

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2021
6:30 PM**

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

Flag Salute-Councilwoman Rossillo

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, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-present
Mayor Andrew LaBruno-present

Motion to Accept the Agenda as presented: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno turned the meeting over to the Borough Engineer, Bob Klein for the public hearing on Memorial Park Improvement Project.

Bob Klein from RVE gave a summary on the improvements being submitted for Memorial Park, including safety surface and new equipment for three play areas, in addition to what was submitted last year for the bigger play area. It also includes a pathway connecting the play areas to a tentative picnic area that was included in last year's plan. In addition, a proposed amphitheater located close to Charles Street, with walkways to connect all of the features of the park together.

Mayor LaBruno introduced Catherine Kapura, from the Borough's grant writing firm to walk us through the grant receiving process.

Catherine Kapura from Millennium Strategies explained this is for the Bergen County Open Space Grant for Veteran's Memorial Park. The grant provides funding for outdoor active and passive recreational facilities. The grant is a one to one matching grant. The total cost for this project that the Borough is applying for is \$410,000.00, and the total grant request is \$205,000.00. On receipt of the award, the Borough will have two years to complete this project. This is the public hearing portion as part of the grant application process that will be submitted.

Mayor LaBruno stated that the work session will be moved to the next meeting. The Mayor and Council has a memo regarding marijuana dispensaries that needs to be reviewed over the next two weeks.

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

- #21-141 – Authorization of Agreement for DPW Temporary Personnel *
- #21-147 – Authorization to Hire Jonathon Decen Rogers as Dumont Police Officer *
- #21-148 – Authorization to Hire Rashan Maddrey as Dumont Police Officer *
- #21-149 – Accept Resignations from the Fire Department *
- #21-150 – Authorization of Submission for Bergen County Open Space Municipal Park Improvement Grant *
- #21-151 – Authorization of Construction Costs for New Borough Hall and Police Department *
- #21-152 – Amending Resolution 128 Regarding Reimbursement for Pension Buyback Time *

Council President Stewart is excited about the two new Police Department hires and that we are broadening our base. It’s a good message going forward.

Mayor LaBruno stated that our new police officers are historical hires here within the Borough. They are the first Hispanic officer and the first Black officer to be hired by the Borough of Dumont. He is extremely excited because we are a diverse community. The Mayor said that he, along with Councilman Englese, Councilwoman Stewart, Chief McKeary and his team, were all a part of the hiring process.

Motion to open to the public for Comments on the Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, stated that it seems like a fairly simplistic project but asked about public input and comment regarding the public hearing. Borough Administrator Tully clarified that the authorization for permission of the Bergen County Open Space municipal grant is on the consent agenda, so feel free to comment on that during this time. Mr. deLyon commented on how much money is left in Ordinance #1519 and the other ordinances attached to that.
2. John Sansone, Beacon Street, stated that the park definitely needs improvement, but would like to know the size of the amphitheater and if it will affect the trees there. He also inquired about the picnic area.
3. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, would like to see a picture of the plan for Memorial Park, and commented on the old trees and drainage issues. She asked if the items in resolution #151 were new charges and amendments?
4. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked if any of the new hires in resolution #141 will be assigned to help Donna and about the rental space for the food pantry. For resolution #150, she asked about the dollar amount.
5. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, is concerned about the trees in the northwest part of the park, and asked if the governing body has reviewed plans for the project. He would like to see the plans. He also commented about additional work being done at the Borough Hall.

6. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked about the phases of the project. She questioned the amount on the grant resolution. She asked if this is the last time we are authorizing costs on Borough Hall. She commented on the pension buyback.

7. Karen Valido, Overlook Drive, wants to know about pavilion and grills at Memorial Park, which were part of Eagle Scout projects. She understands there needs to be improvements, but these young men put a lot of time and energy into their projects.

Mayor LaBruno responded regarding Resolution #150, stating phase one was already approved through our Bond Ordinance, the basketball courts and larger playground are being done. This resolution is authorizing a grant submission to see what else we can do. An amphitheater is a nice thing to have, if we can receive the grant money. The Borough is following the necessary protocol for the grant submission. In response to Resolution #151, Mayor LaBruno stated these items were budgeted for the last time we bonded.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

Borough Administrator Chris Tully explained that the Borough received \$130,683.00 from Bergen County Open Space in 2020 for Memorial Park phase one, which we applied for in the public hearing of July 2020. Additionally, the Borough was awarded funds in a 2017 grant proposal which will go specifically toward our basketball courts and the awards from 2020 will go towards our park's equipment. There will be a follow up from our engineer working on phase one of that project with the monies already awarded. Administrator Tully stated that hopefully, if we are successful in phase two for next year we can do even more, as Memorial Park is the crown jewel park of this community and is in dire need of an update.

ORDINANCES

Second Reading

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

Motion to waive Formal Reading: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Drive, asked if the Borough is hiring a new Building Inspector, or is the current part-time one taking the position over.

Mayor LaBruno stated that there is an application process, and anyone who is licensed to be a code official in the state can apply for the position.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Motion to open to the public for general comments: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked about status of CSX and recouping the money and the work and paving being done at Borough Hall where trailers were. He questioned whether the White Beeches tax appeal charge on the last bills list was a new or old appeal, and he thinks the Borough Hall should open to public.

2. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, commented that he reviewed twenty-three town budgets in the newspapers over the past few weeks and compared the data to Dumont in three categories for 2021: debt service, increased budget dollars for general budget and balance left of remaining debt. He looked back at the Dumont budgets for the past eight years, and commented on the increase in the budget. He asked Administrator Tully about the public administration certification program.

3. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, commented about the PILOT payments, and inquired about an applicant for next weeks Joint Land Use Board meeting for Gerard's Auto Body. She also asked about contracts for the DPW Superintendent and Foreman, as well as Chief McKeary, and if we have received the CARES Act money and where it will be used. She also wished Lily Binney a Happy Birthday.

4. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, stated that he would have liked to have seen plans and description of the project before it was voted on, and asked if they Governing Body reviewed it prior to voting.

5. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, stated that she does not think adding more apartments is good idea. She would like to know if Donna is receiving help at the food pantry. Regarding the T&M bills she requested, she asked if there's a blanket PO and questioned which accounts the items are being charged to. She also asked where the CARES money was going to be used, and if the meeting information was on the home page.

6. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Drive, commented about the garbage contract and if anyone is investigating options for garbage pick-up. She stated she would love to see everything updated in the parks, but does not think town can keep borrowing and spending. She also commented that she's glad Councilwoman Rossillo's family is okay.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno stated that anything regarding the Joint Land Use Board should be addressed at their meetings.

Council President Stewart stated that for any CARES money received to date and \$1.7 million, we are still waiting for instruction on how to handle that.

Administrator Tully added that we are waiting for instruction from the federal government on how it's best utilized and that's why it's not incorporated in our budget.

CFO Abbasi reviewed the guidelines by the federal Department of Treasury for the CARES Act money, and it did not provide much additional guidance. The guidelines are now with the Division of Local Government Services in Trenton, and they will issue a Local Finance Notice. Hopefully, the municipalities will soon after see the flow of money come in, but half of the \$1.7 million will be this year, and the other half next year.

Council President Stewart stated the DPW has been very supportive of the food pantry. Administrator Tully clarified that the workers from the temp agency would provide help for the DPW, which would allow the DPW workers to help the food pantry on days when it's at its busiest.

CFO Abbasi stated that expenses had been inappropriately charged to accounts in the past. However, the auditors had them reclassify those accounts and the matter has been corrected. For future projects, funds are encumbered on blanket purchase orders.

Closed Session

Municipal Clerk Siek read the resolution to enter Closed Session to discuss:

Personnel Matter – Attorney-client privileged legal advice

Sale of Public Property

Motion to close the meeting to go into closed session: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Following closed session, motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk