

May 13, 2025

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on May 13, 2025.

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 Glass, Councilman Suarez, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Hale, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: None

** Attorney Feintuch was also present at the meeting along with CFO Jason Gabloff, Auditor Man Lee and Andrew from Nisivoccia.

Motion to accept the minutes of April 22, 2025 as received by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. Councilman Lorenzo abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

The Mayor asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business for discussion on personnel. Motion made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Closed session typed apart from regular meeting.

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

Motion was made to go back into the regular order of business by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

The Mayor asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business so that we can hear from our CFO and our Auditor regarding the 2025 Budget.

Motion to go out of the regular order of business for discussion on the introduction of the budget. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

*** At this time the meeting was turned over to the CFO and the Auditor.

Jason said this is the introduction to the budget. The overall tax levy will be 3.45%. On the average home that means a \$39.00 increase for 2025 for the year. That includes a 2% increase in salaries. The biggest increases that we are seeing are the RVRSA and the health benefits. RVRSA was the biggest increase. Overall, we are pretty flat in the rest of the budget. We have no control over the two biggest items.

Councilwoman Montes said she would like to see no increase in the budget for next year. Jason said if we could get there he would be happy to do that. I never make those kind of promises.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions from the Council regarding the budget? Hearing none, he asked for a motion to introduce the budget.

Motion was made to introduce the budget 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 was made to go back into the regular order of business by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received a thank you from Councilman Lorenzo and also from Chris Barella on the fruit baskets that were sent to them.

NJ DOT GRANT FOR 2026 - I asked Leon what project he would recommend and he said Roosevelt Avenue. If Council has any other ideas please let me know. we have to get the application in pretty quickly.

Councilman Suarez asked if we can do somewhere else that looks worse than Roosevelt? Yes, but it has to be done quickly so Leon can get the grant application in.

Councilman Lorenzo said Cleveland Avenue is bad and also the section of Polk Avneue from Washington to Roosevelt. The Clerk said she will give the information to Leon and have him go take a look at it and whichever one is worse we will have him apply for that. Council agreed.

LIST OF STUDENTS ATTENDING DOVER SCHOOLS - After many years the Clerk said she finally received a copy of all the students going to Dover schools. I have the names, the house numbers where they are coming from and also what grades they are in.

The total number fo students they have for Victory Gardens is 276. The breakdown according to the list is as follows:

Victory Hill East Apartments	49
Brook Run Apartments	30
Condos - Victory Court	16
Condos - Highland Way	1
Polk Avenue	16
Franklin Road	3
Roosevelt Avenue	12
Cleveland Avenue	11
Garfield Avenue	2
Taft Avenue	1
Jefferson Avenue	5
Adams Avenue	11
Coolidge Avenue	13
Monroe Avenue	41
Washington Avenue	62

Attorney Feintuch asked how can we prove that these are where the kids are coming from? We can't. We have no one that can go out and check these addresses.

The Mayor said the Clerk brought up several times about hiring a housing officer but the Council turned it down.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said that Dover did send someone out to check on students because they came to her house. They will have to send someone out again. The Mayor asked how quickly do we think they will do that? Councilwoman Hedgepath asked what street has 41 kids? Monroe. Where are all these kids?

Councilman Suarez asked if Council can get a copy of the information from Dover? I guess so, I don't see why not.

Motion to accept and put on file the correspondence as received by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved onverbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments on the vouchers? Councilman Suarez asked about the voucher for Leon Hall? This is for work that willbe done in 2026? Do we have to pay upfront costs? Yes, whatever is on the voucher. There were no other questions on the vouchers.

Motion to approve the vouchers for payment 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
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Abstain

(See Vouchers Next Page)

VOUCHERS:

Voucher Reports
Mayor and Board Council Meeting
May 13,2025

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
05-01	Anderson & Denzler Associates	Engineering OE	\$ 14,172.54	
05-02	Ben shaffer Recreation	Streets and Roads	\$ 1,192.80	
05-03	City Connections LLC	Clerk OE	\$ 1,375.00	
05-04	Dover Board of Education	School Taxes	\$ 98,824.50	
05-05	Dover Court	Shared Court Services	\$ 1,655.83	
05-06	Feintuch Porwich Feintuch	legal Services	\$ 2,204.22	
05-07	General Code	Clerk OE	\$ 1,195.00	
05-08	Glass Gardens Inc (shoprite)	Recreation OE	\$ 273.87	
05-09	Henry O'Baker Insurance Group	Other Insurance	\$ 11,345.00	
05-10	JCPL Streetlights	Utilities	\$ 765.47	
05-11	Konica Minolta Business	Clerk OE	\$ 54.51	
05-12	National Flag and display Co Inc	Clerk OE	\$ 588.50	
05-13	Navitend INC	Clerk OE	\$ 1,444.20	
05-14	New Jersey Natural Gas	Fire OE	\$ 297.00	
05-15	Nisivoccia	Annual Audit	\$ 20,500.00	
05-16	Norberto Suarez	Recreation OE	\$ 82.65	
05-17	Ondria Garcia-Montes	Recreation OE	\$ 27.89	
05-18	Pro Cap 8 FBO First trust Bank	Tax collector	\$ 1,335.75	
05-19	Postmaster General	Clerk OE	\$ 730.00	
05-20	R&L Data Centers Inc	Clerk OE	\$ 286.00	
05-21	Rockaway Valley regional Sewerage	RVRSO OE	\$ 15,619.00	
05-22	SunnySide Florist	Mayor and Council OE	\$ 210.00	
05-23	Viking Pest Control	Buildings and Grounds	\$ 157.46	
05-24	Hector Lorenzo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,615.36	
05-25	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,795.20	
05-26	Manuel Venereo	Streets and Roads SW	\$ 2,244.00	
TOTAL VOUCHERS			\$ 180,991.75	

The Clerk told the attorney that he has to send us monthly bills for his retainer. The CFO is requesting that.The attorney said he would get that to us. Just for your monthly retainer.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUE THE 2025 BUDGET - Already done earlier in the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF BERNIE GRILLETTI AS FIRE OFFICIAL - Everyone has a copy of the Resolution. Councilman Suarez said the administration Committee met with him last week and we are pleased with him. He is licensed and he knows what he is doing. He is a fireman in Hoboken. He lives in Florham Park. He has many years experience.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING BERNIE GRILLETTI AS FIRE OFFICIAL -

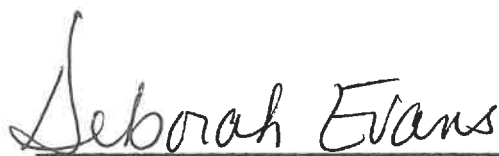
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VICTORY
GARDENS APPOINTING BERNIE GRILLETTE AS
FIRE OFFICIAL/DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
OFFICIAL REPLACING CHRIS BARELLA AS OF
MAY 1, 2025


WHEREAS, the Borough of Victory Gardens is in need of a Fire Official since the resignation of Chris Barella;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, Morris County, to appoint Bernie Grillette to this position of Fire Official;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution #12-25 was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on May 13, 2025 to appoint Bernie Grillette to the position,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said position is part time and the sum of \$7,017.60 will be paid for the position.


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk


David L. Holeman, Jr. Mayor

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens at a public meeting held on May 13, 2025.


Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

Motion to approve the resolution by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

LIEN REDEMPTION FOR BLOCK 10 LOT 3 - Everyone has a copy of the Resolution.

Motion to approve the resolution by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Suarez and approved on roll call:

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

(See Resolution Next page)

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

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received payment for redemption of **Tax Title Lien #24-004** on **BLOCK 10 LOT 03** known as 377 Washington Ave. in the name of **Minchala, Luis A.**, and

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

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

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

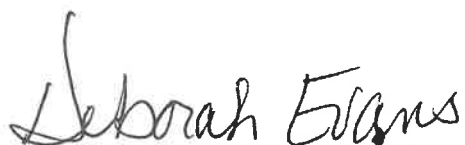
TAX TITLE LIEN: \$ 535.75
PREMIUM: 800.00

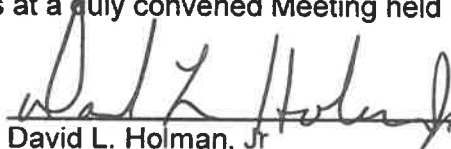
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Borough Treasurer be authorized to prepare a check in the amount of **\$1,335.75** made payable to:

Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust 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 May 13, 2025.


Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk


David L. Holman, Jr
Mayor

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote.

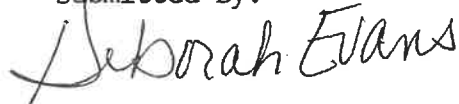
Jim Janone - Glad to hear you got the list of the kids. Will this be given to you quarterly or yearly? We don't know. Councilwoman Montes said have the property maintenance guy go to the houses. It is not his job. He is not allowed in anyones house unless they invite him in. Jim Janone said he doesn't think it will cost that much to have someone do the job. Did anyone see what the new school budget is? No. They said ouur rateables went up \$154,000. I don't know where they got that numberfrom. Dovers ratables went up \$93,000. According to their budget, Dover is going to have a 19% increase and Victory Gardens will have a 22% increase which comes out to about \$300.00 more. I saw something on linethat Dover is spending reserve money to do an addition. Has anyone heard that? Councilman Suarez said he saw a picture. It was for the 6th grade. They aren't putting it out for a vote so I guess they are using money that they have in reserves. I saw numbers for about \$700,000. And this is for a school? An addition. They bought Dover Sport Center for pre K. I can't see how this can affect us or if it will. If they need more than the initial money they are putting out and they bond it then that will affect us and we have to have a say so in what they do. The Attorney said they would have to put it up for a vote. This is apparently a done deal. Their budget is going up about 3 million dollars for next year. Our reval will take place for next year? Yes. Are we factoring in anything in our budget for the website for next year? Not in this budget. I did ask the CFO if we are able to use any money from the american Rescue Plan to do some stuff for us and I haven't heard back from him. I willask him. Can we use it for our budget? I don't know. I will have to check with the CFO.

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

Councilwoman Montes asked if know anymore about what is going on with the school monies. The attorney said he was speaking with the CFO beforethe meeting and he said there seems to be a discrepancyin what I believed we were suppose to have and what the numbers actually show. There is a difference of about \$400,000. That will hold us up a little more.

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

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk