

April 18, 2023

A workshop meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on April 18, 2023.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Please remain standing.

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 Hale, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Cheatham and Councilwoman Hedgepath.

Tonights meeting is for discussion on the 2023 budget. At this time the Mayor turned the meeting over to the CFO.

Joe said at the last meeting we were discussing the operating side of the budget. Tonight we need to discuss the Capital part of the budget and see what projects you are interested in doing this year.

1. Doors for Firehouse (2)
2. Monroe/Coolidge Sidewalks
3. Washington Avenue Paving

Councilwoman Montes asked if Councilwoman Hedgepath spoke to Joe about where we are getting the money for the sidewalks? Yes she did. Our part of the project, Joe said, would come from Capital. We have \$194,000 in Capital and there would be approximately \$23,000 coming out for the sidewalks. Washington Avenue paving will be \$16,800 that we are looking at having to pay.

Councilman Glass asked how much money is left in the fund for Reserve for the Schools. This is where we take out the \$48,000 a year. There is \$791,000. That is about 14 years.

Councilman Glass asked if raises are figured into the budget? Yes at 2.5% .

Motion was made by Councilwoman Montes that there are no raises given this year to anyone. Seconded by Councilman Lorenzo. Roll call:

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

Councilwoman Motnes said the raises if they were calculated in, have to come out for the attorney and the Engineer also.

Joe said he will take all the raises out of the budget and then re-circulate the paperwork.

Mayor Holeman said we need a sidewalk at Borough Hall. We should include that in. Councilman Glass said that other piece of concrete that is next to the building should come out.

The Clerk asked if we do the sidewalk at Borough Hall, can we take it from the reconstruction of Borough Hall? Joe said he will look at the Ordinance and see if we can do that. also, the sidewalks for Monroe/Coolidge is going to cost hte Borough would be about \$25,000. Then we have Leons fees in there also which would be another \$10,000. Washington Avenue paving is going to cost the Borough an additional \$17,000 approximately plus Leons fees.

Councilman Glass said that he wasn't at the last meeting. Whatdid the public say about the sidewalks? The Mayor said there were 3 people in all that said no on the sidewalks. One person at hte first meeting and then at the last meeting htere weretwo here that said no. Councilwoman Montes said she thinks there is a law that says if you have bus stops you have to have a sidewalk for the kids to stand on.

Councilman Glass said we have a salter in the garage. It is no good. We had it looked at and the company said it wasn't worth fixing. Can we just take it to recycling or do we have to auction it off? I think we would get more money scrapping it.

The Clerk said that at our next Council meeting the Council will have to decide what they are doing about these sidewalks. You had people that came to the meetings and voiced their opinions. You have to decide if you are going to do both sidewalks, or one sidewalk or none. If you do both then we only have to notify Community Development that we are doing the project. If you decide to do just one sidewalk then Leon will have to go out to bid again and then you have to advertise and then you will have Leon's fees again. If you do nothing then we have to give the money back to Community Development.

Councilman Lorenzo said that there are storm drains that need to be repaired. There are about 5 in the town. We do storm drains almost every year. We will have Leon take a look at them if the DPW can write down where they are.

Councilman Glass asked if he has permission to get the salter weighed and see what we can get for it if we scrap it? Council said that was okay to do.

The Clerk asked if we need to have another meeting? Joe said as long as Council is okay with budget then he will get it to the Auditors. We will try to get it introduced in May.

Councilwoman Montes made a motion to have the CFO take the budget to the Auditors so we can introduce. Seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

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

Councilwoman Montes asked the Clerk if she has received everything from the CFO that she has been requesting? Not everything. Tonight he said he will get the budget paperwork to the Auditor. The Clerk asked Joe if he has been to the bank yet to get all that stuff taken care of? Probably tomorrow the CFO said. Councilwoman Montes said when Debbe asks you for stuff she needs it in a timely manner. Make sure Debbe gets it quickly.

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

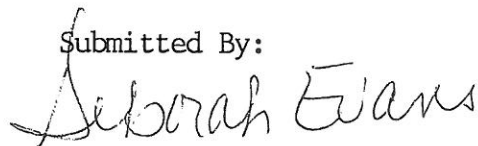
Jim Janone - Is the year end report done yet? AFS is almost done the CFO said. Exterior fire doors are about \$500 each. Salters used run about \$1,500 and up. That is whether they work or not. In the old audits there are ordinances that haven't been cancelled out. Joe said he will look at that during 2023. Did I hear correctly that we have \$791,000 in the reserve for schools? Yes. What will be the increase in the municipal side of the budget be approximately? Budget is going up. Maybe 3.5%. Roughly up about \$35,000. Would payback money from Dover go into this year's budget? No, next year's. About Capital - if you know how much you are going to be putting out every year why don't you put that in each year's budget? Then taxes would go up. Where are you getting \$100,000 to put in the budget every year?

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

Councilwoman Montes asked what would be the increase per household with the budget? I have to make some changes Joe said and will get back to you.

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