



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ELECTRONIC MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2021 7:00 P.M.

A) CALL MEETING TO ORDER / SUNSHINE STATEMENT – Mayor Carolyn Blackman to call meeting to order and read the Sunshine Statement:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the Sunshine Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. Notice of the meeting was sent to the Daily Record and Star Ledger on January 10, 2021 and published in the Record and Ledger on January 13, 2021. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board, in the Lobby and Entrance Doors of the Municipal Building and on the Town of Dover website.”

The Mayor then led those in attendance in the salute to the flag. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then conducted the roll which resulted in the following:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Alderman Correa	X		
Alderman Tapia	X – 7:11p.m.		
Alderman Ballesteros	X		
Alderwoman Rugg	X.		
Alderwoman Cruz	X – 7:09p.m.		
Alderman Valencia	X		
Alderman Quinones	X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		
Mayor Blackman	X		

Also in attendance was Interim Business Administrator John O. Bennett, Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt, Municipal Attorney Tim Downs, Fire Chief Jon Filosa and William Isselin Chief Code Enforcement Officer / Assistant to the Engineer

PRESENTATIONS, MUNICIPAL CORRESPONDENCE

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt presented the following correspondence and read the Proclamation into the record.

- 1) Correspondence from Mine Hill Re: COVID-19 Vaccine
- 2) Proclamation Demonstrating Respect, Appreciation and Thanks to the Dover Fire Department for their outstanding commitment to safety and excellence which has benefited the people of our community.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board then considered the Approval of Bills List (Res. 77-2021). A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt Res. 77-2021, second by Alderwoman Rugg. [Alderwoman Cruz joined the meeting]

Resolution 77-2021

	A.M. Correa	A.M. Tapia	A.M. Ballesteros	A.M. Rugg	A.M. Cruz	A.M. Valencia	A.M. Quinones	A.M. Wittner	Mayor Blackman
Motion								X	
Second				X					
Yes	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain					X				

Res. 77-2021 passed by a vote of 7-0-1 with Alderwoman Cruz not voting.

[Alderman Tapia joined the meeting at 7:11p.m.]

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The Board then considered the consent agenda resolutions:

- 1) Res. 78-2021 – Res. Appointing Class II Police Officers – Harold Ruiz, Christopher Krasnick and Miguel Gatica
- 2) Res. 79-2021 – Res. Confirming Appointment of Firefighter Michael Coyne

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rugg to adopt the consent agenda Resolutions, second by Alderman Ballesteros.

Resolutions 78-79 2021

	A.M. Correa	A.M. Tapia	A.M. Ballesteros	A.M. Rugg	A.M. Cruz	A.M. Valencia	A.M. Quinones	A.M. Wittner	Mayor Blackman
Motion				X					
Second			X						
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

The consent agenda resolutions were adopted 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Board then considered Res. 80-2021 – Res. Awarding a Contract to Billy Contracting and Restoration Inc. for the Public Works Interior Project.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt explained that this project had been previously authorized by the Board and was put out to BID. The Town received roughly 16 BIDS of which the lowest was found responsive and the professionals of the Town are recommending that the contract be awarded.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt the Resolution, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

Resolution 80-2021

	A.M. Correa	A.M. Tapia	A.M. Ballesteros	A.M. Rugg	A.M. Cruz	A.M. Valencia	A.M. Quinones	A.M. Wittner	Mayor Blackman
Motion								X	
Second				X					
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

The Resolution passed 9-0.

The Board then considered Res. 81-2021 – Res. Accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Fire Chief Filosa explained the grant. He stated that the Town received funding previously in Round 1 and for Round 2, Dover applied and received additional funding from the Grant.

A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros to adopt the Resolution, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

Resolution 81-2021

	A.M. Correa	A.M. Tapia	A.M. Ballesteros	A.M. Rugg	A.M. Cruz	A.M. Valencia	A.M. Quinones	A.M. Wittner	Mayor Blackman
Motion			X						
Second				X					
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

Res. 81-2021 was adopted 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator’s Report: The Mayor reported that herself and Mr. Bennett continue to have weekly calls with St. Clare’s Hospital. She reported that the Town has been granted 60 vaccines for COVID-19 for seniors and that the Town is coordinating with the senior bus to transport people from the Town to St. Clare’s for the vaccination. She commented that this was just a start in terms of vaccinations.

Interim Administrator Bennett reported that the Town approved a voluntary furlough plan to keep employees with health benefits and allowing them to apply for unemployment insurance. He also reported on the status of bars and restaurant closing times and a meeting which was held with owners. Mr. Bennett reported that the RFQ for the Newberry’s Building was extended and that the Administration has also been busy working on the budget, which will be sent to the Finance Committee next week. He reported that the Town is facing a \$1-million-dollar increase in Salary and Wages and a \$1.1-million-dollar revenue shortfall.

Mr. Bennett also complemented the DPW Department for their hard work during the recent snow storm and stated that they have done an incredible job. He also reported on grants and personnel including that the Public Health nurse has started.

He also shared that on February 27th, to celebrate Black History Month, that Mayor Blackman was receiving the Carter G. Woodson honoring women in action.

Mayor Blackman also spoke about the new Special Class II Officers which were hired. Deputy Police Chief Jon Delaney stated that 2 of 3 hires are Dover High School graduates and that they will be primarily assigned to do foot patrol in the downtown area and bike patrol. Currently the hires are at the Police Academy before they will begin work. Deputy Chief Delaney also spoke about an internship program which will be starting under the direction of Det. Aragon.

ITEMS REQUESTED FOR DISCUSSION BY INDIVIDUAL ALDERMEN

The Board then considered Ord. 1-2021 Amending Chapter 236-43 “Land Use and Development – Off Street Parking and Loading” to Include Plug-In Electric Vehicles Charging Stations, which was sponsored by Alderman Quinones and Alderman Correa. The sponsors explained the Ordinance which would creation a new section in the Town Code for electric vehicles. It was mentioned that other municipalities in the state have done something similar including Morris Township.

A motion to introduce the Ordinance was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderwoman Wittner which passed 9-0 with the following members in favor: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman.

The Board then considered Ord. 2-2021 Amending Chapter 68 “Department of Recreation” of the Code of the Town of Dover to Update the Name and General Duties of the Department, which was sponsored by Alderwoman Cruz, Alderman Quinones, Alderman Correa and Alderman Tapia. The sponsors explained the Ordinance which would change the name of the Recreation Department to include a focus on arts and cultural issues.

A motion to introduce the Ordinance was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderman Valencia which passed 9-0 with the following members in favor: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman.

The Board then considered Res. 82-2021 Mandating Anti-Harassment Training for all Elected and Appointed Officials, which was sponsored by Alderwoman Cruz, Alderman Correa and Alderman Valencia. The sponsors explained the resolution and a motion was made by Alderman Quinones to adopt, second by Alderman Tapia, which passed 9-0 with the following members in favor: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt read the procedures for public comment and the meeting was opened to the public.

Speaker: Antonio Acosta

Address: 130 Madison St., Dover NJ

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Acosta commented that he liked the discussion about redevelopment and the Cultural Arts. He also mentioned that he does not like extending the curfew to bars and stated we have 2,000 students out of school.

Speaker: Javier Salazar

Address: 140 Madison St., Dover NJ


Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Salazar expressed concern about a property across the street from his home becoming a convalescence home. Mr. Salazar is concerned it will become a boarding home. Mr. Isselin stated he spoke to Mrs. Salazar and he did research on the property. Mr. Isselin stated that the applicant applied for a Zoning permit to add handicap use and received a construction permit. The House will be used as a private residential facility as determined by the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Isselin also stated that he has been in discussion about the perspective buyer and is aware of the property.

Municipal Attorney Downs stated that the using the property this way is a permitted use and that safeguards are in place to make sure the property is being used in accordance with the law.

With no one else wishing to address the Board, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

The Mayor then asked for a motion a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adjourn, second by Alderwoman Rugg with the following in favor: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN P. SCHMIDT
Acting Municipal Clerk