



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DOVER TOWN HALL
37 N. SUSSEX ST., DOVER, NJ 07801
JANUARY 28, 2020

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the January 28th Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 7:06p.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 January 4, 2020 and published in the Record and Ledger on January 10, 2020. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall. Mayor Blackman also advised that under State Law that there is a no smoking in this public building and asked those in attendance to take notice of the emergency exits in the event of an emergency.

The Mayor then led those in attendance in the salute to the flag. Acting 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		

Following the roll, the Clerk announced that all members of the Governing Body were present and there was a quorum. Also present at the meeting was Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt, Town Attorney Timothy P. Downs and Deputy Administrator Carlos N. Sanchez.

The first item for consideration were the meeting minutes of the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Ballesteros.

	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 motion carried 9-0.

The Board then considered the January 14, 2020 Executive (Closed) Session Minutes. Alderman Correa made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Quinones.

	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 motion carried 9-0.

PRESENTATIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.

The Board then received two communications from Mayor Blackman. The first was notification of the appointment of Paul McDougall as the Class B member on the Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2023. The Mayor also announced the appointment of a Special Committee pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Town Code to recommend amendments to that Code which has been commonly referred to as the Dictator Ordinance since its passage in November/December of 2018. The Mayor appointed the same membership of the Personnel Committee, Alderman Correa, Alderman Valencia and Mayor Blackman to serve on the Special Committee.

Deputy Administrator Sanchez then provided an update on the Blackwell Street Bridge closure, which is a county road and a county project that will reconstruct the bridge and improve safety. It is being fully funded by the County and the bridge will be closed for approximately 10 months. He mentioned that there is information on the Town’s website and that a meeting was also held with business owners in the area. Mayor Blackman also commented that she went out the previous morning with the Aldermembers from the 4th Ward (Alderman Valencia and Alderman Tapia) to observe the traffic patterns. She noted that it was the third bridge closure in Dover and Dover survives each time.

Deputy Administrator Sanchez also spoke about office hours which will be held at Town Hall by United States Rep. Tom Malinowski of the 7th Congressional District. The office hours will be from 12:00-4:00pm, every fourth Wednesday of the month.

Mayor Blackman then asked Public Safety Director DeGroot to give a presentation about the new police body cameras. Director DeGroot also introduced both Police Captains (Newton and Delaney). He announced that starting tomorrow morning the police will deploy body cameras on a full time basis. In November, the Department did a roll out as a trial so that officers could learn how to work them and adjust to using them. They will now be used 24/7. He commented that the Department has 45 body cameras, which includes extras. The total cost was \$135,000. He thanked the Town for the investment and said that the cameras makes the departments more professional and that it will lead to better cooperation between the police and the public. Captain

Newton then demonstrated how the camera works. Alderman Coorea asked if the camera recordings are stored in the cloud or a server and if the video is automatically sent to the cloud or is it in the camera until it is uploaded. He also asked how long the video was retained for. Director DeGroot said that the videos are on a server and on average the recording is retained for 90 days but can be longer and depends on the types of crimes. Alderman Correa also asked who has access. Alderman Quinones asked why the cameras do not record 24/7. Director DeGroot explained that in some instances and places the officers are prohibited from recording such as houses of worship and hospitals.

Alderwomen Wittner and Rugg also thanked the Director and Captains for the informative presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

After reading a statement and procedures for public comment, the Mayor then opened the floor up to the public who wished to make comments on agenda items only.

Cain Pope – 36 Cayoga Ave. Roxbury, NJ: Mr. Pope spoke about the bridge work and commented that there should be better communication between the Town and Freeholders and communication issues need to be resolved. He also spoke about the body cameras and said the video should be stored on a cloud not a server.

Jose Mendoza – 87 Blackwel St., Dover: Mr. Mendoza spoke about the bridge and commented that many people in Dover walk. He asked if there is still a walkway. Mayor Blackman responded that the bridge will still have a walkway during construction for pedestrians.

T.C. McCourt – 32 David Ave., Dover: Mr. McCourt also spoke about the bridge and commented that the stop lights should be turned off to allow better traffic flow. He also asked questions about Ordinances for introduction. Mayor Balckman commented that in response to Mr. McCourt's first question, the traffic lights are now blinking.

Jessica Gonzales – 11 McDavit Place, Dover: Ms. Gonzales questioned Ordinance 06-2020. Acting Clerk Schmidt explained that the Ordinance was on the agenda for introduction and if passed by the Governing Body the ordinance would be advertised and posted and if and when considered for second reading, the law requires a public hearing where questions and comments are asked.

A representative from New Jersey Working Families got up to comment on Ordinance 01-2020 as well as other ordinances for second hearing. The person did not write their name down. The Acting Clerk commented that the most appropriate time to comment on ordinances for public hearing is during the public hearing of those ordinances.

Seeing that no one else wished to comment, Mayor Blackman closed the public comment portion on agenda items only.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The Governing Body then considered the Bills List / Res. 55-2020. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Quinones to approve.

	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 motion carried 9-0 and the Bills List / Res. 55-2020 was approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

The Governing Body then acted upon the consent agenda resolutions.

- 1) Res. 56-2020 – Authorizing the Discharge of Mortgage under the Rehabilitation Program
- 2) Res. 57 -2020 – Appointment of Uniform Construction Code Officer – Greg Chontow
- 3) Res. 58-2020 – Authorizing contract with O’Connor & Davies, LLP for interim CFO Services.
- 4) Res. 59-2020 – Fund Transfer Resolution

A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Ballesteros.

Resolutions 56-2020 to 59-2020

	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 56-2020 to 59-2020 passed by a vote of 9-0.

The Governing Body then acted upon the non-consent agenda resolutions. A motion to adopt Resolution 60 - Appointing Fire Department Officers for the Year 2020 was made by Alderman Correa, seconded by Alderman Ballesteros.

Res. 60-2020

	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					X				
Abstain								X	

Resolution 60-2020 passed by a vote of 7-1-1.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then administered the Oath of Office to the Fire Department Officers: Chief Jon Filosa, Deputy Chief Robert Sperry, Engine Captain Jon Sperry Sr., Rescue Captain William Gilbert, EMS Captain Thomas Bartku. Following the Oaths of Offices, Deputy Chief Sperry was presented with a plaque and an ax for as a thank you for his service as Chief of the Dover Department from 2018 to present.

The Governing Body then considered Res. 61-2020 – Approving Volunteer Fire Department Members (Xavier Diaz and Kevin Rivera). A motion was made to adopt the resolution by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Correa.

Res. 61-2020

	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 Governing Body then considered Res. 62-2020 – Setting the BID Threshold at \$17,500 and authorizing the Deputy Administrator to end any and all employment relationships with Donald J. Travisano as Qualified Purchasing Agent. A motion was made to adopt the resolution by Alderman Correa, seconded by Alderwoman Wittner.

Res. 61-2020

	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									

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING/ADVERTISED HEARINGS

(The Aldermember Moving the Motion / Ordinance, the Aldermember Seconding and the Votes of Each Member are included in the tables below the description of each vote. All motions to open for public hearing, close the public hearing and adopt each Ordinance for second reading were approved by a 9-0 vote of the Governing Body of the Town of Dover).

The Governing Body then considered Ord. 01-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey establishing a new chapter of the Code of the Town of Dover Titled Wage Theft Protection Act.

Motion to Open Public Hearing

	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 Mayor opened the public hearing.

Kevin Escobar – 51 Wetmore Ave, Morristown, NJ: Mr. Escobar is with Wind of the Spirit. He spoke about the issue of strong Wage Theft Laws and applauded the Town for taking a stand.

Seeing that no one else wished to address the Governing Body, Mayor Blackman entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

	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									

Adoption of Ordinance 01-2020

	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 Governing Body then considered Ord. 02-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey establishing a new chapter of the Code of the Town of Dover Titled Community Project Labor Agreement Act.

Motion to Open Public Hearing

	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 Mayor opened the public hearing. Seeing that no one wished to address the Governing Body, Mayor Blackman entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

	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									

Adoption of Ordinance 02-2020

	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 Governing Body then considered Ord. 03-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey amending the Code of the Town of Dover to Create the Position of Ombudsman

Motion to Open Public Hearing

	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 Mayor opened the public hearing. Seeing that no one wished to address the Governing Body, Mayor Blackman entrained a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

	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									

Adoption of Ordinance 03-2020

	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 Governing Body then considered Ord. 04-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey Accepting the Dedication of a Portion of Property Known as Block 1201, Lot 6.03 in the Town of Dover

Motion to Open Public Hearing

	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 Mayor opened the public hearing. Seeing that no one wished to address the Governing Body, Mayor Blackman entrained a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

	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									

Adoption of Ordinance 04-2020

	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 Governing Body then considered Ord. 05-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey amending Chapter 57 (Police Department) of the Code of the Town of Dover to add Article I (Organization and Membership) and Article V (Table of Organization)

Motion to Open Public Hearing

	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 Mayor opened the public hearing. Seeing that no one wished to address the Governing Body, Mayor Blackman entrained a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

	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									

Adoption of Ordinance 05-2020

	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									

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

The Board then considered three ordinances for introduction. The first was Ord. 06-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey amending Chapter 68 (Department of Recreation) of the Code of the Town of Dover to update the Administration of the Recreation Department. Alderman Correa made a motion to introduce, seconded by Alderman Quinones.

Ordinance 06-2020

	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									

Ordinance 06-2020 was introduced 9-0.

The Board then considered Ord. 07-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor and Deputy Business Administrator to take all steps necessary to Purchase Block 1207, Lot 1 also known as 15 North Sussex Street. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to introduce, seconded by Alderwoman Cruz.

Ordinance 07-2020

	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									

Ordinance 07-2020 was introduced 9-0.

The Board then considered Ord. 08-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey amending the Code of the Town of Dover creating the position of Constituent Affairs Coordinator. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to introduce, seconded by Alderman Correa.

Ordinance 08-2020

	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									

UNFINISHED OR NEW BUISNESS / ALDERMEN COMMENTS

Mayor Blackman opened the floor up to comments from Aldermen.

Alderman Ballesteros congratulated the new Fire Department Officers and members. He stated that as a member of the Fire Committee he looks forward to working with them. He also reported that he attended training held by the NJLM for officials and found it informative.

Mayor Blackman recognized, the Town’s current Redevelopment attorneys, Frank Borin, Frank Regan and Arlene Quinones who assisted and helped the Town with some of the Ordinances that were adopted.

Attorney Downs commented that tonight was a big night for working families in Dover. He publically recognized and thanked the Redevelopment Attorneys as well. He spoke about some of the adopted ordinances and how Ord. 02-2020 requires contractors to make a good faith effort to seek out workers/labor among Dover residents.

John Pannello, President of the Laborers Local and Anthony Abrantes from the Carpenters Union were also recognized as well as members from those unions.

Alderman Correa thanked the Mayor and Board of Alderman for voting yes on Ordinances 01-2020 and 02-2020. He said that those ordinances protect working families in our town. He also spoke about an individual who committed suicide a few years ago in 2013 as a result of being a victim of Wage Theft and that because of the passage tonight, hopefully that will never happen again. He also mentioned that Ordinance 02-2020 requires projects in the Town of Dover over a certain amount to have at least 25% of their workers from Dover.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Mayor then opened the meeting for public comment on any issue.

Matthew Wessman – 375 N. Main Street, Wharton, NJ: Mr. Wessman commented that he was a Nurse and asked what services Dover provided for malnourished children. He also asked if the agenda and minutes are in Spanish. Mayor Blackman stated that they were not in Spanish and referred his first question to Deputy Administrator Sanchez.

Joan Bocchino – 49 Princeton Ave., Dover: Ms. Bocchino is the President of the Dover Shade Tree Commission and was invited to speak tonight by Mayor Blackman about the importance of trees. She spoke of benefits such as wind breaks in the winter and benefits trees have in the summer providing shade (also a source of energy conservation). She spoke about dangerous trees and the importance to address them. 15 trees were supposed to be removed last year but were not. She hopes that they will be addressed this year and that new trees can be planted to replace the ones that need to come down. She also mentioned that Dover has been a Tree City USA for 33 years and that Arbor Day is on April 24th. This year the Shade Tre Commission will be celebrating Arbor Day at Academy Street School.


Cain Pope – 36 Cayoga Ave. Roxbury, NJ: Mr. Pope had questions about Ordinance 07-2020. Attorney Downs commented that the most appropriate time to discuss them would be during second reading (consideration of adoption/public hearing). Attorney Downs also responded to Mr. Pope's question and confirmed that the Town was purchasing the property directly adjacent to the proposed new Town Hall.

Jamie Rodgerson – 67 Bassett Highway, Dover: Mr. Rodgerson spoke about prostitution houses and prostitution issues in the community. Alderman Correa asked if this has been going on for two years, did the previous administration do anything. Mr. Rodgerson stated they did raids, but they could only do so much.

Jonathan Echevarria – 186 Penn Ave., Dover: Mr. Echevarria asked if the website could be updated.

Seeing that no one else wished to address the Governing Body, Mayor Blackman closed the public comment portion of the meeting and entertained a motion to adjourn. Alderman Ballesteros moved the motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Correa. On voice vote, 9-0 (Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman in favor) the meeting was adjourned at 8:38p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


John P. Schmidt, MLS
Acting Municipal Clerk