

June 23, 2020

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on June 23, 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: Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilwoman White, Councilman Lorenzo.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

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

Motion to accept the minutes of June 9, 2020 as received by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. Councilwoman Cheatham abstained. None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you note from Councilwoman Cheatham. Her note says she will never forget our kindness. You are a special group of people.

Motion to accept the correspondence as received by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

<u>Voucher #</u>	<u>Payable to:</u>	<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6/17/2020	Anderson & Denzler	Various - see voucher	6,588.99
6/18/2020	Dover Board of Education	School Taxes	84,757.75
6/19/2020	Feintuch, Porwich & Feintuch, ESQ	Legal Services	175.00
6/20/2020	Gannett New Jersey Newspapers	Clerk OE	110.25
6/21/2020	Henry O Baker - Insurance Group	Other Insurance	8,076.00
6/22/2020	Herbert Evans, Jr.	Bldgs. & Grnds.	350.00
6/23/2020	JCP&L - Firehouse #1	Fire OE	100.31
6/24/2020	JLM Computers	Clerk OE	95.00
6/25/2020	MicroSystems - NJ.com, LLC	Tax Assessor	350.00
6/26/2020	NJNG - Borough Hall #2	Utilities	736.00
6/27/2020	Optimum	Utilities	11.45
6/28/2020	Philip Feintuch, ESQ	Legal Service, OE - monthly fee	2,104.17
6/29/2020	Postmaster General - Dover	Clerk OE	330.00
6/30/2020	RVRS	RVRS share	10,629.00
6/31/2020	WEX Bank - Shell Gas	Streets & Roads	312.70
6/32/2020	VSP Insurance	Group Insurance	98.70
		TOTAL	114,825.32

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

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Building Department - 3 permits issued for a total value of construction: \$196,252.00

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - Everyone has a copy of the report.

MUNICIPAL COURT - We received \$174.56 from the court.

TAX COLLECTOR - Total Tax Receipts Month To Date: \$338,389.29
Total Tax Receipts Year To Date: \$908,025.38

REGISTRAR - There was 1 marriage license issued. Total collected: \$28.00

FINANCE OFFICER - Everyone has a copy of the CFO report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No reports from Council at this time. Councilman Lorenzo said that he has a report saying that the last bay door isn't working. The door cable snapped so it needs to be replaced. The Clerk asked if it was the last one? I think so Councilman Lorenzo said. I know that the last bay door is always open. Councilman Lorenzo will find out and let me know for sure.

Motion to accept the reports and place on file by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

HOUSING OFFICER ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION - The Clerk said she sent the updated Ordinance to the Council. I have not heard anything from anyone. The attorney said the change in the Ordinance was adding the fines that would be imposed. Also that the owners/landlords have 90 days to abate the issue. They could also be given an extension. Some of these issues will take a little time to get resolved.

The Mayor said that with the 90 day timeto resolve then another 45 days if they need an extension that is about 4 1/2 months. Yes.

Councilman Lorenzo asked who pays the initial fee of \$25.00 for the inspection? It would be the landlord/owner. This would be every time we have to go back and inspect the Mayor said. Yes.

No other questions from the Council.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS AND IDENTIFIED IN THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES AS SECTION 2-14

Motion to approve the introduction of the Ordinance by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman White. Roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Abstain
Councilman Glass	No
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilwoman White	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	No

The Clerk said it does not get introduced. The Attorney said that maybe we should get an explanation why the ones that said no - what they have questions on. The Clerk said she thinks that is a great idea.

Councilman Glass said he doesn't think we need one. What the Clerk is doing seems like it is enough. By the time we get through this it will be 9 months and we will be through another school year.

Councilman Lorenzo said we need to find the bottom line of what the situation is with the kids. We still don't know where these 17 kids are that they gave us no address on. The Clerk said we got the listing.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

HOUSING OFFICER CONTINUED - Didn't you say we didn't have the address on 17 kids? Yes, but we have it now. They are our kids.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said we have about 21 that are moving or are accounted for. Yes, the Clerk said.

Councilman Lorenzo said that we need to account for everyone. We are doing our best to do that.

The Attorney said he sent a letter to Dover telling them no bus passes are to be issued unless they get the ok from Victory Gardens that the kids are there. There is an overcrowding issue here. The only way we can get this resolved is to hire someone to go in and inspect.

Councilman Lorenzo asked if we can table this until the entire Council is here? You'll never get the entire Council here the Clerk said.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said if we table for a month we should have some more information. The Clerk will put this on the agenda for the end of July.

QUOTE FROM ALARMS & ELECTRIC BY RUSS, LLC - The Clerk said this is something Councilman Glass gave to her to copy for Council. Maybe he should explain what it is.

Councilman Glass said they want a switch on the outside of the garage so they can open the door from the outside during winter. This way they don't have to walk around the building to get in and open the door.

The Clerk said so they still have to get out of the truck in order to operate the switch? Yes.

Councilman Lorenzo said what are they trying to do? The Mayor said that in order for the men to reload the salt they can hit the switch on the outside and get into the garage without having to walk through the garage and open the door. The Clerk said they still have to get out of the truck in order to push the button.

How much is this costing? \$1,200. The Mayor asked if there was a motion on the switch?

Councilman Glass made a motion to pay the amount for the switch. Motion was not seconded.

Councilman Lorenzo said more importantly is getting the door fixed where the cable broke.

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR LAKELAND LIQUORS AND THE SHOWPLACE -

(See Next Page)

WHEREAS, the herein below names have duly filed application for renewal of their liquor license for their respective premises as shown for the year 2020 & 2021, and

WHEREAS, no objections have been received from the public; and

WHEREAS, the required fees have been paid and all premises have been inspected and approved except as otherwise noted, by the Board of Health and the Bureau of Fire Prevention; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens that the said application be approved, and that the respective license be granted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in those cases where the inspectors of the different agencies of the Borough of Victory Gardens have found violations, the licensee shall comply and correct said violations within the time specified in the report by the various agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue license/certificates accordingly.

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE

1437-44-001-003

Popular Inc, T/A Lakeland Liquors
301 South Salem Street
Victory Gardens, N.J. 07801

ADOPTED: 6-23-2020

Mayor, Borough of Victory Gardens

[Signature]

ATTEST: Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

I, Deborah Evans, hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, at a meeting held on June 23, 2020.

Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

Motion on the Resolution for Lakeland Liquors by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman White and approved on roll call:

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

RESOLUTION LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SHOWPLACE & LAKELAND LIQUORS -

WHEREAS, the herinbelow names have duly filed application for renewal of their liquor license for their respective premises as shown for the year 2020 - 2021, and

WHEREAS, no objections have been received from the public; and

WHEREAS, the required fees have been paid and all premises have been inspected and approved except as otherwise noted, by the Board of Health and the Bureau of Fire Prevention; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens that the said application be approved, and that the respective license be granted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in those cases where the inspectors of the different agencies of the Borough of Victory Gardens have found violations, the licensee shall comply and correct said violations within the time specified in the report by the various agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue license/certificates accordingly.

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE

1437-33-002-002 South Salem Inc. T/A The Show Place
347 South Salem Street
Victory Gardens, N.J. 07801

ADOPTED: 6-23-2020

Mayor, Borough of Victory Gardens

[Signature]

ATTEST: Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

I, Deborah Evans, hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, at a meeting held on June 23, 2020.

Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

Motion to approve the liquor license for the Show Place by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Councilwoman Cheatham | Yes |
| Councilman Glass | Yes |
| Councilwoman Hedgepath | Yes |
| Councilwoman White | Yes |
| Councilman Lorenzo | Yes |

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

Jim Janone - OPRA request for payroll records. The Attorney said he sent Jim a letter. Jim said the case law the Attorney gave him is different than what he asked for. I want the payroll record that you get directly from the payroll company. The school taxes that are on the vouchers for \$84,757.75 is that every month? Yes every month for 12 months.

PUBLIC PORTION CONTINUED:

Jim Janone Continued - How many kids are going to school? I don't have the number with me but I think it is like 261. How come no one from Council goes to the school board meeting? The Mayor said that Deb and I have gone to some meetings. Councilwoman Hedgepath goes to some of the meetings. With the housing officer you need to be a little more specific. Maximum fines should be more than what you have. If you only make them pay small amounts then they won't do anything to correct the problem. You have to know how all this is going to happen. Put things in perspective. Big fines should be given. \$5,000 for a first offense. Then they will know you mean business. \$1,200 is a lot of money for the garage door. How come you haven't thought about doing a garage door opener wirelessly? This way the remote is in the truck and it gets wired into the power. It's cheaper. The Mayor said it didn't get passed.

Joan Cegelka - How much is left in the fund balance? I don't know off the top of my head. It was 1.2 million. We take \$48,000 every year to help offset taxes. Why wasn't there more taken out of the money? Auditors and finance said it would be done over a 20 year period. Did you contact anyone about using this money? Who is the finance committee? Lorenzo, Glass and Garcia Montes. Somebody said something about hiring the housing officer. That is good. What are you doing now? Councilwoman Hedgepath said Debbe has sent out letters. She is letting people know where the over crowding is we are looking at hiring a housing inspector to come in and take measurements for over crowding. There will be fines that the landlords will have to pay until they rectify the situation. We have 21 kids/families that are moving. Are you going to pass a Resolution stating that the kids have to come to VG before going to Dover for bus passes? Yes. We have gotten in touch with Dover and told them when they send notice out for the parents to do bus passes to have them come here first. No child will be given a bus pass until it is cleared through VG. The Resolution to have someone call in by phone, when was that passed by the Council? There was no resolution. The Attorney said you don't need one. Joan said she thinks you do and she will check.

Theresa Mendoza - I attended the zoom meeting for the Board of Education. I asked a question and received a letter back from the Superintendent. I was told they would reach out to the representative from VG. Has anyone called any one of you? No. They said they would reach out to someone in VG because I had mentioned school busing. I know we have been doing it as a courtesy. East Dover is under the 2 mile radius. A lot of places in New Jersey have pulled back on busing. Busing is a parental responsibility it is not required by law. If there is hazardous conditions it still doesn't mean you have to bus. The high school is a different story. I believe that is over the 2 ½ mile radius. The Superintendent says it could be deemed a critical service. There is no place in the law that talks about critical service. How can Dover make laws for VG? They are basically saying this is what we are charging you and you have to pay it. We don't have a choice. They just had a vacancy on the Board. Did anyone know about that? No. If we meet a certain percentage we can be eligible for a seat on the Board.

The attorney said technically we are not a sending district. I looked at the law the other day. My recollection is that when our Board was dissolved, we had one member from our Board that was put on the Board. That was only for a short period of time, until there was an election.

Joan said you would have to have 10% of the enrollment. The Clerk said from the figures that the Attorney spoke to them about we were told we only have 9%.

Theresa said that every town is unique. We should be able to say what happens with our children. We should have some sort of input. The grades for this recent test that they did were horrible. I would like to see greater involvement by the Board of Education with us.

Brunilda Orama - We have not had school since March. Was there any money refunded? No. We asked for a refund on the buses the Clerk said and we were told it is a contracted amount. We have to pay it. We will ask again. The attorney said the schools expenses are fixed. You are paying for teachers. They aren't in the classrooms but they are still working. Kids are getting home schooling. At the last meeting I had suggested that perhaps we do away with some things such as parties, etc.. Someone said that the kids should have the parties. With things the way they are today with obesity, diabetes, allergies can't we get rid of these parties? The Mayor said we take those things into consideration. We should still have events here for the kids. Kids are into phones, computers, video games.

PUBLIC PORTION CONTINUED:

Brunilda Orama Continued - I guess these kids go to the parties because of the candies and the sweets. Councilwoman Hedgepath said she thinks we should continue with the parties. You know from being in VG for as long as you have been here the kids don't have much left in here. Mrs. Orama said she raised her kids here but she really doesn't remember them going to the parties. A lot of children always attended these parties. Before when we had pastor Adams he did a lot for the children. He is no longer here. Now, we don't have that. Councilwoman Hedgepath said we are careful as to what we give the kids at the parties. We don't get a lot of money to do it so we choose carefully. All the parties, the Mayor said, the parents have to be with the child. It is up to them to watch what their child has. Are kids going to school in September? We don't know yet. The Attorney said he will look into us trying to get a refund for the buses. The contract should be reviewed by Dovers Board Attorney.

Angela Rammos - I was listening to the comments about the busing and I agree. I am a parent. I know the buses are under contract but maybe we can get some kind of credit. We live in Victory Gardens. I have been reading the history of our town. What are you doing to encourage the families that live here to learn about our history and our town. This is a great neighborhood. Does anyone walk around town? We have a lot of nice people here and they are doing nice things with their properties. Dover is doing nothing for our graduates. Have you thought about doing anything for them. Maybe just a recognition. When you do your parties for the town, I assume you are using town money for your budget for those parties? Yes. Since things have been cancelled this year, where does that money go? We had a senior citizen party. We usually don't have anything for them. This year we did. That was in February. We had to cancel the Easter Party. We still plan on having Halloween and Christmas parties providing all is ok at that time. Maybe there is some way we can put flowers or decorate at the entrances to Victory Gardens. I know you do something for laws, flowers. That is nice. We need to let our people know that VG is its own town. We are not Dover. It has been so loud in Victory Gardens lately with the music. The Mayor said people have to call the State Police. We don't want to tell them. The State Police tell us the residents have to call them to report the noise. I would like to see Washington Avenue have American flags on it. The Attorney asked if you are looking for some type of beautification committee.

Chris Trotsky - You should be doing decorations for the town. Do like a best decorated house for the holidays. We need the police in here more often. There is a lot of fireworks going off. This is at the house behind us. They are doing this at midnight and later. You have to call the police. We can't call anyone. If you hear it you have to call. The Mayor said we meet with the police several times a year. We will let them know.

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

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

Submitted By:

Deborah Evans
Deborah Evans
Borough Clerk