

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 27, 2021  
6:30 PM**

Deputy Clerk Siek opened the meeting of the Dumont Mayor & Council and announced that we continue to conduct our meetings by electronic means. She is hosting this meeting from Dumont Borough Hall located at 50 Washington Avenue.

Flag Salute led by Mayor LaBruno; 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 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). Notice was sent to the Record and the Ridgewood News, posted on the Borough website, Borough Hall and Facebook.

**Roll Call:**

Council members Chae, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-present  
Councilman Englese-absent  
Mayor Andrew LaBruno-present

Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Chae  
Second: Councilman Harvilla  
All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the February 23, 2021 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Chae  
Second: Councilman Harvilla  
Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes  
Motion to approve the March 23, 2021 Public Meeting minute: Councilman Chae  
Second: Councilman Harvilla  
Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes  
Motion to approve the April 13, 2021 Executive Meeting: Councilman Chae  
Second: Councilman Harvilla  
Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

No report

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Councilman Chae

No report

- Councilman Gorman

*Shade Tree Commission*

Congratulations to the Commission for their Arbor Day celebration. The Councilman presented the Award of Merit to Kathleen Sheridan's family posthumously. He thanked the Scouts and president of the Commission, Ray Slaman, for a great event.

- Councilman Harvilla

#### *Library*

The Board of Trustees meeting was held March 24, 2021. They will be moving forward with their search for a Director. They will also be reviewing reopening to the public. During the pandemic the Library has offered curbside service. The Library had submitted improvements suggested. The first one was for furniture and technology. The second was for capital improvements including HVAC in the old auditorium, siding repairs, carpeting, ADA compliance for the restrooms and walls painted in certain areas. They are currently working on a grant with Millennium Strategies. The next meeting will be April 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Councilwoman Rossillo

#### *Fire Department*

In January they responded to 24 calls, in February 38 and in March 36. The Councilwoman expressed her appreciation because they answered a call at her house and they were amazing in taking care of an emergency situation.

#### *Ambulance Corps*

In January there were 91 calls, in February there were 100 calls, in March there were 94 calls and in April there were 70 calls. The Councilwoman thanked the Police Department and Ambulance Corps for their help with a horrific event at her home. They were knowledgeable and calming during a very upsetting situation.

#### *Board of Education*

At the last meeting they decided on a replacement for Superintendent Triggiano, who is retiring.

They announced that Dr. Poidomani will be hired to take his place. The Councilwoman said that she will be a phenomenal asset to the school district.

- Councilwoman Stewart

She added her congratulations to Dr. Poidomani.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Leibman said he has not sued anyone, nor has anyone sued us since our last meeting. He requested that Resolution #141 be removed. The agreement is lengthy and he noticed there are a few items he would like to go over with the company.

### **MUNICIPAL CLERK**

Ms. Connelly said that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve Dumont's past and present Mayors, Councilmembers and residents for the past sixteen years and appreciates the lasting friendships she has made. She will miss the interactions with her co-workers and residents but is looking forward to retiring. She feels she is leaving Dumont in good hands with Jeanine taking over her position and thanked all who have supported her over the years.

Mayor LaBruno thanked Sue for her years of service. She has much knowledge and has been an asset to him and the council members. He added that it was great to have her on their team and they wish her the best on her retirement. Congratulations!

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tully added his thanks to Sue and congratulated her on her retirement. He thanked her for all her help and guidance during his first year as administrator and wishes her the very best in her retirement.

We will be pulling Resolution #21-141 for temporary DPW personnel. The Borough is exploring this option over our traditional seasonal help. We received quotes this week and once Mr. Leibman reviews the agreement completely, the resolution will be placed on the agenda again.

Mr. Tully spoke to Mr. Como about the Memorial Day parade. We will not be having a parade this year due to COVID-19. However, we are working on an appropriate Memorial Day ceremony, working with our high school band. Recreation is going well. Registration for summer recreation will be moving forward. Our parking lot should be completed within two weeks weather permitting. If the capital bond ordinance is approved, he will speak to our engineers to go over the projects we have in mind for summer and fall.

CFO Abbasi wished to congratulate Municipal Clerk Sue Connelly and also Jeanine Siek, who will be taking over for her. He remarked that he and Sue have known each other since he was a Municipal Clerk in 2015. He hopes to be speaking with her in the future as she enjoys her retirement.

### **General Order of Business**

#### **#21-132 Introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget**

CFO Abbasi explained that the process began in by meeting with department heads in December. They submit their requests to Mr. Abbasi and Mr. Tully, who review them with the Council Finance Committee. They fine-tune them with the auditor and Finance Committee and the finished product is what is being introduced. This budget includes a trifecta of past obligations coming due, which includes increases in the State pension bills for the Police Retirement System and Public Employees retirement system. This is across the State of New Jersey. The second part is the debt service payment; the third part is the increase in the garbage contract. The budget expends \$26,045,165. The budget is introduced tonight, the public will have a minimum of 28 days to review it on the website. The public hearing will be on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Until the Borough receives approval from the State that their examination is complete, we may not necessarily adopt the budget on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to pass the introduction of the 2021 budget: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

**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**

**#21-133** Matthew O'Brien-Accept Application to the Dumont Fire Patrol \*

**#21-134** Resolution Allowing Lights at Twin Boro Field to stay on until 10:30PM \*

**#21-135** Bills List \*

- #21-136 Approval of Purchase of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel through Bergen County Co-op \*
- #21-137 Budget EEO Compliance \*
- #21-138 Approval of Donation of Police Department Lockers \*
- #21-139 Approval of Donation of Hand Sanitizers from Daniel Ko of Codi n Codi Inc. \*
- #21-140 Approval of Waiving Garage Sale Fees \*
- #21-141 Authorization of Agreement for Temporary DPW Personnel \*
- #21-142 Approval for Michael Conner to Perform an Update to the Matthew LaPorte Park \*
- #21-143 Richard Bolan-Accept Resignation as Floodplain Manager \*
- #21-144 Authorization for the Municipal Clerk to Advertise for a Recycling Coordinator \*
- #21-145 Authorization for the Municipal Clerk to Advertise for a Floodplain Manager \*
- #21-146 Authorization for the Municipal Clerk to Advertise for a F/T Construction Code Official/Building Inspector \*

There were no comments from the Council.

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda Only: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, is concerned with the budget. He said there is an increase of \$1,600,000 from last year. There's an increase in bonds and notes. Increases in other towns are flat or low. The taxes are exorbitant and we are spending money we don't necessarily have.

2. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked why the lights are being extended in Resolution # 134. What type of sanitizers are being donated in Resolution #139? Six resolutions were added late. Did the Council have time to review them?

3. Lili Binney asked about the resolution that was pulled and wonders why it's a company to be hired in lieu of summer help. What was the total amount last year? She questioned bills from Remington Vernick, which were not itemized. The bill from Palma Construction for P.D. cells- she thinks that was the reason we were waiting for a C.O. She asked about Boggia's White Beeches bill. This was settled a while ago. Is this another tax appeal? She asked about the bill from Faulborn Plumbing from 2018. Why so late? What is the bill from Judy Parker for? Are we still paying for rentals? CME has billed us for affordable housing administration-what is it for; there are no dates.

4. Mary Marciano, Madison Avenue, would like agendas and resolutions posted two weeks ahead of the meeting.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

## **ORDINANCES**

*Second Reading*

**#1585**

Borough of Dumont, Bergen County, New Jersey,

Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

There was no public comment.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

Motion to adopt on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

### **#1586**

Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements by the Borough of Dumont, appropriating the aggregate amount of \$3,219,000 therefor, including the aggregate amount of \$1,380,728 in Grant funds expected to be received from the State of New Jersey and the County of Bergen and authorizing the issuance of \$3,192,500 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost thereof

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

No discussion from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, said it was good that we got grant money but what is the tax impact? He asks every time a bond ordinance is passed. He said that we are 46-47 million in arrears. He stated that we have to find ways to save money, which would be by cutting programs and reducing services. The garbage is way up. We have to do something about this.

2. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, feels the Mayor still has to answer to constituents. We still don't know how much the new borough hall is costing each taxpayer. This is unacceptable. She said knowing Councilwoman Stewart's intelligence and integrity, she has a hard time believing that she is ok with this. Residents ask questions every month and never receive answers. This is unacceptable. She wished Sue the best in retirement and thanked her for her excellence in service and her personal kindness.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

Motion to adopt on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

*First Reading*

**#1587** Salary Ordinance to Amend, Revise and Supplement Ordinance #1554

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

No discussion from the Council.

Mr. Tully explained that the salary ordinance amendment gives the Borough options in pursuing a full-time Code official and raises the range of salaries to be competitive with nearby towns.

Motion to pass on 1<sup>st</sup> reading: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

Motion to open to the public for General Comments: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, feels we are spending too much money. What is the status of Asplint? Are we paying utilities and a permanent fence? There is a problem with water at new building. The road on Quackenbush is caving in-it's where the 12" drain was put in for Borough Hall. When will this be fixed and who is paying for it? What will the cost be? She said she'll miss Sue and thanked her for being professional with all that goes on in town. Enjoy the family.

2. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, agrees with Mary. He referred to a post by Bill Linder on the FARM'D website and suggested the Council read it. He said Dumont's budget is higher than other towns. He said the Mayor has to give answers. There should be a cap on spending and elimination of some services. The resolutions should be posted when the agendas are posted.

3. Mary Normoyle asked when the parking lot will be finished. How much did the removal of the trailers cost and who removed them? She questioned why the Governing Body has not discussed the marijuana legislation. The Senior Center with tables of food looked amazing but crowded. Is the refrigerator in place and when will we be using Borough Hall for this? Do the DPW Superintendent, Foremen and Police Chief have contracts? She appreciated Councilman Harvilla's interest in the COAH resolution. She is concerned with overdevelopment downtown.

4. Lynne Vietri referred to Ordinance #1587. Is there going to be a full-time inspector? It would be nice if the homeowners would have a quicker response time to get their projects finished. She doesn't understand why we don't have in-person meetings. The website states that Gina's Field is a multi-purpose field to include Dumont's first field dedicated to 10U soccer and flag football and yet last meeting it was stated that no field is dedicated to any sport and they're all-inclusive. She asked about the status of the CSX issue. She doesn't understand why there are revised agendas. Marijuana legislation should be discussed in public to get the residents' input. She questioned an \$80,000 bill paid to T&M for LSRP services but was assigned to a capital improvement ordinance.

5. Lili Binney, State College, Pa, wished Sue the best of luck and thanked her for everything. She said she has never seen so many revisions on agendas and it seems to be increasing. Aren't work sessions when issues are discussed for the residents to hear?

6. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, asked if the cost of the floor in the detention center being

fixed is reimbursable. Are we pursuing the contractor for reimbursement for the Quackenbush Road caving in? He said he remembers there used to be a tax impact number for every house when a bond ordinance was introduced. The Borough Hall was supposed to cost \$12,000,000. There was no discussion to lessen the scope as with this Gina's Field project. Now Twin Boro Field improvements is included. No tax impact is discussed.

7. Bill Brophy, Margaret Court, a former Councilman, called to thank Sue for everything she did for him over the years and congratulated her on a stellar career and wished her all the best in retirement.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

CFO Abbasi stated that a referendum requires tax impact. A bond ordinance authorizes the Borough to borrow funds from the bond market. We use money from a current fund. Funds are only borrowed when our financial advisor recommends that market conditions are favorable. Then the money is paid back. Therefore, the amount cannot be known until we go to the bond market to borrow the necessary funds for the project. The LSRP bill was charged against Ordinance #1519, the municipal building project. The bill for plumbing was dated 12/18/20.

Mayor LaBruno responded to the question about storage at Borough Hall. This building was planned when there was no COVID. That storage space would never withstand the amount of food we need right now. The question about Twin Boro lights-it was a request from Recreation. We passed a resolution last year. In response to the full-time construction official, we have a lot of work in Dumont and would like to provide a quicker timetable for inspections. Therefore, we will find someone who will fill that full-time position. When the Mayor and Councilwoman Stewart started on the Council the cost of the Municipal Building was already up to \$15,000,000. Unfortunately, we took the time to look at other properties as an alternative.

Councilwoman Stewart works at the food pantry almost every day. We do have refrigeration and freezer storage at Borough Hall but it is inadequate. We were using the huts for refrigeration and storage but fortunately sports are getting back and taking back their huts. We are searching for an alternative. Seasonal help in 2020 cost \$90,372. What we are doing this year is fiscally responsible. She stated that her integrity is intact. There are things you can not talk about in public-litigation is one subject. Arrears actually means money overdue. We are not in that situation. When we are compared to New Milford, we have a higher credit rating so we must be doing something right. Another reason for extending the time the lights stay on is to allow for double headers, if needed.

Mayor LaBruno said that when Chief Mike Conner was here there were discussions with the Council regarding marijuana and what zones would and would not be acceptable. Attorney Leibman is preparing a memo pertaining to this. Referring to Asplint, we cannot speak about litigation.

Mr. Tully said that the hand sanitizer was a donation. It was brought to our attention by Councilman Chae, who he thanked. The Borough is looking into an alternative to seasonal help. We're hoping this will be a cost savings. The garbage contract price went up quite a bit. We only received one bid. There is a committee looking into alternatives. Trailer costs should be on our next agenda.

Mr. Leibman stated that just because something is not discussed at an open public meeting, the public should not assume that nothing is happening. We are doing everything we can to save

the taxpayers money through some creative techniques and we are not going to share them at an open public meeting.

Mayor LaBruno again thanked Sue Connelly for her service from the residents and the Council. He said she's been a tremendous asset and wished her the best of luck in her retirement.

Councilman Chae thanked Sue for helping him get acclimated when he first became a Councilman and said she would be sorely missed.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Municipal Clerk