



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING MINTUES
DOVER TOWN HALL
37 N. SUSSEX ST., DOVER, NJ 07801
JANUARY 14, 2020

Mayor Carolyn Blackman called the January 14th Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 7:06 p.m. and read the Sunshine Statement that the meeting is 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 Town Hall and asked those in attendance to take notice of the emergency exits in the room in the event of an emergency.

The Mayor then led those in attendee 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 there was a quorum. Also present at the meeting was Acting Municipal Clerk John P. Schmidt and Town Attorney Timothy P. Downs.

The first item for consideration were the meeting minutes of the October 22, 2019 Caucus & Regular. Alderman Quinones made a motion to not approve and reject the minutes because of an inaccuracy in the minutes since they did not contain the removal of Alderman Valencia. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Wittner.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa					X
Alderman Tapia					X
Alderman Ballesteros					X
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz					X

Alderman Valencia					X
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner			X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The motion passed 3-0-5. Mayor Blackman then appointed Alderman Quinones to write the minutes of the October 22, 2019 meeting.

The Board then considered the January 1, 2020 Reorganization meeting minutes. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, second by Alderman Ballesteros to approve the minutes as presented.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros		X	X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The motion for approval carried 8-0. The Board then considered the January 4, 2020 Ceremonial Reorganization meeting minutes. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Quinones to approve the minutes as presented.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones		X	X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The motion for approval carried 8-0.

The Mayor then announced standing committee appointments of the Governing Body for the year 2020.

PRESENTATIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Acting Clerk Schmidt informed the Governing Body of Budget Deadlines for the year 2020. The Board of Alderman then received notification of Mayoral appointments to the Board of Health.

Following this, the Governing Body heard a presentation about the Crane Hill & Princeton Avenue Pump Station as well as an overview of the Water Utility in the Town of Dover from Bob Kinsey, Water Superintendent and Earl Snyder. The Princeton Ave. project includes 3 wells and is the sole source of water for Dover, Victory Gardens and some of Rockaway, Mine Hill and Randolph. The existing pumps are 25+ years old and are past their useful life. It was explained that this project is to upgrade critical infrastructure. The project includes installation and upgrading of new pumps and controls, fixing existing meters which have been broken for a few years. The Crane Hill project was also explained as critical infrastructure, which supplies water to the High Zone and parts of Randolph. Currently only one pump is operating and a need exists to have two pumps fully operational. The equipment is also past its useful life and finding parts for the current electrical equipment is becoming very difficult. As part of the project, a generator would be added on site in case of the loss of power.

Following the presentation, Water Commission President Andrew DuJack provided a history of the water system in Dover. It started as a private company and was purchased in 1900 and went under under an old act with three Water Commissioners of 1887. He explained that the Commissioners have to come to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for money to do projects. Currently the Water Utility has 7,000 customers in Dover, Randolph, Rockaway Township, Victory Gardens and Wharton. Roughly two-thirds of the customers are in Dover and one-third are outside of Dover. He explained that everything done by the Water Commission is paid for by the ratepayers.

Messrs Kinsey, Snyder and Commission President DuJack took questions from the Governing Body. Alderman Quinones asked if the water gets purified and received an answer. The Mayor and Board thanked the individuals from the Water Commission for coming and speaking tonight to provide them and the public information about the proposed project and about the Water Utility.

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.

Stacey Gregg – 40 Sunrise Drive, Rockaway: Ms. Gregg asked if the meeting was one meeting or two meetings. She also asked if there was a second public comment portion which she did see on the agenda and inquired if answers about resolutions from the last meeting would be answered and made public. It was explained that this was one meeting. Acting Clerk Schmidt informed Ms. Gregg that there will be a second public comment, which was on page 6 of the agenda. Acting Clerk Schmidt also informed Ms. Gregg that all of the approved resolutions from the last meeting are on the Town's website. Ms. Gregg also asked if the reasons for the closed session meeting will be disclosed. Acting Clerk Schmidt stated that when the resolution is considered he will read aloud enough of the resolution so that the public is informed about the reason for the closed session. It was also mentioned that the resolution was also in the agenda packets, provided to the public. It was also mentioned that the way the Town Code is written the Board of Aldermen must act on

resolutions prior to the second comment portion, which is the reason why the public comment portion would be after the closed session.

Dominic Timpani – 2 Elm Street, Dover. Mr. Timpani asked if he could make comments and ask questions about the Water Utility. As it was an agenda item, he was permitted to do so. He asked if there would be any difficulties or anything different with water service with providing water when the new apartment building opens. It was explained that the only issue would be more usage and the infrastructure was put in place and can accommodate the usage once the building opens to occupants. Mr. Timpani also expressed concern about the condition of the Water infrastructure and asked if we waited too long and were we in the 11th hour. Mr. Kinsey stated that the water system is old and that were at the 11th hour. Mr. Timpani commented that he found it curious that it waited so long.

James Janone – 15 Franklin Rd., Victory Gardens. Mr. Janone asked about capital improvements in Victory Gardens about the water utility. He explained that the Municipal Clerk said to contact Dover and he received no answer from the Dover Water Department. Mr. Kinsey explained that the Water Commission has a Water Master Plan and projects are laid out. It was also mentioned that if an issue arises, the Water Utility does address them.

Brian Lozano, Dover. Mr. Lozano asked about the Wage Theft Protection Ordinance. Acting Clerk Schmidt explained the process to approve a municipal ordinance and that following introduction it has to be published at least a week in advance of the meeting. Acting Clerk Schmidt said that the ordinance would be on the agenda for January 28th.

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 the considered the Bills List / Res. 40-2020. A motion was made by Alderman Ballesteros, seconded by Alderwoman Wittner to approve.

Bills List / Res. 40-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Aldermen Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros		X	X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The motion carried 8-0 and the Bills List / Res. 40-2020 was approved.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

The Governing Body then acted upon the consent agenda resolutions.

1. Res. 41-2020 – Providing the Cancellation of Grant Balances
2. Res. 42-2020 – Approving a Transfer Resolution
3. Res. 43-2020 – Cancelation of Reserves
4. Res. 44-2020 – Authorizing the 2020 Municipal Alliance Grant
5. Res. 45-2020 – Termination of the contract of Insurance Management and Consulting with IMAC Insurance Agency, LLC
6. Res. 46-2020 – Authorizing a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500 with Tom DeMayo of O’Conner & Davies, LLP for IT Consulting Services
7. Res. 47-2020 – Appointment of Special OPRA Attorney Walter M. Luers, Esq., of the Law Offices of Walter M. Luers for a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.
8. Res. 48-2020 – Appointment of Water Commissioner
9. Res. 49-2020 – Appointment of Members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
10. Res. 50-2020 – Approving Raffle License for the Dover Band Boosters
11. Res. 51-2020 – Appointment of Special Tax Counsel Seth I. Davenport, Esq. of the Law Offices of Seth I. Davenport for a temporary contract not to exceed \$17,500.

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

Resolutions 41-2020 to 51-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Aldermen Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros		X	X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

Resolutions 41-2020 to 51-2020 passed by a vote of 8-0.

The Governing Body then acted upon the non-consent agenda resolutions. A motion to adopt Res. 52-2020 – Authorizing the Award of a Sealed Bid Contract to Pact Two, LLC for the Crane Hill and Princeton Ave. Pump Station in the amount of \$2,075,000.00 was made by Alderman Correa, seconded by Alderwoman Wittner.

Res. 52-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa	X		X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		

Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner		X	X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The resolution passed 8-0.

The Governing Body then considered resolution Res. 53-2020 – Authorizing a Closed Session of the Governing Body to last for approximately 30 minutes for the following reasons: Tax Litigation Settlement Regarding Block 803, Lot 2 for the years 2011-2018; Tax Appeal Litigation Settlement Regarding Block 1307, Lot 2; Notice of Claims of Potential Litigation of former employees of the Police Department; and an Order to Show Cause filed about the bid on the new town hall. A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Quinones.

Res. 53-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones		X	X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The resolution was approved 8-0 at 7:50p.m.

At 8:20p.m. Acting Clerk Schmidt announced that the Board will be roughly another 10-12 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 8:36p.m., at which time the Governing Body considered Res. 54-2020 – Authorizing Tax Settlement for Block 803, Lot 2 & Block 1307, Lot 2. A motion was made to approve the settlement by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Ballesteros.

Res. 54-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros	X		X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		

Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones			X		
Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

The Board then considered two ordinances for introduction. The first was Ord. 04-2020 – Accepting Dedication of Property Known as Block 1201 Lot 6.03. A motion was made by Alderman Correa to introduce, seconded by Alderman Quinones. Alderman Ballesteros made a point of order and asked if the ordinance had to be read in full. Acting Clerk Schmidt said he would defer to the Attorney but stated that the ordinance is for introduction and can be read by title only. Attorney Downs stated that what Acting Clerk Schmidt said was correct.

Ordinance 04-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa	X		X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones		X	X		
Alderwoman Wittner			X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

Ordinance 04-2020 was introduced 8-0.

The Board then considered Ord. 05-2020 – Amending the Town Code Chapter 57 (Police Department) to add Article I (Organization and Membership) and Article V (Table of Organization). A motion was made by Alderwoman Wittner to introduce, seconded by Alderman Quinones.

Ordinance 05-2020

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain
Alderman Correa			X		
Alderman Tapia			X		
Alderman Ballesteros			X		
Alderwoman Rugg					
Alderwoman Cruz			X		
Alderman Valencia			X		
Alderman Quinones		X	X		

Alderwoman Wittner	X		X		
Mayor Blackman			X		

Ordinance 05-2020 was introduced 8-0.

UNFINISHED OR NEW BUISNESS / ALDERMEN COMMENTS

The Mayor asked the Acting Clerk to explain how the role is conducted. Acting Clerk Schmidt provided the reasoning of the structure of the roll call and explained that it goes from the most Junior Aldermember to the most senior Aldermember, which is the Mayor as the alderman-at-large.

Mayor Blackman opened the floor up to comments from Aldermen.

Alderman Correa commended the Mayor’s administration and professional for their hard work. He recognized that it has been eight days and many people have been working long hours, late into the day fixing a lot of situations and priorities in the Town of Dover.

Mayor Blackman said that it has been a very busy eight days and that there was a lot of unfinished business and new business. She explained that the Mayor’s job is a part time but since January 2nd it has been a full time job from 8am to 4pm and weekends. She recognized some things may not be happening as fast as people would like but that decisions are being made carefully so it is done correctly the first time to avoid having to go back and redo things. She asked for patience and understanding. She thanked the Board of Aldermen for their support and also thanked the employees, who have been wonderful and are dedicated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

T.C. McCourt – 32 Davis Ave., Dover. Mr. McCourt thanked the Acting Clerk for responding to his email. He asked questions concerning the appointment of the Acting Clerk and moving the position to part time. Mayor Blackman explained that the administration and the Governing Body wanted time to look at things and that the part time position was a pilot program. Mr. McCourt also had other questions about the appointment. He then asked about the appointment of the Deputy Administrator.

Noreen Staples – Brookside, NJ. Ms. Staples asked about the timing of when the Town would hire an administrator instead of a Deputy. She also had questions about the Clerk’s position/office.

Jamie Rodgerson – 67 Bassett Highway, Dover, NJ. Mr. Rodgerson spoke about prostitution houses and that Dover was a hot spot for human trafficking. He mentioned the addresses of a number of properties.

Antonio Acosta – 130 Madison St., Dover, NJ. Mr. Acosta congratulated the Mayor and new Board and wished them success. He also spoke about redevelopment on Bassett Highway. He also spoke about holding landlords accountable.

Dominic Timpani – 2 Elm Street, Dover. Mr. Timpani stated that the comments about prostitution were strong accusations and would be best handled by law enforcement, not the the governing body.

He commented that the Board was doing a great job and said that the Mayor and Board would always have haters, but asked them to keep up the good work.

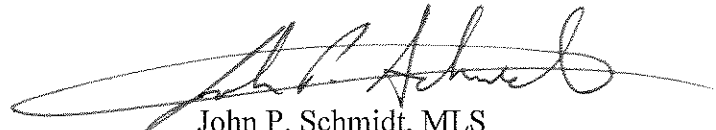
Stacey Gregg – 40 Sunrise Drive, Rockaway: Ms. Gregg said that she is not stopping with coming to the meetings. She said it was the actions of the past Mayor that invited her here and she is glad he is gone. She Talked about women’s issues, nepotism and the former attorney of the Town.

Seeing that no one else wished to address the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Blackman then spoke about the earthquakes in Puerto Rico and said that information will be posted on the Town’s website about items needed and ways to help those impacted by the earthquakes that was being set up an organization in Town. Aldermen Quinones thanked Rey for his involvement. The Mayor also mentioned that Rey is an employee has been a big help and thanked him. Alderman Quinones explained some of the things needed and asked Angel Cordero and Emily Cordero to come up to explain what the non-profit “We Are One Dover” organization was doing to help.

Following comments and questions regarding how to provide help to those in Puerto Rico, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Alderwoman Wittner, seconded by Alderman Quinones. On voice vote, 8-0 (Aldermembers Correa, Tapia, Ballesteros, Cruz, Valencia, Quinones, Wittner and Mayor Blackman in favor) the meeting was adjourned at 9:13p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Schmidt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

John P. Schmidt, MLS
Acting Municipal Clerk