

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
GOVERNING BODY MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT SENIOR CENTER  
FEBRUARY 4, 2020  
6:30 PM**

**Flag Salute, Moment of Silence**

**Sunshine Law:** The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings are posted at Borough Hall, was sent to *The Record* and the *Ridgewood News*, posted on the Borough website and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

**Roll Call:**

Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-present  
Mayor Andrew LaBruno-present

The Mayor thanked the Bergen County Prosecutor's office, the New Milford, Cresskill and Haworth Police Departments who assisted us with mutual aid this past Monday so that the Dumont Police Department members could go to Sgt. Flaherty's services.

Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Manna  
Second: Councilman Englese  
All in favor.

**Work Session:**

Budget Process-Councilwoman Stewart stated that they have started working on the budget. The Department Heads are being interviewed and asked what they need and when they need it. The CFO has been at these meetings. When a number is reached, they will go back and weed out projects. She complimented the Fire Department and DPW for being extremely reasonable in what they asked for. Councilman Manna explained that the budget process actually starts the latter part of the previous year when spending is curtailed.

Mayor LaBruno introduced our new CFO, Mr. Ibbasi, who said he treats the Borough's money frugally but expeditiously.

Dumpsters-Councilman Chae stated that the building department alerted him to some issues. There is no ordinance stating time limits. One residence has had a dumpster for over four years. There is a concern with rodents.

Site Surveys-Councilman Chae said there is a concern that site surveys are over three years old and pools, driveways, etc. are not shown on these surveys. Having updated surveys will enable the building department to discern setbacks and zoning. Mr. Leibman said he has spoken to Mr. Renaud often recently on issues like that. He is there part-time but it probably takes a full-time person to straighten things out. There are 25+ years' permits to be closed out.

**Review of Consent Agenda Items:** All items with an asterisk are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a Council member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for roll call vote in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**#20-72** Authorization of 2019 Budget Account Transfers \*

**#20-73** Moratorium on Improper Conversion of One-Family Structures to Two-Family \*

**#20-74** Internet Usage, Communications/Social Media and Cell Phone Policy \*

**#20-75** CDL Drug and Alcohol Policy \*

Councilwoman Stewart said that they have received summary reports for Resolutions #74 and #75. Can they be put them on the website? Ms. Connelly said they would be put on the website tomorrow.

Councilman Manna explained that many properties are illegal two-families. This is a good first step in clearing up these approximately 143 dwellings, which were not permitted. Councilman Chae said the building department is being pretty aggressive in trying to rectify this situation because we are potentially losing a great deal of tax revenue. Two-families pay higher taxes. Mayor LaBruno stated that letters will go out to homes we have identified, post it on the website and in the Record. The moratorium deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>. We should also send something to real estate companies.

Motion to open to the public on consent agenda items: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Judy Parker, 55 Susan Drive, Closter, questioned Resolution #73, asking if realtors will get a list of the 143 homes. Mr. Leibman suggested that the notices should be sent to the address of the homeowner, not the address noted. He doesn't think it is appropriate to give the 143 addresses to anyone.

2. Lynne Vietri, 41 Wilkens, welcomed the CFO. She questioned #72. Mr. Abbasi explained that money can be transferred the last two months of the year and the first three months of the succeeding year by statute. If an account has a shortfall and another account has a surplus you can move it back and forth.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

Roll call vote: Councilmembers Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

**ORDINANCE**

*Second Reading*

**#1571** Bond Ordinance appropriating \$399,000 for Improvements to Delong Avenue in the Borough of Dumont.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo  
All in favor.

Councilman Manna explained that we received clearance from DOT so this provides us with the ability to go out to bid. Mr. Leibman said that when the project is awarded, the resolution should explicitly say that the contract is contingent upon the DOT issues a concurrence of the award.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna  
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo  
All in favor.

1. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, questioned whether the two corners on Delong belong to Dumont. The answer was yes.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo  
Second: Councilman Manna  
All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance #1571 on second reading: Councilman Manna  
Second: Councilman Chae

Roll call vote: Councilmembers Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Englese  
Second: Councilman Chae  
All in favor.

1. James Kelly, 70 Beacon Street, said he is working on his 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science project. His project was to choose a topic that is important to him, research it and try to effect change. The topic he picked was protecting the outdoors from development. He said he loves the outdoors, nature and camping. Down the street they are planning to cut down trees for the development. By cutting trees down he is worried about animals. He would like laws enacted to help stop development.

Councilwoman Stewart commended James for being able to speak in front of a lot of people. She also shares his love of the environment, trees and animals. The Mayor applauded James for completing a project on such a complex issue. He added that there is a lawsuit involved with the development near James' house. Many towns throughout the State of New Jersey have been begging our State legislators for guidance on affordable housing issues, which have been forcing towns to implement overlay zones and builders' remedy lawsuits. We rely on our Joint Land Use Board for guidance and our Shade Tree Commission, which fights for our trees.

2. Mary Normoyle, 106 Randolph Avenue, asked the Mayor if he is still maintains there were no changes in the By-laws. Who asked Sue to send out an email? Mayor LaBruno said the By-laws should be voted upon every year. He had Sue look back to 2015 and the By-laws were on the Reorganization meeting. Changes were made in 2018. As far as he knows, there were no changes in the 2020 By-laws. She asked if the Administrator is filling up at the DPW in addition. The Mayor responded that it's not part of his contract. She asked about the radio bid and Cumming's fees. The Mayor replied that we will be having a presentation by the professionals at the next meeting and they can answer then. Ms. Normoyle asked why we don't have reports on the Ambulance Corps? Councilwoman Rossillo answered that she called and did not receive a report. Ms. Normoyle asked at what point Mr. Leibman would recuse himself if there

are developers he has dealt with in the past. Mayor LaBruno reminded the public that this is a comment period and he will not be answering that question.

3. Delyon, 67 Beacon Street, pointed out that Mr. Tully is in the general Assembly for District #38. Assembly session are in session Monday and Thursday in addition to other days to vote-approximately forty days. He looked into the course for Certified Managers and an individual must attend the program one day a week for ten months. According to the contract Mr. Tully receives a raise based on other executives. Who are they? He was disappointed that his email OPRA was denied. He had questions about the radio bids.

4. Karen Valido is sad that Maryanne Russini wasn't reappointed to the Beautification Committee. She said that her appointment was for one year, whereas her replacement is listed on the website for two years. The Mayor said Ms. Russini did not submit her application in time. She is welcome to volunteer.

5. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked the percentage of construction costs for the PILOT. Mr. Leibman said he thinks it is 2%.

6. John Sansone, Beacon Street, spoke of Cumming's payments being more than expected. He said hopefully there would be more in the budget for the Beautification Committee.

7. Marianne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked how much we are paying Mr. Porro. She asked if all employees have an opportunity to take courses and then have to stay a year. The answer was yes. Ms. Russini asked what Sustainable Communities does? Mr. Abbasi replied it is a consortium of certified Municipal Finance Officers, certified Tax Collectors and QPA's who assist the tax and finance departments. They assist by doing bank account reconciliations, whereas Mr. Abbasi is there for daily operations. Ms. Russini googled their address and feels we have their wrong address-372 as opposed to 374.

Councilwoman Stewart replied that they haven't complained about not getting their checks.

8. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, is concerned about the By-laws. The 2020 By-laws have comments following adjournment.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to enter closed session to discuss:

Potential Litigation-Asplint

Contract Negotiations

Motion: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

Roll call vote: Councilmembers Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Motion to go back into public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna  
All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm  
Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk