



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Electronic Meeting /
Dover Municipal Building
37 N. Sussex Street Dover NJ, 07801
October 27, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 7:04p.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 October 1, 2020 and published in the Record and Ledger on October 5, 2020. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board and entrance doors of Town Hall."

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		
Alderman Ballesteros	X		
Alderwoman Rugg	X		
Alderwoman Cruz	X		
Alderman Valencia	X		
Alderman Quinones	X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		
Mayor Blackman	X		

All members of the governing body were present and there was a quorum. Also in attendance was Interim Business Administrator John O. Bennett, Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt, Deputy Municipal Clerk Rey Julve and Municipal Attorney Tim Downs,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board then acted upon approval of meeting minutes. Aldermember Wittner made a motion to adopt the September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, second by Aldermember Correa.

September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

	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 September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes were adopted 9-0 by unanimous consent.

The Board then acted upon approval of meeting minutes from September 10. Aldermember Cruz made a motion to adopt the September 10, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes, second by Aldermember Tapia.

September 10, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes

	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 September 10, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes were adopted 9-0 by unanimous consent.

The Board then acted upon approval of meeting minutes from September 22. Aldermember Ballesteros made a motion to adopt the September 22, 2020 Regularly Meeting Minutes, second by Aldermember Wittner.

September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

	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 September 22, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes were adopted 9-0 by unanimous consent.

PRESENTATIONS, MUNICIPAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received communication from the Water Commission concerning upgrades on the ongoing Reservoir Avenue Water Main Improvement Project.

Mayor Blackman then recognized two teenagers who live in the community. The two young adults are twins, Sabastian and Christian and are Juniors at Dover High School. The Mayor stated that they walk to the Table of Hope every other week and volunteer. They also have been taking the NJ Transit Train to Morristown to volunteer here. The Mayor recognized their efforts in helping the community during the pandemic.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

The Board then considered ordinances for first reading and introduction. The first Ordinance was Ord. 24-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey

Creating a Loading Zone on N. Morris Street in the Town of Dover. Aldermember Wittner made a motion to introduce, second by Aldermember Quinones.

Introduction of Ord. 24-2020

	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									

Ord. 24-2020 was Introduced 9-0.

The next Ordinance was Ord. 25-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Amending the Code of the Town of Dover, Chapter 57, Article II titled Special Police Officers. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that currently the Town has Class I and Class II Special Officers and this Ordinance allows the Town to have Class III Officers.

Aldermember Ballesteros asked if this has been reviewed with the Board of Education. Mayor Blackman explained that Deputy Chief Delaney has held meetings with the Superintendent and Board of Education and they have been in contact.

A motion was made by Aldermember Correa to Introduce the Ordinance, second by Aldermember Rugg.

Introduction of Ord. 25-2020

	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									

Ord. 25-2020 was Introduced 9-0.

The Board then considered the Approval of the Bills List (Res. 242-2020). Aldermember Wittner made a motion to adopt Res. 242-2020/Bills List, second by Aldermember Cruz.

Res. 242-2020

	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. 242-2020 was adopted 8-0.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS**---CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

The Board then considered the Consent Agenda Resolutions. There was a request to remove Res. 245-2020 from the Consent Agenda. A motion was made Aldermember Correa, second by Aldermember Quinones to adopt Res. 243, 244, 246 and 247 2020.

- 1) Res. 243-2020 – Resolution Authorizing Discharge of Mortgage Under the Rehabilitation Program with William J. Clark
- 2) Res. 244-2020 – Resolution Authorizing Discharge of Mortgage Under the Rehabilitation Program with William J. Clark
- 3) Res. 245-2020 – Resolution Approving Taxicab License
- 4) Res. 246-2020 – Authorizing a Waiver of Certain Sewer Fees for 76 N. Sussex Street
- 5) Res. 247-2020 – Authorizing a Waiver of Certain Sewer Fees of 166 Baker Street

Resolutions – 243-244 & 246-247 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									

Resolutions 243, 244, 246 and 247 – 2020 were adopted 9-0.

The Board then voted on Res. 245-2020. A motion was made by Aldermember Ballesteros to adopt, second by Aldermember Wittner.

Resolutions – 245-2020

	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
No									
Abstain	X				X				

Resolution 245-2020 was adopted 7-0-2.

---RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Board then considered Res. 248-2020 – Resolution Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Government Emergency Fund. Administrator Bennett explained that we would be able to draw down from this grant, related to COVID-19 expenses. Aldermember Ballesteros asked if amount was determined by the grant writers or the state. Mr. Bennett stated that he was unsure of what the state formula was, but that he has put a list of expenses together which is more than the amount of the award. He stated we did not give the state numbers but they gave us a number. Aldermember Ballesteros asked if this was a onetime grant or could we apply again. Mr. Bennett stated this was a onetime grant. It was mentioned that this was from the CARES Act.

Mayor Blackman stated that we did not get any funds in the first round because there was a population requirement and only the nine most populated counties in the state received funding, which did not include Morris County.

Aldermember Quinones, second by Aldermember Cruz made a motion to adopt the Resolution.

Resolution 248-2020

	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 was adopted 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt went over procedures on how to vote in the 2020 General Election. He encouraged everyone to vote by mail and explained the ways that ballots could be submitted including 1) U.S. Mail, 2) In the Ballot Drop Box 3) Drop it off at the polling location. He also stated that voters could vote by provisional ballots on election day and that machines are not being used unless an individual needs an ADA complaint machine.

Aldermember Correa asked about clarification where the polling place is and if all the Wards were voting at the Sacred Heart Parish Center at 37 N. Essex Street from 6:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that was correct. Mr. Schmidt also said that the drop off box would be accessible until 8:00p.m. Aldermember Correa asked on Election Day the following ways could be used to vote 1) Mail in before 5:00p.m., 2) Drop it off in the Ballot Box or 3) Drop off ballots at the Polling Location.

Aldermember Ballesteros reminded everyone to flip the ballots as items are on the back of the ballot to be voted on as well.

Following the discussion about the Election, Mayor Blackman provided an update on COVID-19. Mayor Blackman stated that cases are increasing and testing has increased. She commented that the majority of cases are out of isolation and the number of deaths have not increased. Mayor Blackman provided the number of cases by age group. The Mayor stated that we must do better and get the numbers under control. Mayor Blackman reported that she has had a phone call with the Governor's Office concerning COVID-19 actions and actions that might have to be taken. Mayor Blackman also reported that if individuals are over 55 they could apply for a property tax freeze and the application period has been extended until the end of the year.

The Mayor also reported that the Town, including Bill Isselin and John Bennett has been in communication with NJ Transit. Mayor Blackman also thanked the Fire Department as well as surrounding towns with the recent house fire this past weekend.

In closing, the Mayor stated that the plan to re-open Town Hall has been put on the back burner for now but that Town Hall is open to assist residents by phone, email, appointment or the window.

Interim Administrator Bennett provided a report to the Mayor and Board. He stated he has held meetings with the FMBA Union regarding outstanding issues. Mr. Bennett also reported that he has held a meeting with the JIF. He stated that we have had particularly high claims and that the Town needs to help curb the claims.

Mr. Bennett has also met with redevelopers concerning the Rt. 46 property formerly known as the Hibachi Buffett and the former State building on Bassett Highway. Both projects will come before for the Economic Development and Redevelopment Committee. The Bassett Highway project is not a residential project but a commercial one. Interim Administrator Bennett also reported on facility issues in the Town, Civil Service issues and the State Best Practices, which will be reported to the Board at the next meeting.

Interim Administrator Bennett also spoke about the House Fire this past weekend, provided an update concerning SRO's and spoke about providing flyers about COVID-19 to businesses. He also stated that the message boards in Town will be active to remind people to "mask up" and that spaces previously marked on the sidewalks showing the 6 foot paces will be refreshed by DPW.

Aldermember Wittner asked if we could place larger signs in the Parks. This will be looked into.

Aldermember Correa asked about JIF claims and asked the other public entities in the JIF and are the claims from the past under the former Administration or the current one. Mr. Bennett explained the claim rate, payments and how the process works. There was then a discussion about Cybersecurity training on the JIF. Aldermember Quinones how Towns are selected to be in the JIF. Mr. Bennett explained that it is a membership and there are various different in the JIF's that are usually regional JIF's. Mr. Bennett also spoke about current claims and stated he cannot change claims from prior years but can only work to change practices moving forward.

Aldermember Wittner then announced the winners of the Halloween Door Decorating Contest. She stated that the Aldermembers went out this past weekend. The 1st Place Winner in the First Ward was 39 Princeton Ave and the Honorable Mention was 145 Baker Street. The 1st Place Winner in the Second Ward was 17 Fred Terrace and the Honorable Mention was 88-90 Can Nostrand Ave. The 1st Place Winner in the Third Ward was 11 Millbrook Ave. and the Honorable Mention was 98 Penn Ave. The 1st Place Winner in the Fourth Ward was 43 Sammis Ave. and the Honorable Mention was 97 Sammis Ave. Aldermember Wittner thanked everyone for participating.

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 Street, Dover NJ

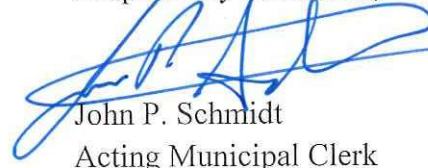
Municipality/County: Town of Dover / Morris County

Mr. Acosta stated that he was happy to hear the Mayor address COVID-19. He expressed concerns that the School have not had in person instruction since March. He spoke neighboring Towns having a hybrid approach and spoke about the need for the kids to have some type of in person instruction. He stated that we have to follow the laws because are kids are losing out. He also said the Town should have daily COVID-19 updates and not weekly.

Mayor Blackman thanked him for his comments and stated she understands the kids not being not in school and agreed with his comments. Mayor Blackman stated that the Town is taking COVID-19 seriously and that is one of the reasons why they are working with the Governor's Office to see what more can be done to curb the numbers in the Town.

With no other business, the Mayor asked for a Motion to adjourn at 8:30p.m. A motion was made by Aldermember Ballesteros, second by Aldermember Rugg to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m. with the following members in favor: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman.

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Schmidt
Acting Municipal Clerk