

July 23, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on July 23, 2024.

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 was also present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of July 9, 2024 as received by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY - We received another letter from the State regarding our back payments on health benefits and pensions. For our active members, we owe \$52,507.77 . For our retired members we owe \$5,042.80 . This has been going on for awhile so I decided to take time and call them myself to see how we can get this matter resolved. I was on the phone with them for almost 2 hours.

From what they told me, we are over a year behind in our payments. Joe has said that he is having a hard time trying to do this electronically. For some reason the payments aren't going through. So I asked if since we are having a hard time doing it electronically, can we write a paper check? They said yes.

They also gave me a phone number for Joe or Jason to call to fix the account if there is a problem submitting payments.

So, I told the person that I spoke to that we would send 2 different checks. One for the active members and one for the retiree. They said that would be the best way to do it.

So I need to find out from Council if this is okay with you and that I send both checks to the pensions/health benefits.

Motion was made to have the Clerk send both checks and send it certified mail/return receipt. Motion made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - At the last meeting Council told me to let Community Development know that we were not going to do the work on Roosevelt Avenue.

I did send the notice to them. They were not happy. Linda Clark from CDBG said she needs something on Borough letterhead saying that the Council is forfeiting the grant money and not doing the project. I send her a letter stating that. The letter was signed by the Mayor and myself. I then received a letter back from her stating that the monies are forfeited based on the letter she received from me.

The Clerk said there is one last thing I would like to say on this matter. At the last meeting when we were talking about this, or 2 meetings ago, Council asked why we were even doing this project and said that no one ever approved it to be done.

I went back in the minutes and found it in the meeting of February 14, 2023.

It states in part, that the Council wanted Leon to try for a generator. Leon spoke with Community Development and they do not fund generators. Stated at this time was that the project we are applying for is redoing Roosevelt Avenue.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED - This project for Roosevelt Avenue will be for milling and paving, inlet repairs if needed, speed tables and striping.

Motion to submit the application was made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on roll call: Everyone voted yes except Councilman Glass abstained and Councilwoman Hedgepath was absent from the meeting.

The Clerk said she wanted to bring this to everyone attention that you did know about this project being done and you did note for it toget done. Maybe you didn't remember but you did vote on it.

So we gave back over \$91,000.00 for this project. Councilwoman Hedgepath said good luck with trying to get another grant from them. The Mayor agreed. This is the second grant we gave back.

Motion to accept and put on file the correspondence by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments on the vouchers? Hearing none he asked for a motion to pay the bills.

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

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

(See Vouchers Next Page)

RESOLUTION OF REDEMPTION TAX LIEN -

**BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS
RESOLUTION OF REDEMPTION
TAX TITLE LIEN**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received payment for redemption of Tax Title Lien #23-003 on **BLOCK 10 LOT 09** known as 343 Washington Ave. in the name of **Domingo Nunez De Jesus**, and

WHEREAS, reimbursement is now required to be made to the following Lien Holder,

Pro Cap 8 FBO Firstrust Bank
PO Box 774
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774

To return the amount of the Lien, Penalty, Interest, Costs and Premium:

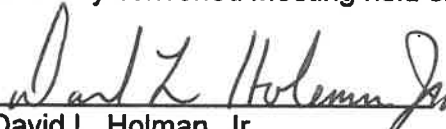
**TAX TITLE LIEN: \$ 534.05
PREMIUM: 300.00**

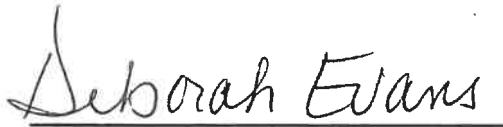
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Borough Treasurer be authorized to prepare a check in the amount of **\$834.05** made payable to:

Pro Cap 8 FBO Firstrust Bank
PO Box 774
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Borough Chief Financial Officer.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens at a duly convened Meeting held on July 23, 2024.


David L. Holman, Jr
Mayor


Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk

Motion on the Resolution by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

TREE ORDINANCE - The Clerk said we are not doing this tonight. The Attorney has a call into the State. He is waiting on some information from them.

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE RESOLUTION - The Clerk said everyone has a copy of the Resolution.

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

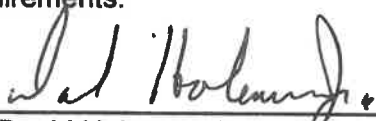
WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Morris;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Dover/Victory Gardens Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$9,778.00
Cash Match	\$2,444.50
In-Kind	\$7,333.50

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: 
David Holeman Jr., Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Deborah Evans, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Borough Council on this day day of (month), (year) .


Deborah Evans, Municipal Clerk

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE RESOLUTION CONTINUED -

Motion on the Resolution by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilman Hale and approved on roll call:

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 Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - I have a question on voucher #7-30. What was that for? It was the railing outside town hall Councilman glass said. I thought it was only going to be a few hundred dollars. That was \$75 per hole to drill them and then whatever charges for removing and then reinstalling it. The hole by Jefferson and Washington across from the firehouse - that hole is still there. It looks like it was patched but it looks like it is opening up again. Alonzos Steak, I called the police twice already and they said they can't do anything. This was at 1:30 in the morning. There are some properties in town that have a lot of weed overgrowth. Washington Avenue up by the apartments. They are like 3 feet tall. The Clerk asked if they were flowers or weeds? It looks like weeds to me. Under the cannabis there was suppose to be some looking into what is considered an inkind gift to the Borough. I didn't know if the Attorney or the CFO was looking into it. It was the CFO. He said he would let us know what they do in his other town and he would get back to us. Did he? No. This notice from the Dover Water Department - I'm sure everyone got a copy of this letter. Do they expect people to go into the hole and try to get a picture? I don't know. I will have to call them and see what they want done. We should tell the water department that we should be an exception. The majority of us have the pits outside for the meter. You also need a special wrench to open it up. What happens if you do have lead? Dover applied for a grant to get this replaced. Dover will pay for part of the cost and probably the homeowners will have to pay for the rest. They should send their own people up here to have them do this inspection.

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

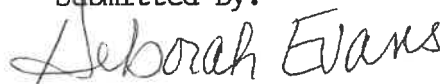
Motion to go into closed session by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

(Closed session typed Separately)

Motion to go back into the regular order of business and close the closed session by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

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

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk