he is projecting, until March 31, 2024 to complete the project. Once he gets the construction part of the project done he will take care of the yard. He feels that he is in court all the time and with the fines he is getting in the court he is spending time and money he could be using on working on his house. I hope that you will help me out and ask Ron to give me time to get the work done and stop taking me to court to pay fines and give me a chance to do the work. I am asking for time until March 31, 2024 to get everything done. Thank you.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked why he is going to court? Ron is writing him up for property violations because of block, sand, gravel, wood and whatever else is on the property. The homeowner says he can not put everything away at night because it is a construction site.

Councilman Lorenzo asked if the resident has permits? Yes. He updates them when they are due.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said it is the dead end of Adams. It isn't like it is a main road.

The Clerk said that the resident asked her to bring this to Council. Councilwoman Hedgepath asked how that would solve his problem with Ron? Well if Ron doesn't take him to court all the time then the money he is paying on fines with help him continue with the work on his house.

Councilwoman Montes said that it is the dead end and we can give him the time to do the work without him having to go to court. He has until March 31, 2024 to get the work done. All Council agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

Cargill Salt - We just received this in the mail today. The cost for salt this year is \$98.00 per ton. It is 50¢ less than last year. The Mayor asked how many tons do we get? I ask for 100 but we can get more.

Motion to approve the contract with Cargill salt for \$98.00 per ton. Motion 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

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

VOUCHERS:

Mayor Holeman asked if there were any questions on the vouchers? Councilwoman Hedgepath asked the Clerk to contact the attorney and ask him if we can get money back from our CFO. We have been paying him and work isn't getting done.

The Clerk said on the voucher listing you have a bill from the Auditors. It is voucher #9-016 in the amount of \$10,500. This is for a review and completion of the budget and audit modules in FAST. Professional fees for assistance with year end finance records and monthly bank reconciliations. Also assistance rendered in connection with preparation of the 2022 Annual Financial Statement, Preparation and adoption of the 2023 budget. The total bill is \$10,500.

Councilwoman Montes asked if this was because Joe didn't do the work? Yes. How do we recoup money from him? The Clerk said she doesn't know if you can. I was asked to follow up with the Attorney and see if anything can be done and I will let you know after I talk to him.

The Clerk said that Letty is still doing the checks after a council meeting and she is doing the payroll checks. Joe did call her and asked for the payroll numbers for him to call in but she told him she already did it.

Motion to approve the vouchers for payment by Councilwoman Montes, 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

(See Vouchers Next Page)

VOUCHER REPORTS  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 12, 2023

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
09-001	American Asphalt & Trucking LLC	community Development	\$ 107,991.56	
09-002	Att Long Distance	Utilities	\$ 38.60	
09-003	BIS Digital	Clerk OE	\$ 1,095.00	
09-004	County of morris treasurer	Clerk OE	\$ 3,281.87	
09-005	Dover Board Of Education	School Taxes	\$ 97,057.00	
09-006	Dover court-shared services	Shared courts	\$ 1,655.83	
09-007	Dover Water Commission	Utilities	\$ 140.90	
09-008	Feintuch,porwich &Feintuch	Legal OE	\$ 1,572.50	
09-009	Feintuch,porwich &Feintuch	Legal OE	\$ 2,204.22	
09-010	Gannett NJ Newspaper	Clerk OE	\$ 42.90	
09-011	Home Depot Inc	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 52.21	
09-012	JCPL Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 796.10	
09-013	JLM Computers	Clerk OE	\$ 31.83	
09-014	Kenvil power	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 58.49	
09-015	Morric County Overhead door company	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 428.20	
09-016	Nisivoccia	Annul Audit	\$ 10,500.00	
09-017	NJNG Firehouse Account	Fire OE	\$ 19.46	
09-018	Omayra Gonzalez	Balance of escrow	\$ 545.75	
09-019	R and L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 274.00	
09-020	RR Donnelley	Clerk OE	\$ 98.62	
09-021	RVRSa	RVRSa shares	\$ 9,624.00	
09-022	Sherwin Williams	Roads and Grounds	\$ 220.45	
09-023	Verizon Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 316.48	
09-024	Vision Service Plan	Group Insurance	\$ 416.22	
09-025	Wex Bank Shell Fleet Plus	Road OE	\$ 579.18	
09-026	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,564.32	
09-027	Manny Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,200.00	
09-028	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,840.00	
<b>Total Vouchers</b>			<b>\$ 245,645.69</b>	

NEW BUSINESS:

ACCEPT AUDIT - Comments and recommendation are atthe back of the Audit on page 16. We usually have 2 comments. We now have 8.

Because the auditors did the work they had to list it in the comments. Councilman Suarez asked about the person that was going to cover for Joe. She wanted extra money but she would have done the job and it ended up costing us more by having the Auditors do it. We spent more money on having the auditors doing it. Motion to accept hte Audit by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW POLICY FOR HEALTH BENEFITS - The Clerk said everyone has a copy of the new policy for health benefits. I don't know if you want to move forward with this since the Attorney isn't here tonight, or if you want to wait for him to get back, or if you want to adopt?

Council said they will adopt tonight. They have had it and have had the chance to look it over and they are okay with it.

(See Amendment Next Page)

AMENDMENT TO NEW LANGUAGE SET FORTH AT PAGE 34  
OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

The language set forth at Page 34 of the existing Policy and Procedure Manual is amended to read as follows:

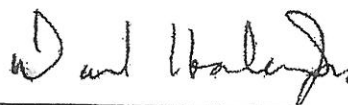
*The Borough of Victory Gardens will provide medical insurance coverage for its employees. The Borough reserves the right to change carriers and benefits as it deems necessary to effectuate proper coverage for its employees within the parameters of budget constraints. The Borough will pay full time coverage for all full time employees and their families. Health coverage will cease for full time workers that have changed their status to part time and who had previously been fully covered. Medical benefits shall cease upon the date that the covered employee ceases to work for the Borough*

*Employees will be eligible for participation in the medical benefit plans upon completion of the probationary period. To obtain coverage, employees must fill out the appropriate forms with the Borough Clerk. This amendment shall not affect any employee who commenced work working for the Borough prior to September 1, 2023.*

This Resolution shall be part of the Policy and Practice Manual of the Borough of Victory Gardens.

This Resolution is adopted by the Mayor and Council on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

Policy and procedure manual amendment health benefit



DAVID HOLEMAN, Mayor



DEBORAH EVANS, Borough Clerk

FEINTUCH PORWICH & FEINTUCH  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
591 SUMMIT AVENUE  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306  
(201) 656-8600

8/24/2023

Motion to approve the update for the Policy Manual for health benefits 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

Mayor Holeman asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilwoman Hedgepath asked if she could say something before the meeting is opened to the public? Yes

We are having a problem with the transportation for the kids and the bus drivers not checking bus passes. On Friday I received 2 phone calls saying that two students were left at the high school. Also they are putting 3 kids in a seat for 2, the bus is packed and the kids can't stand. It wasn't a safe journey for the kids that were squashed in the 2 seats. There is a late bus but it comes much later. One parent told me that her son is junior and he was told he had to take the late bus because the regular bus was just for seniors. I don't mind calling transportation because it isn't fair to the kids - they can't be stranded like that. Some of these kids have to be at the bus stops so they can pick up their siblings. The 2 girls that were stranded at the high school were supposed to be back at the bus stop for when their siblings got off the bus. We need to rectify this immediately. If they need two busses after school then they need to make it happen. It also sounds like people are getting on our buses that don't belong there.

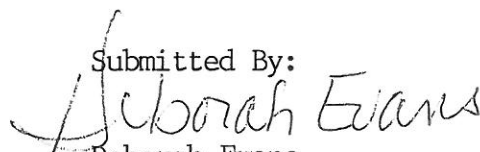
Councilwoman Hedgepath said that if everyone is okay, she will call the school on Monday. Everyone agreed to let Councilwoman Hedgepath handle this situation. The head of transportation is the old Principal Franks. The Clerk asked what happened to Patricia? I don't know.

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

Jim Janone - I don't understand why you want to take money from the CFO. It can't be discussed the Clerk said. I was just asked to look into it and ask the Attorney. Be careful if you try to do this because Council members still get paid if they aren't here. How come we aren't implementing the suggestions in the audit? There are only two of them. The Clerk said this year there are 8. The one has to do with Edmunds. Correct, the Clerk said. Our last CFO liked quick books and that is what he used. Joe wants to use Edmunds but it hasn't ever been discussed with the Council by him. The other one that we always have is segregation of duties. With a limited staff you are always going to have that. Regarding the housing officer why don't we do a shared service with another town? I have asked around and so far no one wants it. Two street lights are still out. I know. I have emailed our representative several times. Some were fixed others weren't. Why do we pay Leon Hall money \$400 for filling out a 6 question report? It is a sewer report. The Clerk said she doesn't know how much time goes into doing the report and if it is the same every year. How much do we have in the audit for ordinances that haven't been cancelled out yet? The Clerk said she doesn't know off the top of her head. We did cancel some of these out a few years ago. I spoke to Joe about this and we were supposed to go over it but that still has not happened. Do you know when the tax sale will be? I think it is in November.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo 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