



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ELECTRONIC MEETING 37 N. SUSSEX ST., DOVER, NJ 07801 AUGUST 11, 2020

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 7:00p.m. and read the Sunshine Statement that the meeting was 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 August 5, 2020 and published in the Record on August 7, 2020 and in the Ledger on August 8, 2020. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall.

The Mayor then led those in attendance in the salute to the flag. Following the flag salute, Mayor Blackman asked for a moment of silence for the victims of COVID-19, especially those impacted in Dover.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then conducted the roll which resulted in the following:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused	
Alderman Correa	X			
Alderman Tapia	X			
Alderman Ballesteros	X			
Alderwoman Rugg	X			
Alderwoman Cruz	X			
Alderman Valencia	X			
Alderman Quinones	X			
Alderwoman Wittner	X			
Mayor Blackman	X			

All 9 members of the Governing Body were present and there was a quorum. Also present at the meeting was Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt, Deputy Town Administrator Carlos Sanchez and Town Attorney Timothy P. Downs.

PRESENTATIONS, MUNICIPAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Blackman and the Board then heard a presentation from Diego Campo, Esq., concerning the C.A.M.P.O. program. Mr. Campo explained the program, which will be available to Dover residents to help mediate issues including Landlord Tenant matters, Neighborhood Issues, Certain Family Matters and Noise Complaints. There will be a dedicated number for this program and the program will be offered in both English and Spanish. Following the presentation, the floor was opened up for questions. Aldermen Ballesteros asked a question concerning the approach of the program and Mr. Campo explained the usefulness of the program and highlighted Neighborhood Issues and Noise Issues which has a component of education to avoid conflicts escalating. Alderwoman Rugg asked if other municipalities have done anything similar. Mr. Campo stated that he is not aware of a mediation program run by a municipality.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

The Board then acted on Ord. 18-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 236, Section 38 of the Code of the Town of Dover To Permit Certain Signs in the Commercial Zoning Districts Along Route 46

Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to open the public hearing for Ord. 18-2020. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to open the public hearing, second by Alderman Ballesteros, which carried 9-0 by unanimous consent.

Open the Public Hearing for Ord. 18-2020

	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									

Mayor Blackman asked if anyone wished to comment. Hearing no voices, Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to close the public hearing for Ord. 18-2020. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros to close the public hearing, second by Alderwoman Rugg, which carried 9-0 by unanimous consent.

Close the Public Hearing for Ord. 18-2020

	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									

A motion was then made to adopt Ord. 18-2020. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

Adoption of Ord. 18-2020

	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
No									
Abstain									

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board then considered the Approval of the Bills List (Res. 199-2020).

Alderman Ballesteros asked if Res. 202-2020 had to be voted on prior to the Bills List being voted on for a tax overpayment refund. There was some discussion about what the best way to proceed. After discussion, it was decided to move act on the consent agenda Resolutions first.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then read the consent agenda resolution by titles.

- 1) Res. 200-2020 – Resolution Accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant (Training)
- 2) Res. 201-2020 – Resolution Approving Volunteer Fire Department Member
- 3) Res. 202-2020 – Resolution Approving Refund of Overpayment of Taxes for Block 2107 Lot 6 in the Town of Dover.
- 4) Res. 203-2020 - Resolution Accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant (COVID-19)
- 5) Res. 204-2020 - Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Benchmark Analytics

Aldermen Ballesteros asked a question about Res. 204-2020, if we were consolidating our reporting into one database or is this a convenience. Deputy Administrator Sanchez explained that it would consolidate everything into one system and allow better reporting. He also stated the cost is probably a break even.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolutions, second by Alderman Ballesteros.

Resolutions – 200 to 204 2020

	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
No									
Abstain									

The Consent Agenda Resolutions carried 8-0.

The Board of Aldermen then considered the Bills List, Res. 199-2020. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion, second by Alderwoman Rugg to adopt.

Approval of Bills List (Res. 199-2020)

	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
No									
Abstain									

The Bills List carried 8-0.

Mayor Blackman then announced that we were going to administer the oath of office to a new volunteer member of the Fire Department, Anthony Sorisi. Fire Chief Filosa made some comments. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then administered the oath of office.

RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Mayor and Board then considered Res. 205-2020. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that we have been working on an Open Government Ordinance. He explained that as of right now resolutions and ordinances are posted on line after they are adopted. The resolution would allow draft resolutions and ordinances to be posted online. Alderman Ballesteros asked about point #3 in the resolution. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt explained that if a last minute item is added, like today where there was a court hearing and an item had to be drafted and acted on tonight. Acting Clerk Schmidt said that that document might not be finalized until 6:00 or 6:30 and there may not be enough time to add something to the website. He stated that there might be some circumstances where an item comes in late on a Tuesday, there might not be enough time to post on the website. Alderwoman asked about the 48 hour time limit. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt that 48 hours was in OPMA and that is where the number came from. Alderwoman Wittner further asked if the resolution would be a bridge until an ordinance is adopted. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt confirmed that the resolution does bridge the gap.

Mayor Blackman asked if there were any other questions. Alderwoman Wittner asked what “certain documents” mean. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated the resolutions and ordinances. Mayor Blackman then entertained a motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderman Valencia.

Resolution – 205-2020

	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 carried 9-0.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then read a resolution into the record, which came in late this afternoon following a court hearing today. He then read Res. 206-2020, a Resolution authorizing a settlement in the matter of William Woodhull Jr. v. Town of Dover, et. al. Docket No. 2:18-cv-14998-ES-MAH.

Mayor Blackman asked if anyone has any questions. Alderman Ballesteros asked if the resolution could be emailed. Alderman Correa asked how long has the case been in litigation. Labor Counsel Scott Salmon responded that it has gone on since October 2018. Alderman Correa asked if the case could be explained why the employee was suing the Town. Mr. Salmon stated that Mr. Woodhull was a Police Sargent and employed from 1991 to 2018. Like other employees he was entitled to be paid for his some of his leave time. Since the Town did not pay him his leave time, he filed a suit against former Mayor Dodd and former Administrator Travisano. Mr. Salmon says that the Town believes he is entitled to \$23,000 whereas Mr. Woodhull believes he is entitled to \$35,000. Mr. Woodhull would also be entitled to his attorney fees and possibly additional monies. Mr. Salmon says that he would most likely be eligible to receive \$43,000 + two years of attorney's fees. If the case continued the Town would have to spend more both on the Town's attorney and Mr. Woodhull's attorney's fees. The settlement agreement is \$60,000, which Mr. Salmon stated is probably the minimum the Town would have had to pay, so he believes that this is a good deal for the Town. Aldermember Correa thanked Mr. Salmon for working to close this case in a short period of time since he took over as the attorney on the case.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, second by Alderman Correa to adopt.

Resolution – 206-2020

	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. 206-2020 was adopted 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Blackman then spoke about the storm which occurred last week and thanked the Police Department and Public Works Department. The Mayor also stated that the Town had daily calls with JCP&L and in total over 700,000 customers lost power and as of last night she believes all Dover residents have powers again. The Mayor said that JCP&L had 8,000 utility workers from 17 states. The Mayor also reported that the Town was able to assist a family by putting them in touch with the Salvation Army.

Mayor Blackman then reminded everyone to continue to wear masks. Mayor Blackman also stated that tomorrow night at 6:00p.m. there will be a small celebration to welcome back the Dogs of Dover. She stated that the reason for the ceremony is that the dogs came back during

the current administration. The Mayor also said that after the celebration, some local restaurants will be having specials and encouraged people to come out if they could.

The Mayor asked if anyone else from the Board had any questions or comments. Alderman Correa asked the Acting Municipal Clerk the process to vote on something from the floor. Acting Municipal Clerk said that something can be voted on the floor upon the approval of the Mayor or a 2/3 vote of the governing body.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Blackman read a statement regarding public comment and then opened the meeting to the public.

Tamara Bross, from Planning/Zoning wanted to comment about the Veterans Housing Project. Ms. Bross stated that she was thrilled that the project was transferred. She said it has been ongoing for 2016 and wanted to thank everyone.

Felipe Davila, 309 Washington Avenue – Mr. Davila spoke about cleanups and stated this past week there was a cleanup on N. Salem Street and Richards Ave. Mr. Davila spoke about issues with cleanups and adding garbage cans around the Town. He also wanted to applaud the Board going to Zoom meetings.

Hearing no one else who wished to speak, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Blackman asked if anyone else had anything. Deputy Administrator Carlos Sanchez thanked the Economic Development and Redevelopment Committee regarding the closing of Pennrose. He also thanked Bill Isselin for his work as well. Mr. Sancez also spoke about supporting the small business community as we gradually reopen and reminded everyone to continue to wear masks.

Mr. Sanchez also said that the Town has been receiving some calls from developers who are interested in Dover. He called redevelopment a team effort.

Mayor Blackman reminded everyone that Town hall is open by phone, email, appointments and a drop off window is also open. Acting Clerk Schmidt commented that his office and others such as the Registrar Offices have had meetings with the public in Town Hall by appointment. He explained that while the doors are closed, Town Hall is not. One of the reasons that the doors are closed is if three or four people came at once, there is not enough room to properly social distance.

Alderwoman Rugg thanked Acting Clerk Schmidt that business is being conducted and that we are here for our Town and the residents of our Town.

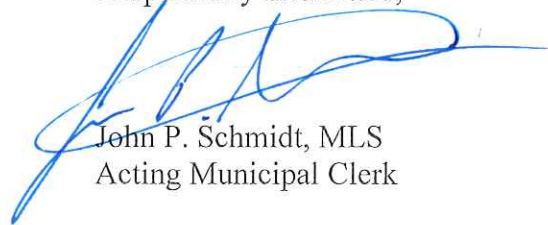
Alderwoman Correa thanked Tamara from Planning/Zoning for her efforts with the Veterans Housing Project. Alderman Correa also thanked Bill Isselin. Alderwoman Wittner thanked the whole team as well. Alderwoman Rugg also thanked Bill Isselin and also commented how secure the work site looks and how excited she is to see the project completed.

Alderman Correa also wanted to thank the administration and Town employees, including DPW, Police and Emergency Personnel for all their efforts with cleaning up from the storm.

Deputy Administrator Sanchez commented that he wanted to also thank the volunteers on the Planning Board for their time in regards to the Veterans Housing Project. Alderman Correa, asked if he could ask one more question, and asked Deputy Administrator Sanchez how much money the Town saved with restructuring the redevelopment agreement. Deputy Administrator Sanchez stated that the closing, the Town will receive \$400,000 - \$350,000 for the conveyance of the site and \$50,000 from the developer to support maintenance of the field, in particular Crescent Field. Mayor Blackman commented that we were able to work with NJ Transit with this project and she hopes that it will start a better relationship between the Town and NJ Transit.

Mayor Blackman then entertained a motion to adjourn. Alderman Correa moved to adjourn, second by Alderwoman Wittner. On voice vote, 9-0 (Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman in favor) the meeting was adjourned at 8:27p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Schmidt, MLS
Acting Municipal Clerk