



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ELECTRONIC MEETING March 23, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that due to COVID-19, the meeting was held electronically and was recorded/streamed lived on YouTube.

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the March 23, 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		

Following roll call the Clerk announced that all nine members were present and there was a quorum. Also in attendance was Interim Business Administrator John O. Bennett, Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt and Municipal Attorney Tim Downs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderwoman Rugg made a motion to approve, second by Alderman Valencia the minutes of February 9, 2021, which were approved by unanimous consent 9-0.

February 9, 2021, 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									

PRESENTATIONS, MUNICIPAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Aldermen then received the below correspondence.

- 1) Correspondence from JIF - 2020-2021 Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar: Employment Practices Liability
- 2) Correspondence from Acting Municipal Clerk – Cybersecurity
Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt explained what the Town has been doing regarding Cybersecurity training, which he has headed in partnership with Administrator Bennett. The program is through the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund and the Town has been conducting training.
- 3) Correspondence from Morris County Board of County Commissioners RE: Res. 2021-229 Concerning S3454

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

The Board then considered the reintroduction of Ord. No. 4-2021 – Supporting the Creation, Protection of Long Term Sustainability of Community Gardens. The change being made was the location of the Garden. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to introduce, second by Alderwoman Cruz.

Introduction of Ord. 4-2021

	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									

Ord. 4-2021 was (re)introduced 9-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board then considered the approval of the Bills List – Res. 90-2021. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros to approve, second by Alderwoman Wittner.

Resolution 90-2021

	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 Bills List was approved 9-0.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS – The Board then acted upon the consent agenda resolutions.

- 1) Res. 91-2021 – Res. Appointing Ralph Cardinale as Building Subcode Official
- 2) Res. 92-2021 – Res. Approving a Refund of Overpayment of Taxes for Quarter 1 of 2021 for Block 1108, Lot 4 known as 34 Academy Street, Dover NJ in an amount of \$1,467.31
- 3) Res. 93-2021 – Res. Approving a Refund of Overpayment of Taxes for Quarter 1 of 2021 for Block 1332, Lot 7 known as 34 Union Street, Dover NJ in an amount of \$1,498.61
- 4) Res. 94-2021 – Res. Approving on Premises Merchandise Draw Raffle for Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

A motion was made to adopt Res. 91-2021 to 94-2021 by Alderwoman Wittner, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

Resolutions 91-94 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.

RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

The Board then considered 95-2021 – Res. Adopting Temporary Budget Appropriation. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to adopt, second by Alderwoman Cruz.

Resolution 95-2021

	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. 95-2021 was adopted 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bennett gave an Administrator’s Report. He updated the Board concerning recent meetings with employees to initiate the first 30 days of the furlough program, which will permit employees to remain on the Town’s health insurance and file for unemployment. He also reported that the Town has seen a rise in COVID cases and that the Town continues to work with St. Clare’s in vaccinating as many of our seniors.

He also reported on the budget process, the roof replacement of the Municipal Building and that following the project the building will be power washed to improve the outside appearance.

Mr. Bennett also announced that the We Love Dover campaign will hold town cleanups in April. On April 10th, Wards 1 and 4 will be done and on April 17th Wards 2 and 3 will be completed.

Administrator Bennett also reported that the Town has been holding meetings with Superintendent of Dover's school system to collaborate on issues of mutual interest and that the school will be opening its track at East Dover Elementary School on April 1st which will be open to the public. He also reported that he has had meetings with the DPW Superintendent to review the conditions of parks in Town following a safety report from the JIF. There is much work that needs to be completed and the Town is currently seeking prices to repair and improve the basketball courts at Crescent Field. The Town is also working to repair and in some cases replace playground equipment.

Administrator Bennett also reported registration for the soccer program will be on Friday. that he has been working with Alderman Quinones to getting the soccer program restored in Town.

Mayor Blackman stated that a lot of people have expressed interest in the Community Garden and believes it will be a good thing for Dover. The Mayor also provided an update on the Easter Egg Hunt (Handout) in the Crescent Field Parking Lot, which will be for children ages 2 to 10 years old. The event is a partnership between the Town of Dover and Table of Hope. The Mayor also stated that the Easter Bunny will be coming this year.

Deputy Chief Delaney spoke about the reopening of the schools and the hiring Class III officers as well as two programs the Department will be participating in, which is the Distracted Driving Program and Pedestrian Safety Program. He also reported that officers are attending training for mental health.

Chief Code Enforcement Bill Isselin stated that with the start of spring, code enforcement will be conducting inspections around Town. The Mayor also reported that there will be an upcoming meeting for the 300 Anniversary Committee.

ITEMS REQUESTED FOR DISCUSSION BY INDIVIDUAL ALDERMEN

The Board then considered Res. 96-2021 – Res. Appointing Members to the Economic Advisory Committee to the Board of Aldermen – **Alderman Wittner, Alderman Valencia and Alderman Correa**. The resolution was explained by committee members, which appoints residents to a committee that will assist the Economic Development and Redevelopment Committee.

A motion was made by Alderman Correa to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Alderman Wittner

Resolution 96-2021

	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. 96-2021 was adopted 9-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Speaker: Chris Velasquez

Address: 10 5th Street

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Velasquez spoke about Cannabis which is legal. Towns have 120 days to opt in and opt out. He spoke about micro-cannabis business and his support.

Speaker: Marina Redmond

Address: 3 Borough Square

Municipality/County: Sayreville / Middlesex County

Ms. Redmond spoke about medical cannabis and how it has helped her. She hopes to see it in Dover / Morris County.

Speaker: Jeffrey King

Address: 24 Elizabeth Parkway

Municipality/County: Eatontown / Monmouth County

Mr. King stated that this was his first time addressing a public body and speaking. He spoke about his support of Cannabis.

Speaker: Chris Almada

Address: 159 Mt. Hope Ave.

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Almada stated the he grew up in Dover. He was happy to hear about the basketball courts getting redone. He also stated that he appreciated the mental health training the police are receiving. He also spoke about an accident he was involved in and how medical marijuana has helped him and spoke in support of Cannabis.

Speaker: Lefty Grimes with Sativa Cross

Address: 84 Hanover Road

Municipality/County: East Hanover / Morris County

Mr. Grimes spoke about the fact that there is no dispensary for Cannabis in Morris County and that there needs to be a medical dispensary. He spoke of his support of Cannabis and wheel chair access.

Speaker: Uma Dhanabala

Address: 777 Concord Ave.

Municipality/County: Cambridge, Massachusetts

Ms. Dhanabala is a doctor who practices in Massachusetts and is originally from New Jersey. She spoke about her background and advocacy for Cannabis. Dr. Dhanabala has written prescriptions for medical marijuana as treatment for ages 4 to 98 years old at all stages of life. She hopes the Board will support Cannabis.

Speaker: Hugh Giordano

Address: 57 Argyle Ave.

Municipality/County: Gloucester Township / Camden County

Mr. Giordano us with UFCW Local 152 which has 1.4 million members. It is the official union of cannabis workers. He spoke about labor issues with cannabis and the salaries which it could support.

Speaker: Jaime Van Sciver

Address: 427 Greenwich Ave.

Municipality/County: Paulsboro / Gloucester County

Ms. Van Sciver shared her story using Cannabis and spoke in support of Cannabis.

Speaker: Antonio Acosta

Address: 130 Madison Street

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

Mr. Acosta commended those speakers who spoke and shared stories. He also appreciated the report by the Administrator and was happy to hear about discussions and improvements with the parks. He also spoke about COVID-19 and the rise in cases and the fact our kids are still not back in school. He asked the Mayor to relook at the bar curfew being 2:00a.m. He also asked the Mayor if the Shade Tree Commission would be planting trees this Spring and stated we are lacking trees in the Town. He also commented about the look of our new police cars bringing us into the new century.

Mayor Blackman stated that she will speak with the Shade Tree Commission and she knows they are looking at planting some trees as some trees had to be taken down. Alderman Ballesteros, who is the Liaison to the Shade Tree Commission stated that there will be a planting for Arbor Day with a location to be determined. Alderman Ballesteros also stated that the Town has received Tree City USA designation. Ms. Van Sciver shared her story using Cannabis and spoke in support of Cannabis.

Speaker: Juan Casiano

Address: 97 W. Munson Ave.

Municipality/County: Dover / Morris County

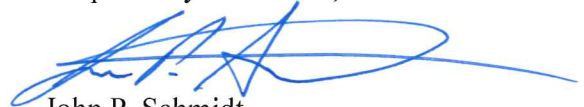
I have reviewed the Town of Dover webpage, gone to the schedule of meetings section, and the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustments have not listed an Agenda or Minutes since at least March 2019 and the Town of Dover, Mayor and Board of Aldermen, last minutes posting was December 21, 2020.

Acting Municipal Schmidt addressed the comment where the minutes of the Board of Aldermen can be found. Last year the Town starting using its ECode page which is more user friendly. Mr. Schmidt also commented that the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment are separate public bodies and that question would need to be directed toward them. There was a brief discussion on the Board Agenda and Minutes postings.

Mayor Blackman thanked everyone who spoke about Cannabis and stated that the Municipal Attorney is reviewing items and will be making a recommendation to assist the Town as to marijuana. The Mayor also stated that the 300 Committee held its first meeting to discuss ideas and suggestions.

With no other business Alderman Ballesteros made a motion to adjourn at 8:25p.m. which was seconded by Alderwoman Rugg 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