

March 24, 2020

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on March 24, 2020.

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.

ABSENT: Attorney Feintuch

Motion to accept the minutes of March 10, 2020 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

** At this time the Mayor asked for a motion to go out of the regular order of business so we can introduce the 2020 budget. We have our Auditor here, Man Lee and our CFO Joe. At this time the meeting will be turned over to them.

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

Joe said that everyone has a copy of the 2020 budget. Everything we discussed at the budget meetings have been included the way the Mayor and Council wanted it. Does anyone have any questions?

Councilwoman Montes asked if we have to put any money in the budget for the issues with the corona virus? Any money we have to put aside for supplies or anything that might come up? We out source our health department now. If there is an emergency we have money where we can get it if needed.

Joe said we may have to extend the temporary budget. Councilman Glass asked why? Joe said that last year we had done everything by now. It is later this year by the time we adopt at the end of April.

The Mayor said we have been talking about it for awhile, maybe this year we can get it done about putting cameras up at the firehouse. If we want to do that, where would the money come from? Joe said from Capital, depending on costs. We would have to get quotes.

The Mayor asked how the budget looks to our auditors? Man said that we have a very modest tax increase this year. It is going from 1.011 to 1.031 which is a 2¢ increase. It equates to on an average home assessed at \$171,490 it comes out to \$34.00 more a year for the average taxpayer. Joe and I have had a discussion that you are using more fund balance than what we generated in 2019. That is in anticipation of the sewer rate increase that will be proposed for the second half of this year. If that proposal goes through and it gets passed, then your fund balance should be ok. Otherwise, you may see a drop at the end of 2020.

Councilwoman Montes asked about the sewer rates? Joe said we are looking to raise sewer fees. Joe said we are taking money out of fund balance to balance the budget this year. If we didn't do that, taxes would have gone up more.

BUDGET CONTINUED:

Joe said the Borough is debt free and we want to keep it that way. In order to secure that we have to do these things.

The Mayor asked if anyone on Council had any other questions? Hearing none he asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion to open to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - When will the RVRSA increases take affect? Joe said we haven't received anything from them yet that is concrete. We have a preliminary budget from them. That number was hovering around \$137,000. Is it correct that we are currently paying about \$100,000? Last year we spent \$116,127 against a budget of \$120,000. That didn't give us much room. So at this time the RVRSA is looking to increase a little over \$137,000. That doesn't include attorney fees for litigation and all the other costs associated with the sewer collections and billings. Is this in writing Jim asked? Only preliminary. Once we get the final, it could go up. Do we have it in our budget for the accumulated absence liability. No we don't. Other towns have it why don't we? Are we going to have it in the budget? If someone retires, in order to pay them for the time they have coming to them, where will that money come from? Joe said that if on an individual basis, someone retires we will have more than enough money to pay them for their time that has accrued. If all of them reitre on the same day at the same time we should be okay through transfers. Without raising taxes? I can't promise something like that but what are the chances of all workers retiring at the sametime? In light of everything that is going on where so many people are losing their jobs, you should think again about giving out raises.

The Mayor asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman White and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

The Mayor asked for a motion to go back into the regular order of business. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Introduction of the Budget. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilwoman White	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk said there is no correspondence. I have been writing up the information and giving it to the Council regarding all the conference calls that have been going on with the COVID 19.

VOUCHERS:

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

Motion to pay the bills by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payable to:</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03-16-2020	Anderson & Denzler Assoc.	Engineering, Firehouse lot & Roads	2,077.95
03-17-2020	AT&T	Utilities	42.66
03-18-2020	Chester Lighting	Clerk OE	35.00
03-19-2020	Deb Evans	Clerk OE	50.00
03-20-2020	Dell Marketing, LP	Clerk OE - Office 365	174.36
03-21-2020	Dover Board of Ed	School Taxes	84,757.75
03-22-2020	Dover Municipal Court	Muni Court Dover	1,529.79
03-23-2020	Hartford Insurance	Other Insurance	2,377.00
03-24-2020	Herbert Evans, Jr.	Bldgs. & Grnds.	350.00
03-25-2020	Home Depot	Clerk OE	81.88
03-26-2020	Home Depot	Clerk OE	14.91
03-27-2020	Ideal Air Inc.	Bldgs. & Grnds.	350.00
03-28-2020	JCP&L - Fire - #1	Fire OE	111.56
03-29-2020	JCP&L - Main - #2	Utilities	412.74
03-30-2020	JCP&L - Street lights #3	Street Lighting	624.07
03-31-2020	JLM Computers	Clerk OE	1,163.75
03-32-2020	MCAA - Morris County Assess. Assoc	Tax Assessor	75.00
03-33-2020	Morris County MUA	Streets & Roads	555.75
03-34-2020	NJNG - Borough Hall	Utilities	736.00
03-35-2020	Optimum	Utilities	11.45
03-36-2020	Philip Feintuch, ESQ	Legal Services OE	2,104.17
03-37-2020	Postmaster General	Clerk OE	330.00
03-38-2020	Rockaway Township Health Services	Health Services	6,194.00
03-39-2020	Rubinetti, Peter	Trash removal	10,833.33
03-40-2020	Staples	Escrow - Home Sunshine Invest.	9.36
03-41-2020	Verizon - #2	Utilities - 366-5312	243.78
03-42-2020	WEX Bank, Shell Gas	Streets & Roads	396.39
03-43-2020	VSP Insurance Co.	Group Insurance - Online	98.70
		TOTAL	115,741.35

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 1 permit issued. Total value of construction was \$1,019.00 .

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - Everyone has a copy of the report.

MUNICIPAL COURT - We received \$303.68 .

TAX COLLECTOR - Total Tax Receipts Month To Date: \$315,948.51
Total Tax Receipts Year To Date: \$418,471.70

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Glass - Nothing.

Councilwoman Cheatham - Nothing.

Councilwoman Hedgepath - Nothing.

Councilwoman White - Nothing. We are cancelling the Easter Party in light of the virus. Councilwoman Montes asked if they will be doing anything for the kids for Easter? We don't think so unless we try something for the Spring a little later on. Councilwoman Montes asked about the people giving out the lunches, can they hand something out to the kids for us? They don't want to be bothered. They are concentrating on getting the kids fed. Councilwoman Hedgepath said if we can do something after all this is over then we will try to do it. It may not be Easter, just Spring related.

Councilman Lorenzo - He said the cross bar that we talked about at the last meeting, has been corrected. They did it right away.

Councilwoman Montes - Nothing at this time.

The Mayor thanked both Councilwoman Montes for having the lunches moved into Victory Gardens and also thanked Councilwoman Hedgepath for being up there everyday while the school was there handing out the lunches.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

CANCEL EASTER PARTY - We already done this the Clerk said.

APPROVAL TO CLOSE PLAYGROUND IF NECESSARY - The Clerk said this had already been done.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS - The Clerk said that you can start filing your disclosure statement beginning April 1, 2020. You can not do it before that date. They must be submitted no later than 4/30/2020.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET - The budget was introduced earlier in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

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

Jim Janone - These conference calls that the Clerk is on, can't we have more information on those calls? Can't it be put on the website? Other towns are putting stuff out there. A lot of that is confidential. Some of the calls were just going over what they said earlier. Our website has something on there about garbage but nothing about the virus. There is something about the virus on there. We put up what we can. Not everyone gets the updates that I get. There is enough information out there the Mayor said. There are phone numbers to call if the people need information.