



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ELECTRONIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 7:10p.m.

Acting Municipal Clerk stated the meeting was being recorded via Zoom.

Mayor Blackman 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 20, 2020 and published in the Record and Ledger on August 26, 2020. An amended notice was sent to the Daily Record and Star Ledger on September 16, 2020 and published in the Record and Ledger on September 19, 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 Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court who recently passed away as well as John J. Rich of Dover who was known as the Deputy Mayor of Dover.

Before the roll call, the Mayor spoke about Mr. Rich and stated that his funeral is being held tomorrow and that when they leave the funeral home there will be a procession passed Town Hall, which will then pass the Housing Authority, located at 215 E. Blackwell Street.

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 Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt, Interim Town Administrator John O. Bennett, Municipal Attorney Timothy Downs, Deputy Municipal Clerk Rey Julve, Chief Code Enforcement Officer / Asst. Engineer Bill Isselin, Planning/Zoning Board Secretary Tamara Bross and Special Counsel Walter M. Luers.

Mayor Blackman stated that the Board is meeting tonight in Town Hall and is the first step in reopening the meeting to the public in Town Hall. She stated that comments are being accepted in writing and will be read into the record by the Acting Municipal Clerk during public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board then acted upon the approval of the July 28, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Aldermember Wittner, second by Aldermember Correa.

July 28, 2020 Special 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 Special Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2020 were approved 9-0 upon voice vote.

The Board then acted upon the approval of the August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Aldermember Ballesteros, second by Aldermember Quinones.

August 11, 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2020 were approved 9-0 upon voice vote.

At this time Special Counsel Walter Luers addressed the question if this meeting met the requirements of the OPMA. Mr. Luers introduced himself to the Board. He stated he reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the rules/procedures for public comment. Mr. Luers stated the Board is meeting and exceeds the requirements as to public comment by setting up three ways in which the public could submit comment, including by live email until 7:20p.m. Mr. Luers said that based on his review of the law and that because we are under a state emergency/health emergency the Board of Aldermen is in compliance with the public comment requirement of the OPMA.

There were no questions for Mr. Luers.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

The Board then considered three Ordinances for Introduction.

The first Ordinance, was Ord. 21-2020 – Bond Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Reappropriating \$2,500,000 Proceeds of Obligations Not Needed for their Original Purpose in Order to Provide for Various Capital Projects in and By the Town of Dover, In the County of Morris, State of New Jersey. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt was asked to clarify that in regard to the doors for the Police Department, it is not for one door but for all the doors, which includes electronic doors.

A motion was made by Aldermember Wittner, second by Aldermember Rugg.

Introduction of Ord. 21-2020

	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. 21-2020 was introduced by roll call vote 9-0.

The Board then considered Ord. 22-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Modifying Rates of Compensation for Law Enforcement Officers Performing Off-Duty Work.

A motion was made by Aldermember Correa, second by Aldermember Wittner.

Introduction of Ord. 22-2020

	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. 22-2020 was introduced by roll call vote 9-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board then considered the Approval of the Bills List (Res. 228-2020). A motion was made by Aldermember Ballesteros, second by Aldermember Cruz.

Res. 228-2020 – Bills List

	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									

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The Board then considered the Consent Agenda Resolutions which were read by title by Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt.

- 1) Res. 213-2020 – Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application and to Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Dept. of Community Affairs for Bowlby Street Area Infrastructure Improvements
- 2) Res. 214-2020 - Resolution for Grant Management Plan for the Small Cities Programs Public Facilities Fund – Bowlby Street Area Infrastructure Improvements
- 3) Res. 215-2020 - Resolution Concerning the Citizen Participation Plan for the Small Cities Grants
- 4) Res. 216-2020 – Resolution Committing to the Competitive Contracting Procurement Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 Through 40A:11-4.5 for Certain Professional Services, Contingent Upon an FY2021 Small Cities Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to Carry out Bowlby Street Area Infrastructure Improvements
- 5) Res. 217-2020 – Resolution Identifying CDBG Fair Housing Officer for FY2021 Public Facilities Programs
- 6) Res. 220-2020 - Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioners for the North Jersey Municipal Benefits Fund
- 7) Res. 221-2020 - Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioners for the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund
- 8) Res. 229-2020 – Resolution Appointing Assistant Town Treasurer
- 9) Res. 230-2020 – Resolution Approving the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for 2020-2021
- 10) Res. 231-2020 – Resolution Approving the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License #1409-33-002-009 for 2019-2020 Term
- 11) Res. 232-2020 – Resolution Approving the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License #1409-33-006-006 for 2020-2021 Term
- 12) Res. 233-2020 – Resolution Approving the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License #1409-31-033-002 for 2020-2021 Term
- 13) Res. 234-2020 – Resolution Approving the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License #1409-31-039-001 for 2020-2021 Term

A motion was made by Aldermember Ballesteros, second by Aldermember Cruz.

Resolutions – 213-217, 220-221, 229-234 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									

Upon roll call vote, the Resolutions were approved 9-0.

-RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Board then considered the approval of Res. 235-2020 – Resolution Approving the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License #1409-33-002-009 for 2020-2021 Term. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt provided background information as to this license, which had required a Special Ruling. A motion was made by Aldermember Correa, second by Wittner.

Resolution – 235-2020

	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									

Upon roll call vote, Resolution 235-2020 was approved 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Blackman provided an update on some items. The Mayor reported that the Town was able to have the annual Senior picnic, however it was a little different. The Mayor thanked the Fire Department, who helped cooked meals which were then delivered to the homes of the seniors. The seniors are hoping that they can hold the picnic as normal next year.

Mayor Blackman stated she received questions why trees were being taken down in JFK Park. The Mayor said that the trees had to be removed for safety reasons and that the Shade Tree Commission would be working on replanting trees.

The Mayor also addressed the Census and efforts to make sure people respond to the census. Efforts will continue. The Mayor reported that the self-response rate is 70.8% in the Town of Dover, which is higher than the state average.

Mayor Blackman stated that Interim Administrator Bennett and her are working with the Health Officer to try and reopen Town Hall, which also protecting the health of employees.

Mayor Blackman then recognized Interim Administrator Bennett who provided a report. Interim Administrator Bennett reported that he met with representatives of two labor unions. He wanted to assure them his open door policy and how it is important to work as a team. Interim Administrator Bennett reported that he told them he would like to discuss issues before they reached the stage of a grievance.

Mr. Bennett reported that he is working with the Interim CFO and the budget consultant in reviewing expenditures to date and projected expenses for the remaining portion of the year. He commented that the current financial condition of the town is extremely tight.

Interim Administrator Bennett stated that the Town has received preliminary audit findings for fiscal year 2019 and that initial exit meeting has been scheduled with the auditor. Once the findings have been reviewed a corrective action plan will be prepared for review and action by the Board. He also reported that some Civil Service matters have been addressed and that he has met with all employees of the Town except for Police and Fire which are scheduled for this week.

It was reported that there was a Department Head meeting and that some changes are being made to the purchasing process. Mr. Bennett also held meetings with the Risk Management Consultants and a phone conference in respect to the RVRSA litigation, which included the Special Counsel for the Town.

Interim Administrator Bennett also stated that the issue of School Resource Officers was discussed with Deputy Chief Delaney and the Superintendent of Schools. He also reported that one of the Town's employees tested positive for COVID-19 and that Administration is working with the Health Officer. He stated that the Town is following the recommendations of the Health Officer and public health guidelines. Interim Administrator Bennett stated that this can be a reminder that we cannot slip back and we need to do everything we can to prevent COVID-19.

Following the Administrator's report, Mayor Blackman commented that Motor Vehicles is creating hours for customers with medical issues and those over the age of 65 which are after 2:00p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mayor Blackman asked if anyone on the Board had a comment or statement.

Aldermember Correa stated he wanted to thank residents who approached him and other Aldermembers regarding accepting written public comments. He stated that residents said the Board of Education holds meetings this way. He thanked the Acting Municipal Clerk and Deputy Clerk for putting the meeting together. He also commented that he was glad to be able to see his fellow Aldermembers at a meeting again and in closing he congratulated and wished Aldermember Cruz a Happy Birthday and Aldermember Valencia a Happy Birthday.

With no other comments, the Mayor then opened the meeting to the public. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then read the public comments.

Speaker: Antonio Acosta

Address: 130 Madison Street., Dover NJ

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Acosta wanted to welcome Mr. Bennett to our town and want him to succeed in his role, and as a result have our town employees and residents see and experience excellence that we deserve. He stated that Dover is a hard working generally blue collar community, with the majority of the population being Hispanic, it is a diverse Hispanic however, with some being here for a few generations and some just arriving from every country in Latin America. They, like most everyone else here, is pursuing the American Dream, the right to free speech, due process, the right to worship freely, safe and clean streets, a good education, a fair paying job and government represented by the people. We are a community that might not have deep pockets but we do have a big heart and rich in culture. Mr. Acosta also commented about the many challenges which Dover faces including issues facing our students / schools. He stated that there is a lack of open spaces, no large walking track, no open tennis courts, no open baseball fields, skate park, and other areas. He also commented about the lack of respect shown by NJ Transit to Dover and the infection rate of COVID-19 in our community.

Mr. Acosta also commented that he does not expect any one person to find all the answers or solve all the problems overnight. He asked Mr. Bennett, whether he is here for just a few months or a few years, that he gives all he can, to make the town better than how you found it.

Speaker: TC McCourt

Address: 32 Davis Ave., Dover NJ

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. McCourt asked why there was a Resolution without a name on it. He also asked if the September 10th meeting will be posted on YouTube and asked if the Town needs better IT systems. He also asked if the Mayor was aware of a Special Service Charge for an OPRA request. Mr. McCourt also addressed the public comment procedures for the meeting and asked when the public will be allowed to enter Town Hall again.

Speaker: Felipe Davila

Address: 369 Washington St., Dover NJ

Municipality/County: Victory Gardens / Morris County

Mr. Davila asked when the public could expect the Town to do something about the uneven and cracked sidewalks in town, the grass and weeds growing out of the sidewalks, and the overflow of garbage along our streets. He also inquired if the Mayor and Board educated themselves on the social issues in our country and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mr. Davila also asked what the Mayor was alluding to last week when she commented that many people on the call were not from Dover.

Speaker: Estela Roibal

Address: 808 E. Blackwell St.

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Ms. Roibal commented that she is disappointed with the latest resolution of the Mayor and Board concerning public comment. She also commented about Zoom and expressed her frustration and disappointment at the administration.

Speaker: Danny Duperstein

Address: NO ADDRESS GIVEN

Municipality/County:

Mr. Duperstein asked about Special Charge related to OPRA and how many police officers will have to quarantine and what will the cost and manpower breakdown be after the possible COVID infection of police leadership. He also asked when the public will be able to ask real time questions over Zoom.

Speaker: Stacey Gregg

Address: 40 Sunrise Road, Wharton NJ

Municipality/County: Rockaway Township / Morris County

Ms. Gregg asked which Aldermembers and staff are trained in Zoom and when meetings will be on YouTube. She also asked about political relationships of appointed professionals and employees. Ms. Greg wanted to know how many people were interviewed for the position of Administrator and asked a question concerning an investigation.

Hearing no other comments, the Mayor closed the public comment portion of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn

	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									

Upon voice vote, by a vote of 9-0 the meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Schmidt

Acting Municipal Clerk