

April 28, 2020

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on April 28, 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 Meeting Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilwoman White, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Lorenzo.

\*\*\* Attorney Feintuch was not present at this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of April 14, 2020 as received by Councilwoman Garcia Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk said we received the bid documents for the project of Improvements to Taft Avenue, Polk Court and Garfield Avenue. We had 8 bidders on the project. The bids ranged from \$68,999.00 from AJM Contracting to a high bid of \$105,330.30 from D&L Paving.

The DOT funding for this project is \$80,000. The construction cost estimate was \$72,046.70 from Leons office.

Leon is recommending that award be given to AJM Contractors at tonight's meeting.

Attorney Feintuch looked over all the bid packages and he agrees with Leon Hall that the contract should be awarded to AJM Contractors.

Councilwoman Montes asked if this was the lowest bidder? No, there was one that was lower by a few dollars. Councilman Glass asked what this was for again? Taft, Garfield and Polk Court paving.

Motion was made by Councilman Glass to accept the bid from AJM Contractors in the amount of \$68,999.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilwoman White	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Abstain

COMMITTEE REPORTS & DEPARTMENT REPORTS - None for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

ADOPTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET -

At this time the Mayor turned the meeting over to our CFO and Auditor. Joe said that we got the approval from the State to adopt. The State had 2 minor things they wanted clarification on and we gave that to them. They are accepting our budget and we have permission to go forward and adopt the budget tonight.

BUDGET DISCUSSION CONTINUED -

Councilwoman Montes asked about the sewer rates. How much are they going up? \$48.00 for the year. Which is good because we haven't raised sewer rates since 1997. Also, the taxes are going up? Yes, 2% which is allowed by law. On a house assessed at \$171,000 that means an increase of \$36.00 per year or \$3.00 per month. This is the Borough portion of the budget.

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

Jim Janone - In regards to the budget, I didn't think you would be asking about the sewer. It was a question from Council only. We will be discussing the sewer at the next meeting. It has no bearing on the budget. We are still discussing the sewer at the next meeting? Yes. Does the budget have to be adopted tonight? And once it is adopted, can it be changed? Joe asked what type of changes is he asking about? In light of what is going on, I think the council should think about the raises for employees. There are a lot of people not working right now. 1/3 of the budget is salaries. If you eliminate the pay raises then it will help so that taxes don't go up too much. They will still go up but not as much. Potentially. Then you want to raise sewer rates. That will be twice that there will be an increase.

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

Motion to adopt the 2020 Budget by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

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

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS - Due by 4/30/2020.

VOUCHERS:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the vouchers? Councilwoman Montes asked about Eduardo's pay. It says 88 hours. That is correct. What is the \$31 and change per hour? That is what he gets paid per hour. How is he getting paid while he isn't here? He is using sick time. Does it still come out of salary? Yes.

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

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

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

(See Vouchers Next Page)

**VOUCHER REPORTS**

Date of Council Meeting:

April 28, 2020

<b>Voucher #</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4/25/2020	American Flags	Blds. & Grnds.	321.30
4/26/2020	ATT	Utilities	36.84
4/27/2020	Count of Morris Treasurer	County Taxes	47,621.02
4/28/2020	County of Morris Treasurer	Open Space Taxes	1,417.16
4/29/2020	Dover Board of Education	School Taxes	84,757.75
4/30/2020	Gannett New Jersey Newspaper	Clerk OE	90.30
4/31/2020	Glass Gardens, Inc. - Shop Rite	Clerk OE - Lysol and wipes	18.94
4/32/2020	Herbert Evans, Jr.	Bldgs. & Grnds.	350.00
4/33/2020	JCP&L	Utilities	622.18
4/34/2020	Mount Freedom Printing	Clerk OE	358.00
4/35/2020	Office Concepts Group	Finance OE	449.00
4/36/2020	Philip Feintuch, ESQ	Legal Services - April	2,104.17
4/37/2020	Rubinetti, Peter	Trash removal - April	11,233.33
4/38/2020	Scotty Tree Experts, LLC	Streets & Roads - Franklin Rd., trees	3,100.00
4/39/2020	Verizon - 5312 #2	Utilities	242.14
4/40/2020	WEX Bank - Shell Gas	Streets & Roads	389.55
4/41/2020	VSP - Vision Insurance	Group Insurance	98.70
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153,210.38</b>

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

Jim Janone - Why isn't Eddie and Hector and Debbie put on the voucher listing? Joe said that no one else is listed. It was just done as a formality. The public should know what is being spent on payroll. Since there are so many people at home now, there is more garbage to pick up. Will that affect our garbage costs? No, the regular pickups will remain the same no matter how much he picks up. The only thing that will change is since the recycling center has shut down, we need to find another place for our recycling. It took 2 weeks but Rubinetti found a place in New York to accept the comingled recycling. It is costing us an extra \$150.00 per dumpster for the comingled recycling. Cardboard he can still get rid of.

Is the trailer at the firehouse in the bay, still there? The Mayor said it is. Is it being removed? I don't think so. The contract says only fire fighting equipment will be put there. Jim said it is owned by the antique club. The Mayor said he would talk to the Chief and find out.

Are you going to be extending the due date for the May taxes? He did an executive order. We know he did the order. I will talk to our Collector when she comes in. I believe that each town has to do a resolution but I will find out from her. If taxes are pushed to June 1 that they are due, the residents will still have to pay the August quarter on time.

Are you doing any work on part of Coolidge Avenue? Not this year. I asked the Council about what roads they wanted to do because we have the application that has to be done July 1. Coolidge was one road I suggested to get done. Will storm drains be included? I have to ask Leon. There are some drains over there that should be replaced because the

Councilwoman Montes asked about the roads to be done. She thinks that Monroe Avenue at the top of the hill coming into Victory Gardens should be paved. There are big holes there. It might be getting done with the work that Randolph is doing but let me have Leon take a look at it and I will tell him with the grant that needs to be done also.

Other towns have food pantries that they have open to help the residents of their towns. Can Victory Gardens do anything? Does the County have a food bank where we can get food from for our residents? Maybe if they do we can get food for our people.

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 Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:

*Deborah Evans*

Deborah Evans  
Borough Clerk