



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES DOVER TOWN HALL 37 N. SUSSEX ST., DOVER, NJ 07801 JANUARY 1, 2020

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the 2020 Reorganization meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 12:08 p.m. Mayor Blackman read the Sunshine Statement that this 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 Star Ledger on December 24, 2019 and the Daily Record on December 26, 2019 and published in the Ledger and Record on December 30, 2019. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall.

Mayor Blackman then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by an Invocation and the singing of God Bless America before calling the roll. Mayor Blackman then delivered a welcoming statement to those in attending the meeting and conducted the roll which resulted in the following:

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

Following the roll, Mayor Blackman explained the process of filling a vacancy on the Board of Aldermen, which was caused by the Mayor's resignation on December 30, 2019 as an Alderwoman, representing the Third Ward. The process to be followed on filling the vacancy is governed by state law, known as the Municipal Vacancy Law. The nominees nominated for the vacant seat by the Dover Democratic Committee were:

1. Edward Correa
2. Estella Roibal
3. Angel Cordero

Mayor Blackman made a motion to nominate Edward Correa, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner, resulting in the following vote:

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner		X	X		
Mayor Blackman	X		X		

The motion carried 9-0. Mr. Correa was administered the oath of office by Alice Plastoris, Esq. Mayor Blackman then conducted roll call of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen following the filling of the vacancy.

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		

Mayor Blackman then acknowledged distinguished guests that were present at the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Blackman then explained the first resolution, which was the appointment of an Acting Municipal Clerk, as the position is currently vacant and introduced the nominee. Following the explanation, a motion was made by Alderman Correa, which was seconded by Alderman Ballesteros which resulted in the following:

**Res. 1-2020
Appointment of John P. Schmidt Acting Municipal Clerk**

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa	X		X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros		X	X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		

Alderwoman Wittner			X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The resolution carried 9-0. John P. Schmidt was administered the oath of office by Alice Plastoris, Esq.

Mayor Blackman then explained the second resolution, which was the appointment of Carlos Sanchez as Deputy Town Administrator, as the position is currently vacant and introduced the nominee. Following the explanation, a motion was made by Mayor Blackman, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then conducted roll call which resulted in the following:

Res. 2-2020
Appointment of Carlos Sanchez as Deputy Town Administrator

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner		X	X		
Mayor Blackman	X		X		

The resolution carried 9-0.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then read Resolution 3-2020, which was a resolution rejecting all RFQ submissions for Professional Services and directing that the RFQ's be re-advertised. A motion was made by Alderman Correa, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner. Roll call resulted in the following:

Res. 3-2020
Rejecting All RFQ Submissions for Professional Services and Directing that the RFQ's to be Re-Advertised for the Professionals.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa	X		X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner		X	X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The resolution carried 9-0.

Acting Clerk Schmidt then read the following consent agenda resolutions:

1. Res. 4-2020 – Appointment of Interim Town Attorney with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 – Timothy P. Downs, Esq. of the Law Offices of Timothy P. Downs, Esq.
2. Res. 5-2020 – Appointment of Labor Attorney(s) Jardin, Meizner & Susser, P.C. and Rainone, Coughlin, LLC with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 to each firm.
3. Res. 6-2020 – Appointment of Conflicts Counsel John O'Reilly, Esq. of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00
4. Res. 7-2020 – Appointment of Redevelopment Attorney DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00
5. Res. 8-2020 – Appointment of Bond Counsel – McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00
6. Res. 9-2020 – Appointment of Interim Prosecutor with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 - Lisa C. Thompson of Mason, Thompson, LLC
7. Res. 10-2020 – Appointment of Interim Public Defender with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 – Gerald Kelly, Esq. of Gerald Kelly, Esq, PC
8. Res. 11-2020 – Appointment of Interim Conflicts Public Defender with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 – Marshall L. Gates of the Law Office of Marshall L. Gates.
9. Res. 12-2020 – Appointment of Water Commission Attorney, Peter J. King, Esq. of King, Moench, Hirniak & Mehta, LLP with a temporary contract not to exceed \$12,500.00
10. Res. 13-2020 – Appointment of Historic Preservation Attorney, Peter J. King, Esq. of King, Moench, Hirniak & Mehta, LLP with a temporary contract not to exceed \$5,000.00
11. Res. 14-2020 – Appointment of Interim Special Prosecutor for Code Enforcement with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 – Monica Madin of Madin & Madin, LLC.
12. Res. 15-2020 – Appointment of Auditor – Mauricio Canto of Donahue, Gronda, Doria, Tomkins, LLC with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00
13. Res. 16-2020 – Appointment of Forensic Auditor and Budget Consultant – Francis McEnerney of O'Conner & Davies, LLP with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00
14. Res. 17-2020 – Appointment of Health Insurance Broker – RD Parisi Associates with a temporary contract not to exceed \$11,500.00
15. Res. 18-2020 Appointment of Insurance Agents – Benson, Thompson Agency Inc. and Henry O. Baker Insurance, Inc. with a temporary contract to each Agent not to exceed \$17,500.00
16. Res. 19-2020 – Appointment of Risk Management Consultant - RD Parisi Associations with a temporary contract not to exceed \$6,000.00
17. Res. 20-2020 – Appointment of Interim Town Engineer with a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.00 – CME Associates.

18. Res. 21-2020 – Designating Depositories
19. Res. 22-2020 – Establishing Regular Meeting Dates of the Mayor and Board
20. Res. 23-2020 – Establishing Redevelopment Entity Meeting Dates
21. Res. 24-2020 – Formalizing 10 day grace period on tax bill
22. Res. 25-2020 – Establishing interest rate on delinquent taxes and sewer fees
23. Res. 26-2020 – Tax Resolution penalty on delinquency in excess of \$10,000
24. Res. 27-2020 – Appointment of Tax Searcher and Assessment Searcher – Kelly N. Toohey
25. Res. 28-2020 – Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer – Carlos Sanchez, Deputy Town Administrator
26. Res. 29-2020 – Resolution Designating Official Newspapers: Star Ledger, Daily Record, The Citizen and New York Times
27. Res. 30-2020 – Resolution Designating Official Newspapers to receive notices on behalf of the Town of Dover
28. Res. 31-2020 – Resolution Establishing a fee to receive notices of the Mayor & Board of Aldermen Meetings - \$25.00
29. Res. 32-2020 – Appointment of Crossing Guards
30. Res. 33-2020 – Appointment of Class III Planning Board Member – Humberto Quinones
31. Res. 34-2020 – Appointment of Rockaway River Cabinet Member – Andrew DuJack
32. Res. 35-2020 – Appointment of Special Police Officers
33. Res. 36-2020 – Appointment of Fund Commissioner(s) for the New Jersey Health Insurance Fund (HIF) Carlos Sanchez, Deputy Town Administrator and Sharon Wagner
34. Res. 37-2020 – Appointment of Fund Commissioner(s) for the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) Carlos Sanchez, Deputy Town Administrator and John P. Schmidt, Acting Town Clerk
35. Res. 38-2020 – Adoption of Temporary Budget

A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, which was seconded by Alderwoman Rugg. The roll call resulted in the following:

Resolutions 4-2020 to 38-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg		X	X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

Resolutions 4-2020 to 38-2020 were approved 9-0.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen then acted upon Resolution 39-2020, a salary resolution which established salaries for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen effective January 1, 2020. The salary of Mayor was reduced from \$60,000 to \$30,000 and Board of Aldermen salaries were reduced from \$25,000 to \$12,000. A motion to adopt resolution 39-2020 was made by Alderwoman Wittner and was seconded by Mayor Blackman.

Resolution 39-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman		X	X		

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen then considered ordinances for introduction. Ord. 01-2020, creating a new chapter of the Town Code entitled “Wage Theft Protection Act” of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey was moved by Alderman Correa and seconded by Alderman Ballesteros. It was noted by Acting Clerk Schmidt in the reading of the title of the ordinance that the agenda contained a typo and the correction was announced. Roll call resulted in the following:

**Ordinance 01-2020
Wage Theft Protection Act**

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa	X		X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros		X	X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner			X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

Ordinance 01-2020 was introduced on a 9-0 vote.

Ord. 02-2020, creating a new chapter of the Town Code entitled “Community Project Labor Agreement Act” of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey was moved by Alderman Correa and seconded by Mayor Blackman. Roll call resulted in the following:

**Ordinance 02-2020
Community Project Labor Agreement Act**

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa	X		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	X		

Ordinance 02-2020 was introduced on a 9-0 vote.

Ord. 03-2020, creating the position of Ombudsman in the Town Code of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey was moved by Alderwoman Wittner and seconded by Alderwoman Rugg. Roll call resulted in the following:

**Ordinance 03-2020
Creating the Position of Ombudsman**

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg		X	X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

Ordinance 03-2020 was introduced on a 9-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Blackman then opened the meeting for public comment.

The following individuals spoke during public comment:

Stacey Gregg, Rockaway – Commented on an amazing 2019 and was proud to see everyone. She asked about bilingual translation of meetings and spoke about the issue. She also congratulated appointees. Ms. Gregg also had questions about some about resolutions on the agenda including, Res. 18, 19 and 22.

Ottawana Anderson, Dover – Ms. Anderson commented about knowing Mayor Blackman and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She is also the 1st Vice President of the NAACP of Morris County and was with the Morris County NAACP President. She wanted to wish the Mayor and Board of Aldermen success and presented Mayor Blackman with a gift.

Vanessa Brown, President of the Morris County NAACP and 3rd Vice President of the New Jersey NAACP congratulated those elected and about moving Dover forward. She commented that Dover is an example of what coting can do. She also hoped the Town of Dover could put in a camera system to record meetings. She also said the NAACP would be willing to help town and spoke about possibly having a meeting in Dover.

Brian Lozano, Dover – Mr. Lozano mentioned that he was with Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and commented on the time and effort into campaign and what is the result. He thanked and commended the Mayor and Board for putting Wage Theft on the agenda and spoke about how immigrants are impacted by the issue.

Rev. Catina Blackman-Jackson, Somerset – Rev. Blackman-Jackson commented that she was the proud niece of Mayor Blackman and congratulated the Town of Dover and her aunt, the Mayor and the entire Board and wished everyone all the best.

Karol Ruiz, 39 S. Morris St., Dover – Ms. Ruiz commented that she was also with the Wind of the Spirit Immigration Center. She spoke about the Christmas parade and thanked everyone. She also commented that she was glad to see kids were here to see a diverse governing body that is committed to community. Ms. Ruiz also commented on the historic nature of having a female mayor and an African American mayor.

Yoni Pulgarin, 7 William St., Dover – Mr. Pulgarin wished everyone a Happy New Jersey and mentioned Dover for everybody.

Noreen Staples, Brookside, NJ – Ms. Staples wished everyone a Happy New Year. She commented on the following thru on campaign promises and the significance that the salary of Mayor was \$60,000 and Aldermen were \$25,000 and today it is \$30,000 and \$12,000. She also asked for a more detailed explanation of ordinances in the future and welcomed new people.

Debbie Mantini – Ms. Mantini originally from Dover now lives in Vermont, wished everyone luck and congratulated everyone.

Dominic Timpani, 2 Elm St., Dover – Mr. Timpani wished everyone a Happy New Year and good luck.

Mario Rodriguez, 35 Millbrook Ave., Dover – Mr. Rodriguez congratulated everyone for what they have achieved and thanked everyone for their leadership.

Cain Pope, Roxbury, NJ – Mr. Pope commented that his family goes back five generations in Dover and spoke about the town coming together for the parade and said it was a great job. He mentioned that he is in the process of buying a home to move back to Dover. Mr. Pope commented that Dover is how a community can come together like it did for the parade and how it is a melting pot. He also mentioned that the Mayor and Board are not just public officials but they are bringing the entire town together.

Concepcion Sanchez, 132 W. Clinton St. – Ms. Sanchez wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also said she has been a business owner on Blackwell Street for 25 years and wanted to congratulate everyone.

No one else came up to speak and Mayor Blackman closed the public portion and thanked everyone.

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN REPORTS/STATEMENTS

Mayor Blackman commented that she is getting to work. She said that with the help of everyone, we can make Dover what we all want to see it as. She also mentioned the Ceremonial Reorganization meeting on Saturday, January 4th.

Aldерwoman Wittner wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to continuing to work with a cooperative board and get things done.

Alderman Ballesteros thanked Mayor Blackman for her past and current leadership and thanked those who helped everyone get here.

Aldерwoman Rugg said she was honored to be sitting on dias and she was used to speaking as a member of the public. She thanked her supporters and commented that she was proud, humbled and honored to be here.

Alderman Correa thanked the Dover Democratic Committee and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for nominating him. He commented that we would do his best to be a voice for all residents of the third ward and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Alderman Valencia wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the community for their support and trust.

Aldерwoman Cruz wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming. She thanked her supporters. She also thanked her mother and family who were in attendance for the meeting.

Alderman Tapia thanked everyone and the entire Town of Dover. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Alderman Quinones commented that he was happy to see everyone and thanked the Mayor.

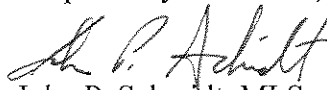
Following remarks, Cathy Gratacos sang "Let there be Peace on Earth."

Mayor Blackman then asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros, seconded by Alderman Quinones. The motion to adjourn resulted in the following roll:

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros	X		X		
Alderwoman Rugg			X		
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones		X	X		
Alderwoman Wittner			X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The motion carried 9-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 1:19p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


John P. Schmidt, MLS
Acting Municipal Clerk