



# TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
37 N. SUSSEX ST., DOVER, NJ 07801  
JULY 28, 2020**

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the July 28, 2020 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 7:03p.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 July 22, 2020 and 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 all those affected by the Covid 19.

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

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Alderman Correa	X		
Alderman Tapia	X – 7:05		
Alderman Ballesteros	X		
Alderwoman Rugg	X		
Alderwoman Cruz	X		
Alderman Valencia	X – 7:05		
Alderman Quinones		X	
Alderwoman Wittner	X		
Mayor Blackman	X		

Alderman Ballesteros asked if the link to the YouTube was posted. Alderman Bellsteros was not able to find the link, and wanted to post the link on social media.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt said it was showing as live on YouTube.

Alderman Tapia and Valencia announced that they were late but present.

Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to open to the public concerning the Budget Amendment Alderwoman Rugg made a motion, seconded by Alderman Correa.

	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
<b>Motion</b>				X					
<b>Second</b>	X								
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>							X		
<b>Abstain</b>									

Acting Clerk Schmidt said that the floor was opened to the public that wish to comment on the Budget Amendments that were introduced at the July 21, 2020 meeting and advertised in accordance with the Law.

The Mayor hearing no voice closed that portion of the meeting.

Due to technical issues with the conference call the Acting Municipal Clerk asked the Mayor to restart the meeting out of precaution.

Mayor Carolyn Blackman recalled the July 28, 2020 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 7:21p.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 July 22, 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 all those affected by COVID-19. The COVID-19 cases as of today 718 and 61 deaths.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
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		

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that a few questions came up concerning the budget process. Mr. Schmidt wanted to clarify those concerns to the Board and members of the public. The Clerk stated he had received emails with identical language from Karol Ruiz, Noreen Staples, Philippe Davelon, and Estela Fernandez Alvarez. The emails expressed that there was an issue with notifications of the budget because advertisement requires the budget to state the location, phone numbers, and office hours. The Acting Clerk explained that the budget was introduced on May 19, 2020, and Public Hearing was scheduled on June 23, 2020. The advertisement was placed in the paper, copies of the budget were available in the office of the Municipal Clerk at Town Hall, 37 North Sussex Street, Dover New Jersey during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. As a result of the COVID-19 epidemic all officials, and members of the public are encouraged to dial into the meeting and practice CDC guidelines. To dial into the meeting dial 712-451-0770, access code 863160. The public is also encouraged to call the Clerk's Office at 973-366-2200 or email the Clerk's Office at [jschmidt@dover.nj.us](mailto:jschmidt@dover.nj.us) to obtain a



copy of the budget. The Acting Clerk stated that the legal advertisement for the first and second notice was also placed in the paper. The first notice was published on June 12, 2020 and the second noticed was published on July 19, 2020. The Acting Clerk also wanted to address that the budget process was followed as conveyed. The Board decided in the last meeting to amend the introduced budget which triggered an amendment process. The Amendments had to be advertised three days prior and a Special Meeting was scheduled and amendments were also advertised.

Alderman Ballesteros wanted to know if the budget was available online.

Acting Clerk Schmidt addressed that the budget was posted the day after the May 19, 2020 Meeting on the website. The budget Amendments were also posted on the website the day after the Meeting on which they were adopted which was July 22, 2020.

Alderman Ballesteros asked if the budget was only available under the agenda or meeting minute section of the website.

Acting Clerk Schmidt explained that there are three sections: Agenda, Minute, and Document Section. The Budget can be found in the document section.

Aldermen Ballesteros asked if the budget needed to be posted in the budget or financial section.

Acting Clerk Schmidt explained he posted same way he has been doing all year. He did not believe we had a budget section in the website.

Alderwoman Wittner asked is the budget and budget amendments easily found in the website especially if you do not know what meeting it was on. Acting Clerk Schmidt told Alderwoman Wittner that he had no issues finding the budget document. He also stated a resident had an issue locating the budget document but after guiding the resident through they were able to easily locate the document.

Municipal Attorney Tim Downs asked the Municipal Clerk if the Agendas for each meeting were posted on the website, and a member of the public can review the Agenda without having to review the documents. Sometimes the Agenda will have 50-80 page documents which can be conversant to look through. Looking through the Agenda would alert someone if the budget was addressed. The Governor had extended the time when the budget can be introduced which will narrow the times when the public would look for the budget.

The Acting Municipal Clerk agreed with Tim Downs, Esq.

Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to Open to the Public Hearing concerning the budget amendments. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Rugg.

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Public Hearing is Open

Karol Ruiz residing on South Morris wanted to address Attorney Downs and Municipal Clerk Schmidt comments, and that the point of the email was missed; the issue is that the Budget is not easily accessible to the public. Budget and Amendments should be posted front and clear on the website. The public should not have to dig around trying to find the documents. The fact that the public cannot hear or attend the public meeting in person create a feeling of lack of transparency. Whoever is in charge of the website should make it as user friendly as possible that would truly benefit the entire community.

Attorney Downs asked the Mayor that he wanted to clarify for the record he did not make comments, all he did was ask questions to the Clerk.

Susan Shauer residing at 346 West Clinton Street said that if she did not dial in to the meeting she would not have known of the change in Budget or the Addendum, because she did not listen to the last meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> was on the same night as the Board of Education which sometimes does happen, and for that reason she did not know the Budget was being heard. She does agree with Ms. Ruiz that in order to appear transparent there could have been a lot more notification about the changes in the budget. The budget could have been posted on the Town of Dover Facebook page. She also spoke about transparency and being more transparent with posting information.

The Mayor stated that we are working through the new way meetings are being held, we are trying to be as transparent as we can, there is nothing to be hid on the agenda, but she does thank her for her comments.

Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to close the public portion concerning the budget amendments. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Rugg.

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Mayor Blackman asked if anyone from the Board had any comments concerning the adoption of the Budget.



Alderwoman Wittner asked that in light of the many emails she has received, and with the two comments heard, she is very apprehensive about voting on the Budget. She stated that it's pretty clear people are having trouble finding.

Alderman Ballesteros asked Alderwoman Wittner was she asking for a motion to carry the Budget, or suggestion.

Alderwoman Wittner said it was more of a discussion and she wanted to hear from the Deputy Town Administrator, and what are the timelines, and any deadlines if any.

Interim CFO Ashley Wilson stated she was checking if the Board could postpone the Budget.

Alderman Correa asked if the Budget was advertised in the official newspaper used by the Town.

Acting Clerk Schmidt responded that the Budget was advertised on June 12, 2020 in the Daily Record, and then again on July 9, 2020.

Alderman Correa stated the night the Budget was introduced on May 19, 2020 which was provided by the Town CFO Ashley Wilson the documents were available. Last week there was a Budget Hearing that was discussed in length with the professionals including the Budget Consultant. The Alderman were all present, and members of the public were also present and participated. That meeting was also properly advertised; tonight's Special Meeting was also properly advertised.

He stated that the Legal Notice explained the location, time, and place. It also explained how to acquire a copy. He also stated that the OPMA meeting notices also contained how and where the meeting was being held per the Acting Municipal Clerk.

Alderman Correa asked if all the documents related to the Budget, introduced and or amended were also published in the website under the proper meeting sections.

The Mayor stated that on the May 19, 2020 meeting was when all the documents on the Budget were attached under the proper meeting section which was actually the introduction of the Budget.

Alderman Correa stated that the meetings were properly advertised, the Legal Notices were properly sent to the newspaper during the Statutory timelines, the Budget was properly amended and advertised, this Special Meeting was also properly advertised. The Budget were put on the website although not on the financial document section of the website but they were on the website.

Mayor Blackman stated on July 21, 2020 the Budget Amendments were also put on the website in the same section as the Agenda of July 21, 2020.

Alderman Correa expressed that the residents had from May 19 to June-July, approximately two months to ask questions to the Clerk where documents are located, or they had time to review the

documents meaning they had time to search the documents, or they could have OPRA'd the required documents. So the residents had over two months to do any research to obtain the documents.

Alderman Correa stated he believes the Board should move forward and approve the Budget. His motion is to approve the Budget.

Municipal Attorney Tim Downs explained that the CFO Ashley Wilson is researching timelines of the approval of the Budget. A motion is not needed on the Amendments because there has been no motion to table. The Board is waiting for a response from the CFO at that time the Board can move forward.

Interim CFO Ashley Wilson stated the Budget Adoption was extended from April 30 to May 30 or the first regular scheduled meeting which we are late because of the amendments. We would need to move forward with the adoption.

Mayor Blackman stated that when we started with the Budget process we had direction from the Governor's Office because we wanted an extension to prepare this budget. We have been working on this Budget since March and she feels we should move forward with the Budget.

Mayor had questions concerning the Water Commission.

Mr. Downs stated that Alderman Correa was having issues, and lost connection.

Alderwoman Wittner thanked Ashley for the information.

The Board then had some questions regarding the Water Commission, which is in the Water Utility Budget. The Mayor asked for Attorney Peter King's history with the Water Commission.

Attorney Peter King was appointed 12 years ago as the Attorney for the Water Commission under Paul McDougal.

Mr. King explained he was appointed by the previous administration, the Dodd Administration.

The Water Commission is a three-person commission. The enabling Statute was established in the late 1800s which is a very old statute. Most municipalities have gone to either a Water Department or MUA.

The three Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and Board of Alderman. The Water Commission is supposed to be autonomous and follow the statutes under the Commission, as well as Local Finance. The Commission supplies water to other municipalities, and is a self-liquidating. Meaning it is not a profit generating entity. The rates are supposed to cover the expenses. The Water Commission is supposed to be independent. Also, the Water Commission is not considered a Water Department.

Alderman Correa wanted to know if it is a Water Department or Water Commission. Was it always an independent Commission?



Peter King explained that it is an Independent Water Commission not a Department, as passed in the late 1800's under the enabling Statue for the Water Commission.

Alderman Correa asked what are the differences in a Department and an Independent Commission.

Attorney Peter King explained one is autonomous where the Mayor and Board of Aldermen appoint commissioners to run the Water Commission. It is independent, and the sole purpose is to provide water to the residents of Dover and the surrounding Municipalities like Rockaway, Randolph, Wharton and Victory Garden that have contracts or agreements with the Water Commission to buy water from Dover.

Alderman Correa wanted to know who are the members of the Water Commission.

Peter King stated that Andy Dujack, former Mayor Aldo Cicchetti, and he could not remember the third commissioner. The Commissioners were appointed by the previous administration, and one commissioner was reappointed by the current administration.

Alderman Correa asked is the Town of Dover could sell the Water Commission. Attorney Peter King explained that at this point Dover could not sell the Water Commission. Mr. King is not aware that anyone from this administration or past administrations trying to sell the Water Commission or any of its assets.

Alderman Correa wanted to know what happens to the revenue generated from the sale of water received from the towns contracted with the Dover Water Commission.

Peter King explained it goes to pay for infustructure, repairs, upgrades, employees who read meters, billing, and make mark outs, also it covers costs of when new construction takes place. The Commission needs to review construction plans, and to ensure that there is enough water for all of the municipalities, follow the tariffs of the State of New Jersey which is the license to sell the water.

Alderman Correa asked if all of the revenue generated by the sale of the water goes to the Water Commission coffers, and can the Town of Dover legally use the generated funds to pay for expenses unrelated to the Water Commission.

Peter King stated that all of the revenue generated goes to the Water Commission coffers. There is a statute that allows the Town of Dover to use 8-10% for their Working Budget for work related to the Commission. Those funds are to be used to offset some of those operating costs. Under State Law the Town of Dover would collect those monies to pay for some of those shared services.

Alderman Correa asked if the Town of Dover takes from the Water Commission funds to pay for a Town employee that does not work for the Water Commission is that legal.

Peter King stated that is not allowed under the law, and he is reviewing some situations at the moment.

Mayor Blackman stated that when someone from the public pays a water bill they make checks payable to the Water Commission.

Ashley Wilson, Interim CFO, stated that a few employees are paid from the Water Commission, and the Town does take the percentage which is the amount allowed to be used in the current fund.

Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to adopted the 2020 Budget. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ballesteros, which carried 8-0.

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>			X						
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

The Board then reviewed Ordinance 18-2020 amending Chapter 236 Section 38 to permit certain signs on route 46. It was originally introduced on June 23 than sent to the Planning Board. The Board would need to re-advertise or reintroduce with the minor changes.

William Isselin explained that this Ordinance will allow digital signs on the route 46 corridor, in this Ordinance we are only looking at the C-2 Zones.

Mayor Blackman asked for a motion to reintroduce Ordinance 18-2020. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion, seconded by Alderman Valencia, which carried 8-0.

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>						X			
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

The Board the considered the Bills List Resolution 195-2020.



Alderwoman Rugg made a motion, seconded by Alderman Valencia to adopt, which carried 8-0.

	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
<b>Motion</b>				X					
<b>Second</b>						X			
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

- 1) Res. 196-2020 – Resolution Awarding Contracts to Downtown Decoration Inc. for Extraordinary Unspecified Services (Relating to Christmas Decorations)
- 2) Res. 197-2020 – Resolution Authorizing Idemenity and Trust Agreement

Alderman Ballesteros wanted to remove 196-2020, so they can vote for separately.

A motion was made to vote on Resolution 196-2020 by Alderman Ballesteros, seconded by Alderwoman Wittner.

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Alderman Correa asked contract wise what is paid on Christmas lighting every year. How are we paying for this and how was it paid for by the former Administration, and how is the current Administration going to pay for it.

Ashley Wilson explained that they have been paid by Capital Account and it will go on Capital Funding this year as well which is part of the town bonded money.

Carlos Sanchez, Deputy Town Administrator explained that it is for a two-year contract for an amount not to exceed \$288,051 which includes for storage, setup, and removal. The Town currently owns all the decorations. This was an investment that was done by the former administration.

Mayor Blackman stated that it was not possible for the Town to store, install, and remove the decorations because the Town does not have the space to store all the decorations, Also the DPW Department is not able to install and remove. The Mayor believes this is good for the Town and the company will check all the decorations to make sure they are in good working order.

Alderwoman Sandra Wittner asked Ashley Wilson when was this originally bonded for.

Ms. Wilson stated that it was originally bonded in 2018.

Alderman Ballesteros asked if the decorations were strictly in JFK Park or did this also include the Banners on Blackwell Street.

William Isselin explained that this did include the decorations on Blackwell Street and Side Streets as well. The company will also install the Christmas banners, and upon removal they will replace the Banners with the Winter Banners. The Town of Dover also owns the banners.

Alderman Ballesteros asked if it was always Downtown Decorations.

William Isselin stated Downtown Decorations has been the company that has been working with the Town of Dover since we purchased the decorations in 2018.

Alderman Ballesteros asked what is paid for under Capital Funds.

William Isselin stated that Capital Funds pays for the storage, installation in November, also includes removal in January, and maintenance on the decorations. Capital Funds also pays for things such as Roadway Improvements, and it is separate from the Budget.

A motion was made to adopt Res. 196-2020 by Alderman Ballesteros, second by Alderwoman Wittner, which carried 8-0.

**Res. 196-2020**

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Resolution 197-2020 was then considered. A motion was made by Alderman Correa, seconded by Alderwoman Wittner, which carried 8-0.

**Res. 197-2020**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									



The Board then considered a resolution for Professional Services for Consulting Engineering Services Res. 198-2020. Acting Clerk Schmidt explained the RFP for Municipal Engineering Services went out earlier in the year but it had to be changed for Consulting Engineering Services. He stated the Town received five responses that were reviewed, and it was recommended we use CME for Consulting Engineering Services.

A motion was made by Alderman Correa, seconded by Alderwoman Rugg. The motion for adoption passed 7-0-1.

**Res. 198-2020**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>								X	

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

Karol Ruiz residing on South Morris Street, Dover New Jersey wants the Town to please include the call number and the link on the website. Regarding the July 21, 2020 a presentation was made about the Budget which was the same night as the Board of Education. Ms. Ruiz said she was not able to attend, but the public could not hear due to technology issues. Ms. Ruiz asked what the average increase for the average homeowner was. She also had a question for the Town Attorney concerning the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Interim CFO Ashley Wilson stated the average home is \$250,000, and assessed at \$250,000. The increase for the year is \$205.96. The actual tax increase on the levy is 6.68%, and the tax rate increase is 6.76%.

Municipal Attorney Downs explained that Ms. Ruiz was not at the meeting because she was at the Board of Education Meeting so he was not sure who she was getting her information from. The public was in attendance, and there was one complaint that he recalls concerning the feedback in the room that was addressed by the Acting Municipal Clerk. Member of the public said that it was better once the acting Municipal Clerk addressed the issue.

Phillipe (Last Name ?) residing at 309 Washington Avenue spoke about the meeting the previous week and also asked often does the Town have back to back meetings because the residents did not have enough time to review the agenda. Phillipe also spoke about youth cleanup efforts,

COVID-19, the census, voting, the permitting process on Crescent Field and community policing.

Mayor Blackman stated the Administration Office did reach out with his concerns.

Phillipe does not recall any phone calls.

Mayor Blackman asked Phillipe to send his contact information.

Deputy Police Chief Delaney stated if anyone had any concerns or issues with the Police Department or Officers they are encouraged to notify him or Internal Affairs Detective Sargent Oxmani Corona who is bilingual. He stated the Police Department is doing their best, adding more police officers, patrolling the parks, and interacting with the public. They do not create the Ordinances but they do enforce them.

Stacey Gregg, 40 Sunrise Road, Rockaway Township stated it is ridiculous and the Town should be bilingual and use Zoom Conference Calls to be more transparent.

Mayor Blackman responded that the Town is working on the Zoom Meetings.

Ms. Gregg also asked what has the Town done to make the meeting bilingual. Which the Mayor answered we have not worked on anything concerning making the meetings bilingual, and we are trying but things do not happen overnight.

Antonio Acosta, 120 Madison Street, Dover - stated the meeting should be done in a better way. He also said more recreational space is needed, and it is not fair to the kids. Mr. Acosta had also asked if the track fields in East Dover, and the tennis courts at the high school could be used, because the town needs more open spaces. The town has incredible opportunities to welcome first time homeowners especially people of color. He stated that the Town should hire a PR person and use social media more.

Mr. Acosta also suggested that once the downtown bridge opens it should be named the John Lewis Bridge.

Mayor Blackman acknowledged the email concerning the renaming of the bridge for Congressman John Lewis. She also received the email in reference to the Home Sales, and we have set someone in the Town to help with the Dover Realtors to help residents become homeowners.



Alderwoman Wittner thanked Mr. Acosta for the emails. Regarding the recreational space, she agrees something needs to happen. Alderwoman Wittner also stated that garbage is a great concern at the moment, and people not taking care of the fields.

Mayor Blackman also stated we have lots of issues with garbage, cleaning of the parks, and stressed how difficult it is for DPW Department to maintain all the grounds.

Alderman Ballesteros wanted clarity on the Father Connolly Center.

Mayor Blackman stated the contract ended in March 2020, and we could not renew the lease. The Father Connolly Center is not owned by the Town of Dover.

Jessica Padilla Gonzalez, 11 McDavit Place, Dover - heard the comment concerning First Time Homeowners and wanted the Administration to know that Dover Housing Partnership is a HUD approved Center that is located on Blackwell Street. These services are available to the residents and right in our own back yard.

Jessenia Flores, 19 Julia Terrace, Dover – expressed a concern about the police kicking Dover residents out of the field. She feels having the police kick out residents off of the fields is not appropriate. She is wondering if any efforts are being done to not use the police for these issues, and instead maybe adding more signs in English and in Spanish would work better.

Mayor Blackman commented that the police have a good rapport with the kids, and she has been a witness to this. They ask if they have a permit, and handle the situation very well, but we do see what happens when people use the fields without a permit. She stated that is Ms. Flores has any recommendations to please send them to the Town.

Kevin Philsbury, 183 North Sussex Street, Dover – Mr. Phisbury stated that he was at the park one week and half ago, and kids were playing at the basketball court but the kids working out on the field were kicked out. The Police Officer did not give a reason. He stated that if permits were more easily accessible the residents would be more inclined to keep the fields clean.

Carlos Sanchez, Deputy Town Administrator stated that he appreciates all the comments which are taken into consideration. He feels there is some confusion with parks now reopening. The Town does not have the staff capacity to maintain CDC Guidelines. More signs are coming to ensure that they are open, but residents need to do their part.

He said that when he sees pictures of garbage bags, large amounts of beer cans, fires being started, that this creates a safety concern. The comments are well received but the residents need to assume responsibility as well. We want to work with the community but the community needs to work with the Town. He stated that the Crescent Field fence was broken, which will

cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair. Then we get complaints that we are not fixing the fields. He also stated that the police are only following and enforcing Ordinances.

Mr. Sanchez also stated that permits are on the website, and the public can call the Recreation Department, or the Town. He stated that we have employees that speak English, and Spanish. The permit fees are very minimal but people need to take responsibility.

He also said that the community can help spread the word as to COVID-19 and cleaning up after themselves. He stated some garbage cans were taken away because of abuse, that some people would throw bags of trash into the cans.

Alderwoman Wittner stated the permits to use the fields are still not on the website probably because the fields just opened up. She also stated that she walked through Water Works Park and it was trashed, and would like to see residents take responsibility, and assist.

Alderman Ballesteros wanted to know if the summer hours that was implemented last year worked and is it something we want to re-implement currently.

Maria Chacon, 82 East Blackwell Street, Dover – Ms. Chacon stated she could help educate and help clean the park. She asked who hard or easy is it to get a permit as well as the prices. She also asked if the Town could assist with providing trash bags for those who wanted to volunteer to do cleanups.

Mayor Blackman stated that for garbage clean up volunteers, bags and gloves would be supplied and the DPW Department would pick up the bags. The Mayor will get Maria information concerning permits for the fields by the following day.

Noreen Staples, Brookside, New Jersey feels Dover should have the same exceptional Town Leadership and benefits like all other towns in Morris County. Ms. Staples thanked Felipe for taking on the role of cleaning up areas of Dover. Ms. Staples is sad that more talk was done concerning garbage, and Christmas lights instead of more talk about the budget. The tax rate went up 6.7% and she wanted to know if the school tax was included in the 6.7%.

Ashley Wilson explained the school tax is not included in the Municipal Tax rate. She also explained the County rate has not yet been given to the Town.

Karol Ruiz, 86 South Morris, Dover addressed the cleanliness of the community and the discrimination of the Latino community which is living in poor conditions. Conditions which include living in attic rooms, places where the landlord would not allow cooking, and other conditions that make the residents go out, and eat around the town. Ms. Ruiz stated that is upset about the garbage issue and more bins need to be put out. She also spoke about the parks.



Alderman Correa explained that the parks were closed because of the Town Insurance, and were recently re-opened. When the police go out and patrol the parks they are enforcing the rules. Alderman Correa asked the Deputy Town Administrator if that was correct.

Deputy Administrator Sanchez explained that was correct, and the Town also does not have the man power to clean the parks as mandated. Ms. Sanchez stated that the Administration is here to equally serve the residents across the Board.

Alderman Correa wanted to clarify with Deputy Chief Delaney what is the process when there is a car accident under investigation.

Deputy Chief Delaney deferred the question to Sergeant Oxmani Corona who is trained in that field.

Sargent Oxmani Corona explained most accident do not require any special process. The local tow company is called depending the extent of damage. If some sort of criminal investigation or fatality the car is taken to the DPW secured facility. The Town mechanic that is AC certified to check the car does so before the car vehicle is is normally done.


With no other comments, Mayor Blackman closed the public portion of the meeting and entertained a motion to adjourn.

Alderwoman Wittner made the motion, second by Alderwoman Rugg. On voice vote, 8-0 (Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Wittner and Mayor Blackman in favor) the meeting was adjourned at 9:34p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Reynaldo Julve  
Deputy Municipal Clerk



John P. Schmidt  
Acting Municipal Clerk