

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2020
6:30 PM**

Administrator Tully announced that he is hosting this electronic meeting of the Governing Body from Borough Hall, 80 W. Madison Avenue, Dumont.

Mayor LaBruno conducted the Flag Salute and a Moment of Silence for all those affected by COVID-19.

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 time, date and location of this public meeting of the Governing Body by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b) on the Borough website, Borough Hall and Facebook.

Roll Call:

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

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Council Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno announced that, along with County Executive Tedesco, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Borough Council and he, the repaving of Washington and New Milford Avenues is beginning now. Overnight parking will be extended to November 1st.

Councilwoman Stewart interjected that this project has been in the works for over a year.

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

#20-192 Preetam Karki-Approval of Veteran Tax Exemption *

#20-193 Richard Conboy-Approval as a Probationary Firefighter *

#20-194 Award of Bid for the Police Department Ceiling-\$62,400.00*

#20-195 Approval of Coin Machine Permits *

#20-196 John Pampaloni-Reappointment as Wastewater Consultant *

#20-197 T&M Associates-Authorization of Design and Construction Administration for Road Improvements to Quackenbush Avenue and Lafayette Avenue; Additional Preliminary Roadway Investigation and Estimating of Virginia, Bedford, Seminole and Chestnut Avenues-\$39,500 *

Councilman Manna asked the timeframe for the Police Department ceiling in Resolution #194. RSC Architect Jeff Schlecht responded that we have eight weeks for completion.

Councilwoman Stewart spoke of Resolution #197. Money from CDBG will be used for Quackenbush Avenue.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked about the Police Department ceiling-what type of ceiling did the architect spec? Did Bennett already install the ceiling? If not, are we getting a credit? He asked what towns the architect used the original ceiling spec in. Were the ceilings approved by the DOC at the time. He feels the architects should be held responsible.

2. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, noted that Resolution #197 was added to the agenda late. When will this report be completed? We can't afford to do all these things. You can put off doing roads until you pay off your other debts.

Motion to close to the public? Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Architect Jeff Schlecht explained that the ceiling we are planning on installing is a Gordon Security Ceiling. It is not the original ceiling specified. The contractor had suggested an alternate, which the architects went down to DOC and received written approval from them. There will be a credit from Bennett. The standards the DOC has had in place for many years-it is either concrete or plated steel. It is not conventional to today's construction. The DOC has revisited their standards and approval process and pay much more attention to the materials of the ceilings. There are only two holding cells in the Dumont Police Department. There are very few contractors that can make a ceiling that comply with the DOC. The various ceiling vendors commented on the unusual nature of the criteria that they are trying to adhere to. The ceiling we are going with is a Gordon Security ceiling with two layers of 12" steel, which has been approved by the DOC.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda? Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

ORDINANCE

Second Reading

Ordinance #1580

Ordinance Supplementing and Amending Chapter 350 of the Dumont Borough Code-Signage

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

John Szabo explained some of the major changes in the sign ordinance. Mr. Szabo tried to make the ordinance business-friendly and modernized. He explained some of the changes.

Mayor LaBruno said it will be important to communication with the Building Department and new businesses. Councilman Manna asked if existing businesses would be grandfathered. Mr. Szabo explained that they have a responsibility to maintain the existing signs. The new business would have to comply with the new sign ordinance.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked the requirements of stores with signs hanging all over their windows. Mr. Szabo said it's more a matter of enforcement.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

Mayor LaBruno announced that the next Council meeting has been moved from October 20th to October 27th

Motion to open to the public for General Comment: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, questioned CFO Abbasi's statement regarding FEMA's reimbursement of PPE expenses deadline. The CFO had stated that it takes years sometimes to be reimbursed. How much have we spent so far and has paperwork been submitted? Have we received money back yet? How much do the thermo-meters cost, how many were purchased and where are they? What is the status of Garden Homes rentals? Ms. Russini repeated her statement of the last meeting that she had contacted DEP and they said no money had been distributed to the town and wouldn't be until the Asplint illegal lease was over. She said this contradicts what Councilwoman Stewart said at the 2/20 meeting that Dumont had received a letter dated 1/30, which said we were getting money, so she wanted to end the talk of the town not getting any money. Ms. Russini will be submitting an OPRA. She went on to say that any member of the Mayor and Council putting a sign for a Board of Education candidate on their lawn is campaigning; even if you move the sign from one area on your property to another. You keep saying we should go to a Board of Education meeting to complain about the taxes. She wonders if they aren't trying to get their people on the Board to push their agenda. Politics doesn't belong near the Board of Education.

2. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, said he had submitted an OPRA requesting communications between the professionals, town and DOC, which was denied for several reasons. He asked if the Borough attorney could advise him how to better word it. Are

the paying for Asplint's electricity and Port-O-John? He asked about the status of the audit. He didn't see the advertisement for tonight's meeting. He told said he never gets answers.

3. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked if the Asplint fencing will be a monthly charge. He saw T&M was paid for a plan for Gordon Avenue. Does that mean we are going forward with this project? What is the story with contamination issues? He feels we don't need to spend money on this project. We should put money into road improvements. What is the breakdown on soil removal in the change order? How much was contaminated? Were there any underground storage tanks on Quackenbush? What was spec'd originally for police department ceiling. Why doesn't Mr. Tully stream the Council meetings and put it on the website?

4. Michael Sullivan, Andover Street, asked if we franchise Verizon and Optimum. His phones aren't working.

Motion to close to public? Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

In response to questions from tonight's meeting:

Mr. Tully stated that we are doing our CARES application. The thermal scanners cost \$17,800, which is reimbursable. CFO Abbasi explained that Millennium is our go-between with FEMA. They have employees who have worked with FEMA in the past so we should be reimbursed quickly. If not, we would be reimbursed more from CARES. Right now, we have expended approximately \$55,000 on COVID supplies. We are basically ready to submit the first portion through Millennium for CARES reimbursement. The County deadline is December 30th; FEMA has a rolling deadline. FEMA will not reimburse for PPE after mid-September. The audit is usually due by June 30th but due to COVID, the State extended it to September 30th. It was provided to the Borough on time. The Governing Body is currently reviewing it and will most likely be on the next agenda. Mr. Leibman said the Borough is not paying for utilities or Port-O-John for Asplint. He's pretty sure the fencing was a one-time fee. Mr. Schlecht said the original ceiling design submitted to the DOC had two layers of 5/8" abuse-resistant sheetrock with welded wire mesh sandwiched in between. It would have been more cost-effective than the ceiling the DOC is now accepting.

Mr. Tully received an email from Mr. Norbut, Borough Engineer, after the last meeting, which said that he had spoken to Cecile Murphy from Green Acres and she confirmed that Dumont had no open projects and Green Acres is not withholding funds from the Borough. Councilwoman Stewart stated that the letter referred to earlier stated that DEP was giving us grant money for Gina's Field. Therefore, it was apparent they were not holding funds from the Borough.

Mr. Tully said that any questions, like the Garden Homes questions. that weren't answered tonight, will be addressed at the next meeting.

Mayor LaBruno commented that the Mayor and Council are private citizens and it is their first amendment right to support any person that on a ballot. If you are on a ballot you are an elected official. For a resident to comment that one of the lawn signs was moved is very concerning. He'll be reviewing tonight's tape with the Acting Chief, knowing that people are watching the Governing Body's homes. Councilman Manna interjected that it is totally disrespectful to even consider breaking first amendment rights

by someone making a comment like that. There were comments by Council members defending the right of certain people attending their children's graduation. Councilman Manna clarified that the Gordon Avenue project was recommended by Boswell and the County. Andover Avenue is being used as a cut-through. Once Garden Homes is rented out there will be even more traffic and more issues. Studies conducted by Landmark were suspect.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Manna
Second: Councilman Gorman
All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC
Municipal Clerk