



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ELECTRONIC MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2021 7:00 P.M.

It was announced that due to COVID-19, that the meeting was being recorded and streamed live on YouTube.

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 7:00p.m. The Mayor stated that the meeting was being recorded 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 10, 2021 and published in the Record and Ledger on January 13, 2021. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board, in the Lobby and Entrance Doors of the Municipal Building and on the Town of Dover website.”

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		

Also in attendance was Interim Business Administrator John O. Bennett, Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt and Municipal Attorney Tim Downs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Valencia made a motion to approve, second by Alderwoman Rugg the minutes of the January 5, 2021 Reorganization Meeting.

January 5, 2021 Reorganization 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 minutes were approved 9-0.

PRESENTATIONS, MUNICIPAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Aldermen then received the below correspondence and presentation.

- 1) Correspondence from JIF - 2020-2021 Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar: Employment Practices Liability

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board then considered the approval of the Bills List – Res. 62-2021. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to approve, second by Alderman Ballesteros.

Resolution 62-2021

	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	X								

The Bills List was approved 9-0.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS – The Board then acted upon the consent agenda resolutions. It had been requested that Res. 69-2021 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- 1) Res. 63-2021 – Res. Authorizing the Consent to Postponement of Mortgage for the Property 9 Perry St. Owned by Susan Savoy.
- 2) Res. 64-2021 – Res. Authorizing Engineering Work to begin on the 2020-2021 Municipal Capital Bond Roadway Improvement Projects.
- 3) Res. 65-2021 – Res. Authorizing Planning and Engineering Work to Begin on the Preparation of Petition for Plan Endorsement for Submission to the State Planning Commission.
- 4) Res. 66-2021 – Res. Authorizing Engineering Work to Begin on the 2020 Essex Street NJDOT Roadway Improvement Project
- 5) Res. 67-2021 – Res. Rescinding Res. 50-2021
- 6) Res. 68-2021 – Res. Approving Off Premises Merchandise Draw Raffle for Rotary District 7475 Foundation.
- 7) Res. 70-2021- Res. Authorizing Lien Redemption for Block 1312, Lot 3, also known as 77 N. Morris Street, Dover, NJ for Tax Sale Certificate 17-00006.

Mayor Blackman asked if Res. 68-2021 was for the Dover Rotary or the one in Denville. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that that is how the application was submitted. Interim Administrator Bennett commented that we do not have a 15 Broadway in Dover and it is an off-premise raffle. Alderman Ballesteros asked if there was precedent for outside organizations to apply for raffles. It was stated there is precedent. It was also commented that the approval was conditional, pending final approval of the Municipal Clerk.

Alderwoman Wittner asked what Res. 50-2021 was. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that incorrect information was passed on and instead of amending it, the Board is rescinding and readopting. Administrator Bennett explained that this was a moratorium street. Alderman Ballesteros asked if there will be a cost to the Town. Mr. William Isselin, Chief Code Enforcement Officer / Asst. to the Engineer said there would not be.

A motion was made to adopt Res. 63-2021 to 68-2021 and Res. 70-2021 by Alderman Correa, second by Alderman Ballesteros.

Resolutions 63-68 & 70-2021

	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 consent agenda was adopted 9-0.

The Board then considered Res. 69-2021 – Res. Authorizing the Town of Dover to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency 1033 Program. Mayor Blackman asked Mr. Bennett to explain the program. Administrator Bennett explained the program. It is done throughout the country including by neighboring towns. Mr. Bennett said the purpose of this would be to possibly acquire a vehicle to rescue individuals in the event there is a flood. The program is done through the Police Department and the Town of Dover. Mr. Bennett also stated that with the last storm there was difficulty in getting to two individuals because of flood waters.

Alderman Ballesteros thanked the administration for the explanation but stated he has some misgivings about the program, which takes surplus Department of Defense equipment and giving it to civil law enforcement agencies. His concern was having military vehicles used against people. He also had a concern about maintenance costs.

Mr. Bennett stated that is not the intent on how to use the vehicle and the concern is that we do not have a vehicle that get through flood waters. Alderman Quinones stated that these vehicles do not come with military hardware and that he remembers past events where canoes had to be used to rescue people. He believes that the vehicle is a great to have around in the event it is needed.

Deputy Police Chief Delaney spoke about the program. There was some further discussion about the program and the resolution. Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to table the resolution so that it could be reworded which was seconded by Alderman Ballesteros.

Acting Municipal Clerk conducted the roll which resulted in the following members voting to table: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman 9-0.

RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Board then acted upon Res. 71-2021 – Res. Approving a Conditional Curb Opening Permit for 61 Watson Drive.

Resolution 71-2021

	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	
No									
Abstain									X

Res. 71-2021 was adopted 8-0-1.

The Board then considered Res. 74-2021 – Resolution Awarding Contract to NDP Construction for the Municipal Building Re-Roofing Project. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt then read the Resolution into the record.

Mayor Blackman stated that this has been a long-drawn-out process, it is like getting a roof on your house. The Mayor spoke that the when Mr. Bennett was appointed Interim Administrator it was one of his goals to make sure we get a roof for the Town Hall. She stated that the roof project is long overdue.

A motion was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

Resolution 74-2021

	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. 74-2021 was adopted 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bennett gave the Administrator’s Report. He wanted to complement the Public Works Department as well as the Police and Fire Departments with the recent snow storms. He also updated the Board concerning COVID-19. Mr. Bennett reported that the CFO has finished the first preliminary rough draft of the 2021 budget. After final touches, it will be presented to the Finance Committee.

He also spoke about the rood BIDS and stated that it came in under budget. Mr. Bennett reported that tomorrow is the BID opening for the Public Works Interior renovations. To date we have had 20 contractors express an interest. He also recognized the Fire Department to

secure a fire apparatus which will carry the Town through until the Town is in a position to find a long-range replacement for the aging Fire fleet. The truck is being purchased from another Fire Department.

Mr. Bennett also provided a report on some hiring and personnel changes, the library renovations and redevelopment meetings, including for the property known as the Lorry property. Mr. Bennett has reported that bills continue to be reviewed and in several areas of utilities, it appears that the Town has been paying for duplication of services for as long as several years. He stated that the Town has been eliminating this duplication and hopefully can do more moving forward.

Mayor Blackman stated that during the snow days she came in with the Administrator and answered phones which assisted DPW. She also thanked residents for helping neighbors during the snow cleanup. The Mayor also stated that there will be meetings this week and the hours of operation for businesses will be discussed and decision will be made by Thursday.

ITEMS REQUESTED FOR DISCUSSION BY INDIVIDUAL ALDERMEN

The Board considered Res. 72-2021 – Res. In Support of Comprehensive and Humane Immigration Reform – Aldermen **Correa and Aldermen Tapia**. Alderman Correa explained the purpose and reasoning of the resolution. A motion was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderman Tapia to adopt.

Resolution 72-2021

	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	
No									
Abstain									X

Res. 72-2021 was adopted 9-0

The Board then considered Res. 73-2021 – Res. In Support of the Medicare for All Act and Specific to the Pandemic, the Healthcare Guarantee Act of 2020 – Alderwoman **Cruz, Alderman Correa, Alderman Tapia and Alderman Valencia**. The Resolution was explained by the sponsors of the Resolutions. A motion was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderwoman Cruz to adopt.

Resolution 73-2021

	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. 73-2021 was adopted 9-0.

Alderman Correa asked to bring a Resolution from the floor, on behalf of Alderman Valencia, Alderwoman Wittner and himself, which appoints a group of local business owners to become advisors to the Economic Development and Redevelopment Committee to provide input and shape public policy.

Alderman Correa asked how this could be added. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt explained that it can be added by the Mayor or by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Alderman. The process was further explained by the Municipal Attorney Mr. Downs following the Clerk reading the Town Code.

Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to move it on the agenda, second by Alderman Correa.

Motion to add Res. 75-2021 on the Agenda

	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	
No									
Abstain									X

The motion carried 8-0-1.

The resolution was then read in full into the record by the Acting Municipal Clerk. Attorney Downs recommended the Resolution be amended to include the end date of the appointments. Alderman Correa made a motion, second by Alderwoman Wittner.

Alderman Ballesteros asked a question about future appointment procedures. It was stated that this time around the Economic Development and Redevelopment Committee generated the list of names. Alderwoman Rugg also asked questions regarding the appointments and was this shared before the meeting. Alderman Correa stated that this was shared with the Administration last year.

The Acting Clerk then conducted the roll.

Motion to add Res. 75-2021 on the Agenda

	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	
No									
Abstain									X

Res. 75-2021 carried 8-0-1.

The Board then considered Res. 76-2021 – Res. Declaring the Month of February Black History Month – Alderwoman **Wittner and Alderman Ballesteros.**

The Resolution was explained by the sponsors and read by Alderman Ballesteros. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros, second by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt.

Resolution 76-2021

	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. 76-2021 was adopted 9-0.

Fire Chief Filosa spoke about the recent snow. He asked if residents have a fire hydrant outside their homes and if they are able, to please shovel out the fire hydrant. There are over 600 hydrants in Town and when there is a fire at least two hydrants are used.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt read the procedures for public comment and the meeting was opened to the public.

Speaker: T.C. McCourt (Via-Email Submission)

Address: 32 Davis Ave., Dover NJ

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

I'm writing in tonight to express my support for Resolutions 72 and 73, proposed by members of the Board for consideration.

The right to quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and the only way that the federal government will move forward on universal coverage is with the support of the cities and towns of America that most closely feel the impacts of an inadequately covered society. Medicare for All is not only necessary, it is a vital link in the chain to creating a more equal and just society. I commend Alderwoman Cruz and Aldermen Correa, Tapia, and Valencia for proposing Resolution 73 and urge its swift passage.

Further, I wish to express support for Aldermen Correa and Tapia's Resolution 72, In Support of Comprehensive and Humane Immigration Reform. America's complicated and overly burdensome immigration system has directly led to the situation we're in, with millions of undocumented immigrants having to hide in the shadows. It's long past time for America to live up to the image we portray to the world, one of an open and fair society, by providing an

immediate pathway to citizenship for these courageous Americans. I commend Aldermen Correa and Tapia for offering this Resolution.

Speaker: Charlie Baranski

Address: 100 Boulevard Rd., Cedar Knolls, NJ

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Baranski is not a Dover resident but wanted to comment on Res. 73-2021. He stated it is more than a gesture but it is important to state people deserve quality healthcare during a pandemic. He stated he is one of the leaders of Our Revolution in Morris County and stated Dover is the first town in Morris County to endorse Medicare for All. Mayor Blackman and Alderwoman Rugg thanked Mr. Baranski for his comments.

Speaker: Antonio Acosta

Address: 130 Madison St., Dover NJ

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Acosta thanked the Mayor for making the brave and difficult decision of keeping the curfew for bars and restaurants at 10:00p.m. He stated that it would be okay to have some adjustments for Valentine's Day but it could be problematic for people inside without masks on drinking. He stated we remain the only School District in Morris County that is not in school. Mayor Blackman thanked Mr. Acosta for his comments.

Speaker: Matthew Shurtleff

Address: 18 Hampshire Drive, Mendham, NJ

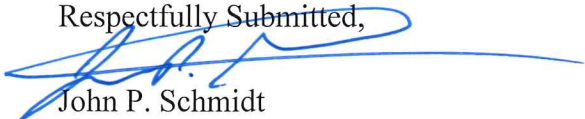
Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Shurtleff stated he is also a member of One Revolution of Morris County with Charlie Baranski. He stated he has a history advocating for these issues, including advocating for fiscally responsible and humane legislation and thanked the Town of Dover for passing the resolutions this evening. Mayor Blackman thanked Mr. Shurtleff for his comments.

With no one else wishing to address the Board, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting. Mayor Blackman also spoke about trying to secure COVID-19 vaccines. The Mayor stated that the Town is trying to work with the County. Alderman Correa thanked the DPW Department for their efforts and the work they did with the recent snow storms. He thanked the Department, Mayor, Mr. Bennett and Fire and Police personnel. He also discussed the challenges with bar closures and the difficulty in controlling people.

The Mayor then asked for a motion a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adjourn, second by Alderwoman Rugg with the following in favor: Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Rugg, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Schmidt

Acting Municipal Clerk