



# TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ELECTRONIC MEETING April 13, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Blackman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held electronically and was recorded/streamed lived on YouTube.

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the April 13, 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 – 7:08p.m.		
Alderman Tapia	X		
Alderman Ballesteros	X		
Alderwoman Rugg	X		
Alderwoman Cruz	X		
Alderman Valencia	X – 7:08p.m.		
Alderman Quinones	X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		
Mayor Blackman	X		

Following roll call the Clerk announced that seven members were present and there was a quorum. Also in attendance was Business Administrator John O. Bennett, Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt, Deputy Municipal Clerk Rey Julve and Attorney Brian Mason.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to approve, second by Alderman Ballesteros the minutes of February 23, 2021, which were approved by unanimous consent 7-0.

### February 23, 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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>			X						
<b>Yes</b>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

## **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 Mayor Carolyn Blackman nominating John O. Bennett III to be Administrator of the Town of Dover / Presentation of Nomination

Mayor Carolyn Blackman stated the Town had been asked by the public to interview candidates for Business Administrator position and hired a firm to assist the Town. Both of these actions took place. The Town ran an ad and turned over all the applicants that were received to the firm to help us get the best candidate. She recognized Joe Hartnett from Government Strategies Group. Mr. Hartnett introduced himself and explained his background. He was appointed the youngest Administrator in the country at age 26 and retired in 2011 as the Administrator in Montclair, then worked as Vice President for St. Peter's University. He provided a summary of the work that was performed with preparing and placing the ad, reviewing and vetting perspective applicants. In addition to advertising, the firm also reached out directly to people in the profession who may have had an interest in the Dover position. Once that was done, they reviewed carefully the resumes, qualifications, ran background checks and conducted interviews.

The firm narrowed the field to three candidates which included the Interim Business Administrator and assisted the search committee in arranging and conducting interviews. Before making a final decision they met with a cross section of community leaders to give input as to the qualities and qualifications they thought were important. Those community leaders provided interesting and valuable input.

The final recommendation of the firm was John O. Bennett. Mr. Harnett described Mr. Bennett's credentials as impeccable and he also had familiarity with the Town of Dover. Additionally, his qualifications were unmatched although other candidates were strong as well. Mr. Hartnett noted that several of the community leaders issued high praise for Mr. Bennett and the work he has been doing during interim period.

He stated that it always comes down to the best fit, and he does not hesitate to recommend Mr. Bennett.

Mayor Blackman thanked Mr. Hartnett for his report. The Mayor said she works with John Bennett closely every day and one thing I can say he has restored employee morale. The Mayor said that he has worked with the Department heads to help them multitask with budget planning, infrastructure and vehicles. Mr. Bennett made them to be part of the process and asked them to be part of the process. She also highlighted the fact that he holds weekly meetings with Department Heads. The Mayor highlighted some other things which Mr. Bennett has done included updating our Civil Service list and that since he has been here he has worked in building good working relationships.

Alderwoman Wittner, stated that she can admit when she is wrong. She stated that Mr. Bennett has proven he is the best Administrator for Dover and that she has seen the morale of the Town

change and more open communication, of which she has been a part of. She stated that the Town of Dover is fortunate to have him.

Alderwoman Rugg commented that it has been a pleasure to get to know and work with Mr. Bennett, particularly in securing a Public Health Nurse. She said Mr. Bennett is always thinking of the Town.

Alderwoman Cruz stated that she is very happy with what Mr. Bennett is doing and that he has been doing a good job. She supports the nomination and wants to see the Board achieve and finish what has been started.

Alderman Quinones spoke about working with Mr. Bennett on a few things in the past few weeks and stated that Mr. Bennett is an incredible person who works, but makes others work as well. He stated that Mr. Bennett care for something he cares about, which is the children, particularly on fixing up the parks so that we can see kids have fun. Alderman Quinones stated that he is glad Mr. Bennett is on the team.

Alderman Valencia commented that when he first met Mr. Bennett he liked his experience and believes that he has a lot qualities and finds solutions for most everything presented to him. He hopes that the Board votes for him and if so wishes Mr. Bennett all the best of luck.

Alderman Correa recounted that the Board took a lot of heat for appointing Mr. Bennett and that some were called phony Democrats. Now after 7 months and going through a process, which was promised, was implemented with reviewing resumes, holding interviews and listening to the community. He stated that he believes Mr. Bennett is the most qualified person for our Town and thanked Mr. Bennett for his efforts and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Mayor Blackman also thanked the public for meeting with the search committee. She stated that the community leader’s expectations were high and that they wanted someone with experience, leadership and someone who can work with anybody.

With no other comments, Mayor Blackman made a motion to adopt Resolution 97-2021, which was seconded by Alderwoman Rugg.

**Resolution 97-2021 Appointment of John O. Bennett III as Business Administrator**

	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
<b>Motion</b>									X
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

The nomination of Mr. Bennett / Res. 97-2021 was approved 9-0.

Mayor Blackman thanked Mr. Hartnett with his assistance in the search.

Mr. Bennett thanked everyone and he stated he was humbled and thankful. He said that the appointment does not mean he can take a day off but he has to work harder. He described the last 7 months as a whirlwind, but that it has been a pleasure to be part of the team to move things forward.

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING**

The first Ordinance for first reading was Ord. No. 6-2021 – Ordinance Prohibiting the Operation of any Class of Cannabis Businesses within the Geographical Boundaries of the Town of Dover and amending the Code of the Town of Dover

Alderwoman Wittner stated that she has worked to amend parts of this ordinance before the meeting since Friday and explained that this is a temporary Ordinance. She stated that the Town intends to explore Cannabis, however the Town is up against an August time deadline and that this Ordinance also has to go to the Municipal Planning Board and the County so the best option is to put it forth now, which allows the time to look at the new law, conduct research and speak to community members and experts as to what is best for the Town of Dover.

Alderman Correa stated that he wants members of the community to know that they are for Cannabis and care about the industry. He stated that the Board is for it but that they want to do it right.

With no other comments, Alderman Quinones made a motion to introduce the Ordinance, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner.

**Introduction of Ord. 6-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>							X		
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X			X			X	X	X
<b>No</b>			X			X			
<b>Abstain</b>		X			X				

Ord. 6-2021 was introduced 5-2-2.

The Board then considered Ord. No. 7-2021 – Ordinance Providing for Handicapped Parking Space at 36 Union Street. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to introduce, second by Alderwoman Wittner.

**Introduction of Ord. 7-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Ord. 7-2021 was introduced 9-0.

The Board then considered Ord. No. 8-2021 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mayor Blackman asked CFO John Gross to explain the Ordinance. Mr. Gross stated that the Ordinance was a housekeeping item, which allows the Town to use funds above and beyond if needed and if not it would allow the Town to bank the money. He stated that it is anticipated that all the money will be banked, but it is always a good idea to use it for the future as you don't know what you don't know.

Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to introduce, second by Alderman Quinones.

**Introduction of Ord. 8-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>							X		
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Ord. 9-2021 was introduced 9-0.

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

The first Ordinance for second reading and public hearing was Ord. 2-2021 Amending Chapter 68 “Department of Recreation” of the Code of the Town of Dover to Update the Name and General Duties of the Department. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to open the public hearing, second by Alderwoman Wittner, which passed by unanimous consent 9-0.

**Open the Public Hearing for Ord. 2-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

With no one wishing to speak, a motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to close the public hearing, second by Alderman Ballesteros, which passed by unanimous consent 9-0.

**Close the Public Hearing for Ord. 2-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>			X						
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Alderman Ballesteros asked if this ordinance would create any new positions. Administrator Bennett said the Department has a fixed amount of money, which would be five months into the year. At this time the budget does have some monies for additional personnel but stated there is not a tremendous amount of work because of COVID-19 and this is one of the Departments which is subject to the voluntary furloughs. He stated that it is the goal to help create the Town as a hub for the arts in the region along with the 300 Anniversary.

Alderman Correa stated that on behalf on himself, Alderman Tapia, Alderman Valencia and Alderwoman Cruz he supports this Ordinance and that our Town has a lot of assets, including a historic downtown. He hopes the renaming of the department to help bring economic activity to the Town and asked everyone for their support.

Alderwoman Cruz made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, second by Alderman Tapia.

**Adoption of Ord. 2-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>					X				
<b>Second</b>		X							
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Ord. 2-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The Board then considered Ord. No. 4-2021 – Supporting the Creation, Protection of Long Term Sustainability of Community Gardens. A motion was made by Alderwoman Rugg to open the public hearing, second by Alderwoman Cruz, which was approved by unanimous consent 9-0.

**Open the Public Hearing for 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
<b>Motion</b>				X					
<b>Second</b>					X				
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

With no one wishing to comment on this Ordinance, Alderwoman Cruz made a motion to close the public hearing which was seconded by Alderwoman Rugg and was approved by unanimous consent 9-0.

**Close the Public Hearing for 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
<b>Motion</b>					X				
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

After the public portion Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, which was seconded by Alderwoman Cruz.

**Adoption 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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>					X				
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Ord. 4-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The next Ord. No. 5-2021 – Supporting the Integration of New Americans and Residents. Alderman Ballesteros made a motion to open the public hearing, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner and approved by unanimous consent 9-0.

**Open the Public Hearing for Ord. 5-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

With no one wishing to comment, Alderwoman Cruz made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner. The public hearing was closed by unanimous consent 9-0.

**Close the Public Hearing for Ord. 5-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>					X				
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

After the public hearing, Alderwoman Wittner made a motion to adopt Ord. 5-2021, seconded by Alderman Correa.

**Adoption of Ord. 5-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>	X								
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Ord. 5-2021 was adopted 9-0.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

The Board then considered the approval of the Bills List – Res. 98-2021. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros to approve, second by Alderman Tapia.

**Resolution 98-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>		X							
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

The Bills List was approved 9-0.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

- 1) Res. 99-2021 – Res. for Lien Redemption for Block 703, Lot 7 also known as 164 W. Clinton Street, Dover NJ
- 2) Res. 100-2021 – Res. Appointing Special Police Officers for the Town of Dover: Class III Officers Kevin Carroll
- 3) Res. 101-2021 – Res. for Lien Redemption for Block 832, Lot 1.04 also known as 83 White Street, Dover NJ



4) Res. 102-2021 – Res. for Lien Redemption for Block 1812, Lot 6 also known as 36 Jordan Terrace, Dover NJ

A motion was made to adopt Res. 99-2021 to 102-2021 by Alderwoman Wittner, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

**Resolutions 99-102 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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

The consent agenda was adopted 9-0.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION**

The Board then considered Res. 103 -2021 – Res. Approving Taxis/Limos to be Licensed in the Town of Dover. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt, second by Alderman Ballesteros.

**Resolution 103-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>			X						
<b>Yes</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>	X								

Res. 103-2021 was adopted 8-0-1.

The Board then considered Res. 104 -2021 – Res. Appointing Jonathan Delaney Chief of Police

A motion was made by Alderwoman Rugg to adopt the Resolution appointing Jonathan Deputy Chief Delaney, which was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner.

Mayor Blackman made a statement about Deputy Chief Delaney. Mayor Blackman stated that he was born and raised in Dover and graduated from Dover High School. She spoke about her interactions working with him since becoming Mayor and she sees how he has respect for the Department and how morale has improved.

Alderman Ballesteros commented that he grew up in Dover and now being of age is able to give back to the community and work in public service. He stated that having Deputy Chief Delaney in the same position, with him growing up here and understanding the community and its needs is a no brainer.

Alderman Rugg, who is Chair of the Police Committee stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Deputy Chief Delaney including things seen that was not done before. She thanked Deputy Chief Delaney for his past contributions and wished him continued success.

Richard Rivera, who is a Police Consultant working with the Town spoke about the appointment and commented that Deputy Chief Delaney is an excellent candidate for the position and stated that if there is anything the Town needs from him or his form to let him know.

Alderman Correa spoke about Deputy Chief Delaney being forged and made in Dover. He spoke about his background in the Town as well as working with his father, a former 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman. Mayor Blackman also spoke about working with former Alderman Delaney.

Alderman Wittner stated that Deputy Chief Delaney was her first friend in Dover and introduced her to Dover, including helping her to find her house. She said that he is wonderful friend, husband and father and that she has no doubt that he would make a wonderful chief.

Alderman Quinones stated that Deputy Chief Delaney is one heck of a soccer coach and is great guy. He has known him for a while and knows that he loves the Town. He supports the appointment and wants to keep Deputy Chief Delaney in Dover forever.

Alderman Cruz said everybody has already said things she wanted to say, so she congratulations. She also said she had a meeting this morning about the appointment and is proud to support the appointment.

Alderman Valencia also supported the appointment and wished Deputy Chief Delaney well.

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt conducted the roll.

**Resolution 104-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>				X					
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Resolution 104-2021, appointing Jonathan Delaney Chief of Police was approved 9-0.

Chief Delaney stated that the appointment was not about him but about the Town of Dover, the community, working together and supporting our men and women while holding them accountable. He thanked his wife, friends, family, Sen. Bennett, Morris County Chiefs Association, the Local PBA, Karol Ruiz and Black Lives Matter. He looks forward to working with our community stakeholders.

The Board then considered Res. 105 -2021 – Res. Appointing Police Sergeant. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

**Resolution 105-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Res. 105-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The Board then acted upon Res. 106 -2021 – Res. Authorizing Inter-Local Transfer for the Police Department. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to adopt, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

**Resolution 106-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Res. 106-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The Board then considered Res. 107 -2021 – Res. Dedicating Capital Grant Repayment and Cancelling Capital Appropriations, both to be applied to Reducing Net Debt. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros to adopt, second by Alderman Correa.

**Resolution 107-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>	X								
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Res. 107-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The Board then considered Res. 109 -2021 – Res. Appointing Monica Madin as Special Prosecutor for Code Enforcement Through the Fair and Open Process. A motion was made by Alderman Correa, second by Alderwoman Rugg.

**Resolution 109-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Res. 109-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The Board then considered Res. 110 -2021 – Res. Appointing Arcari Iovino to Provide Consulting Architectural Services for the Year 2021 Through the Fair and Open Process. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to adopt, second by Alderwoman Correa.

**Resolution 110-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>								X	
<b>Second</b>	X								
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Res. 110-2021 was adopted 9-0.

The Board then considered Res. 111 -2021 – Res. Condemning Anti-Asian Hate and Rhetoric.

Alderman Ballesteros thanked the Board for considering this resolution which is long overdue. He stated that he hopes this resolution to condemn anti-Asian hate and rhetoric, is a way to reach our residents and visitors that we are here for you. He stated he hopes this is only a start. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros made a motion to adopt, second by Alderman Correa.

**Resolution 111-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>	X								
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Res. 111-2021 was adopted 9-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that the Planning Board has provided comments regarding Ord. 1-2021 concerning Electric Charging Stations. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt stated that unless the Board objected to any of the recommendations that the Board could reintroduce the Ordinance with the recommendations. A motion was made by Alderman

Ballesteros to reintroduce with the recommended changes, which was seconded by Alderman Quinones.

**Ord. 1-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>			X						
<b>Second</b>							X		
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

Ord. 1-2021 was reintroduced 9-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The first item of New Business was the Introduction of the Budget. Administrator Bennett and CFO John Gross provided an overview of the budget. It was stated that revenues decreased last year by about \$1 Million and Salary and Wages under existing Collective Bargaining Agreements made in the past are increasing by \$1 Million. The Administration and the Finance Committee has been able to significantly cut the tax increase to under 4%. It was also commented that the Town of Dover turned the tide on borrowing and debt payments by passing Res. 107-2021. The Town cut the debt by \$15 Million from a ratio of 3% which is amount to a shutdown to borrow anymore to a safe rate of 1.76%.

Mr. Gross has been a Mayor, Administrator and CFO and that he understands the importance of developing a budget with the importance of the community in mind.

Mr. Gross stated that when he got a call to come to Dover 7 months he did not know what to expect. He stated that Dover had many unique challenges and that it has been his pleasure to work with the Senator Bennett, the Mayor and the Finance Committee.

Mr. Gross also highlighted the budget. It was answered that the average assessed property would see an increase of about \$120.00. Alderwoman Wittner asked what the tax increase for the Municipal Budget was in 2020. Mr. Gross stated that it was 6.6%. Alderwoman Wittner stated that this year is a smaller increase. Alderman Correa asked what the pension costs increase was. Mr. Gross said pension costs are up \$450,000. Other drivers of the budget are Police and Fire Salary and Wages. Mr. Gross said our budget roughly has 98 lines. 38 lines stayed the same, 38 went down and only a few went up, but they were significant.

Alderman Ballesteros asked if lost revenue impacted the Budget. Mr. Gross said lost revenue did have an impact. It was also commented that some of the Union Contracts had two years of 0% raises and last year and this year had 4% raises. Mr. Gross said not only did individuals get 4% raises but because of step increases, a number of salaries are up 10%. Mr. Gross also said that future contract negotiations are going to be critical but the current contracts that began in 2018 are impacting us.

**Res. 108-2021 Resolution Approving the Introduction of the Town of Dover 2021  
Municipal Budget**

	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
<b>Motion</b>					X				
<b>Second</b>				X					
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>									

The Budget was Introduced (Res. 108-2021) was approved 8-0, with Alderman Valencia not voting due to technical issues.

Administrator Bennett provided a report to the Board. He reported that all library employees except the Director and a Recreation Department employee is on furlough. He also reported that our COVID-19 numbers are stable and another 20 residents have been vaccinated.

Senator Bennett also reported that construction on the DPW Interior Renovations are beginning next week and the upcoming cleanups in the Town.

He reported that the Recycling Center hours changed to 8-12 Tuesday/Thursday and 8-2 on Saturday. The move was made as a cost savings move and based on usage. The Administration has also held meetings with the Superintendent of Schools.

The Town is also working on obtaining quotes for milling and paving new surfaces for the basketball courts, and that 200 residents have signed up for soccer. If anyone is interested in helping out, please call Town Hall to volunteer.

Administrator Bennett also spoke about the Community Garden and the Integration Ordinance to have and the development of a new bilingual welcoming kit.

Mayor Blackman wanted everyone to know that the reason the Crescent Field Basketball Courts are closed is safety at the direction of our Insurance and that the Town is working to reopen the courts and parks safely. The Mayor also reported that the 300 Anniversary Committee has already held several meetings.

**2) ITEMS REQUESTED FOR DISCUSSION BY INDIVIDUAL ALDERMEN**

Alderman Correa, Alderwoman Cruz, Alderman Tapia and Alderman Valencia requested that that Board consider Res. 112-2021 supporting NJ Senate Bill No. 2656 and NJ Assembly Bill No. 5301 Requiring Access to Law Enforcement Disciplinary Records as Government Recorder under OPRA. Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt read the Resolution in full. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to adopt the Resolution, second by Alderwoman Wittner. There was some discussion that additional time was needed to review the resolution.

**Res. 112-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>								X	
<b>Yes</b>	X	X			X	X	X		
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>			X	X				X	X

The Resolution was adopted 5-0-4.

Alderman Correa, Alderwoman Cruz, Alderman Tapia and Alderman Valencia requested that that Board consider Res. 113-2021 supporting Ending Mandatory Sentences for Certain Crimes Including Non-Violent Drug Offenses and Opposing Ending Mandatory Sentencing Minimums for Public Officials Charged with Official Misconduct. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to adopt the Resolution, second by Alderwoman Cruz.

**Res. 112-2021**

	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
<b>Motion</b>	X								
<b>Second</b>					X				
<b>Yes</b>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<b>No</b>									
<b>Abstain</b>				X					

The Resolution was adopted 8-0-1.

**M) PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Acting Municipal Clerk Schmidt read the procedures for public comment.

**Speaker:** Jeffrey King

**Address:** 24 Elizabeth Parkway

**Municipality/County:** Eatontown / Monmouth County

Mr. King commented on some agenda items that he liked which he felt were Progressive. He wanted to comment on Ord. 6-2021 and thanked those who voted against it and was not in favor of it being introduced.

**Speaker:** Mateo Hoyos

**Address:** 7 Main St.

**Municipality/County:** Wharton / Morris County

Mr. Hoyos congratulated Sen. Bennett and Chief Delaney on their appointments. He spoke about Ord No. 6-2021 and his support of cannabis. He also read a presentation which he will send to the Town.

**Speaker:** Jake Ephros

**Address:** 322 Webster Ave.

**Municipality/County:** Jersey City / Hudson County

Mr. Ephros was speaking on behalf of the North Jersey Democrats Socialist of America in support of cannabis.

**Speaker:** Chris Velasquez

**Address:** 10 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**Municipality/County:** Dover / Morris County

Mr. Velasquez spoke in support of cannabis.

**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:** Lefty Grimes with Sativa Cross

**Address:** 84 Hanover Road

**Municipality/County:** East Hanover / Morris County

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

**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:** Karol Ruiz

**Address:** 86 S. Morris Street

**Municipality/County:** Dover / Morris County

Ms. Ruiz commented that this was one of her favorite meetings. She thanked everyone from SativaCross and the socialist organizations that attended and commented. She spoke about her long journey for her understanding cannabis use and is a full supporter of the types of businesses that were spoken about. Mr. Ruiz spoke about a resident who was deported because of cannabis use who had been in the United States since 4 years old and is now in Uruguay and that we have lost to many community members to incarceration and deportation. She also spoke about policing and stated that if someone asked her if one day she would support an officer for Chief of Police she would have laughed in their face. She spoke about Chief Delaney and supported the appointment.

**Speaker:** Chris Almada

**Address:** 159 Mt. Hope Ave.

**Municipality/County:** Dover / Morris County

Mr. Almada spoke in support of cannabis.



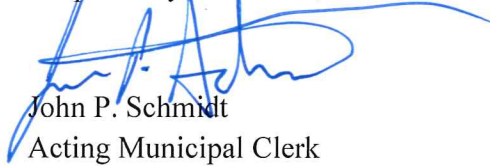
**Speaker:** Diego Aguilar  
**Address:** 57 Shamus Ave  
**Municipality/County:** Dover / Morris County  
Mr. Aguilar spoke in support of cannabis.

Aldерwoman Wittner congratulated the new Police Sergeant who was promoted. She also thanked those who came to share their thoughts and ideas.

Alderman Ballesteros spoke about the successful Easter event.

With no other comments the public portion was closed and Alderman Ballesteros, second by Aldерwoman Rugg moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25p.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