

September 24, 2024

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on September 24, 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, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: None

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

Motion to accept the minutes of September 10, 2024 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. Councilwoman Hedgepath abstained as she was not here for the meeting.

Motion was made to go out of the regular order of business by Councilwoman Hedgepath seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on verbal vote. None abstained. The Mayor said this was so we can speak with Jason and Melissa on her position with the town.

Jason - CFO - Jason thanked the Council for bringing him on as the new CFO. He is looking forward to working with everyone. Melissa Berger is here with me tonight so you can meet her. Once we finish the transition to MSI/Edmunds we will bring Melissa in and Joe will step away. I know the original plan was for Joe to stay until the end of the year, but I spoke with Joe and once the transition is done then he said he will step away and Melissa can come on at that time. She will be here as Treasurer.

Melissa is the Assistant CFO in Summit. She is also a CFO, a QPA and a Certified Tax Collector. Councilwoman Montes asked if the salary is the same that we were paying Joe? Yes.

Councilman Lorenzo asked about Mannys insurance. Jason said that we will get him enrolled. I spoke to Debbe and the open enrollment is the first week in October. He will get enrolled and then coverage will begin January 1. He is already in the system and they have all the information. I don't know why there is an issue. I will let you know when this happens so you know he is covered.

Councilman Suarez asked if Melissa is familiar with MSI and Edmunds? Yes. Melissa said she has been with Summit for 9 years now. I was in Morris Township for 17 years. I also worked in Morristown where I did payroll and benefits.

Jason said a big benefit with Melissa is that she has dealt with pensions and health benefits and she knows what to do. She will make sure this doesn't happen again.

Council is happy with Melissa and she will start once the transition to MSI is completed. Council thanked Jason and Melissa for coming in.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Leon Hall - We received 4 bids on 9/10/24 for Washington Avenue Improvements. Bids ranged from \$168,840.25 from D & L Paving to a high of \$185,366.00 . The NJDOT funding was for \$175,000.00 . D & L Paving has the necessary experience and equipment for this type of project. Leon recommends that the project be awarded to D & L Paving subject to the approval of the Borough Attorney.

Attorney Feintuch went over everything and it is in order and he agrees with Leons Hall on the awarding of the project.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

LEON HALL CONTINUED - The Clerk said the project consists of sidewalk and curb repair as needed, inlets as needed, milling and paving, replacing speed tables and restriping the road. It will go from the firehouse to the ned of Washington where it meets South Salem Street.

Councilman Lorenzo asked if we will cross South Salem Street? No. With these grants they won't cross over major roadways. That would have to be done with another grant.

Councilman Glass asked if they have worked in here before? Yes. Do you know what they did? Not off the top of my head.

Councilman Suarez asked if the grant covers everything? Yes, the grant doesn't cover Leons costs. there are some costs he can put in, I think, but we will have to pay him.

Motion was made to award the contract to D & L Paving in the amount of \$168,840.25 . Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

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

Motion to accept and put on file the correspondence by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilman Suarez 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 Hale and approved on roll call:

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

**Voucher Reports  
Mayor and Board Council Meeting  
September 24,2024**

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
09-34	County Of Morris Dept of Law and Public	Clerk OE	\$ 5,500.00	
09-35	Eric Bernstein & Associates LLC	Tangerine Tree LLC	\$ 432.00	
09-36	Feintuch Porwich & Feintuch	Legal Services	\$ 962.50	
09-37	Home Depot Inc	Streets and Roads	\$ 249.95	
09-38	Interstate Waste Service	Trash Removal	\$ 12,635.60	
09-39	JCPL Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 439.86	
09-40	JCPL Fire House	Utilities	\$ 349.50	
09-41	JCPL Streetlights	Utilities	\$ 750.04	
09-42	Morris County MUA	Road OE	\$ 180.00	
09-43	Ondria Garcia - Montes	Lea Account -Recreation	\$ 400.00	
09-44	Optimum - Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 230.45	
09-45	R & L Data	Clerk OE	\$ 420.00	
09-46	Training Unlimited LLC	Clerk OE	\$ 285.00	
09-47	Vision Service Plan	Group Insurance	\$ 80.96	
09-48	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,615.36	
09-49	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,795.20	
09-50	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,244.00	
<b>TOTAL VOUCHERS</b>			<b>\$ 28,570.42</b>	

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Building Department - 1 permit issued for demo only. Total collected is: \$107.00

Property Maintenance - Everyone has a copy of the report.

Registrar - 2 marriage licenses issued. Total collected: \$56.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lorenzo - The sewer cover by the garbage area of Salem Plaza is half way out. it is on the sidewalk. The cover doesn't stay level. If someone walks there at night they will fall in. I pushed it back over. It is heavy. I don't know how it comes out. The Clerk said she will have Leon take a look at it.

Councilwoman Montes - The Halloween Party will be October 31 at 6:00 p.m.. It will be at the firehouse. The Attorney asked how many kids in general show up? Kendyll said when she did it about 25 to 30. Onnie said when she use to do it there was about 60 but it varies every year.

Motion to accept and put on file all reports by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

JASON AND MELISSA - We already spoke to them earlier in the meeting.

AWARD CONTRACT TO D & L PAVING - Done earlier in the meeting.

RESOLUTION NJDOT GRANT FOR WASHINGTON AVENUE \_ The Clerk said everyone has a copy of the Resolution.

BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS  
RESOLUTION 11-2024

RESOLUTION: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the project named: Improvements to Washington Avenue

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens formally approves the grant applicaion for the above stated project.

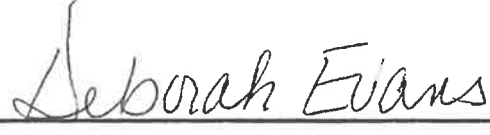
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic application identified as \_\_\_\_\_ to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Victory Gardens.

My signature and the Clerks seal serve to acknowledge the above Resolution and constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement . authorized by the Resolution above.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, David L. Holeman, Jr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens do hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council held on 9-24-2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

RESOLUTION NJDOT GRANT FOR WASHINGTON AVENUE CONTINUED:

Motion was made to approve the resolution for the NJDOT grant for Washington Avenue. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECTS COUNCIL WANTS DONE FOR THE NEW YEAR - Councilman Lorenzo said that the last part of Washington Avenue as you cross over South Salem Street should be done. The Clerk asked if it was only Washington or is Coolidge also included? Just Washington, before you get to Coolidge.

Councilman Glass said sidewalks need to be done. The Clerk asked where? All over. Some are coming up in different areas. The Mayor asked if he is saying to repair the sidewalks? Yes. This would be town wide? Yes. The Clerk said it doesn't help with people parking on them either.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said street lights. The Clerk said the grants do not cover street lights. The Mayor said he is working on that. That is up to JCP & L to do. The Mayor said we have been asking for this to get done. We have several out. Jersey Central isn't listening. The Mayor said he is going to the BPU.

The Clerk said we did get a call from a resident saying they were in to repair the lights. Councilman Suarez said they were at jos neighbors house.

The Mayor said he still has a list of about 10 that are out. Councilwoman Montes said to put hers down on Adams Avenue also.

Councilman Glass asked if we spoke to the new Commander yet. No. We are still trying to get an appointment. I called again yesterday. Councilman Glass said he saw them in here yesterday. The Mayor says he sees them in here every day.

The Mayor said we still need those back doors at the firehouse fixed. That isn't grant money. Joe said he would put hte money in the budget for the 3 doors at the firehouse. Councilman Glass asked how the doors are here at town hall? They are rusting away. What about the garage door? I think that one is fine.

The Mayor asked if there were any other projects that Council wants us to look at? There were no other projects mentioned.

The Mayor asked Councilman Glass if he has time to go around town and see what sidewalks need to be done and then we can give Leon a list. Okay. Try to get an address where the sidewalks need to be repaired. Okay.

LINE PAINTING MACHINE - We talked about this at the last meeting but we didn't decide what we were going to dowith it. Councilman Glass said the machine is in bad shape. the guys did finish painting. they used a roller. The company wants \$86 to look at the machine and maybe see what is wrong with it. Work was done before. The compressor isn't working but the motor is good. we need to know what Council wants to do with this machine? Do you want to get rid of it? Auction it off? Councilman Glass asked if we can just scrap it? No, the Attorney said that you have to auction it off. An ad has to be put in the paper. The Mayor asked Councilman glass to get the model and size and give it to Debbe. We need that information for the ad. Okay.

Motion to get rid of the line painting machine through an auction by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

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

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

Jim Janone - Are they going to bring storm drains into compliance when they do Washington? Yes, if needed. The one by the church, Washington Avenue and Washington Palce. That one has a big opening. Have you ever gotten an update on the school stuff? No. I am waiting to hear back from them. I called again yesterday. People are still talking about kids from Salem Village going into Victory Gardens to take the bus. We know that. They were told. Jim will email us a picture of cars parking on both sides of Coolidge at night. They have a mason dump that is a commerical vehicle. There is a patch job that Dover Water did. It is awful right down from Jim Glass' house. I told them about it. they are waiting for it to settle. Howcome our Optimum bill is \$230? I will ask Letty tomorrow.

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

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

Submitted By:

*Deborah Evans*

Deborah Evans  
Borough Clerk

