

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
6:30 PM**

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 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, The Record and Ridgewood News and Facebook.

Roll Call:

Council members: Gorman, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart, Wrightington – Present;
Harvilla – Absent
Mayor: Andrew LaBruno - Present

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Gorman
All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the July 20, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo;
Second: Councilwoman Stewart; Roll call vote: Council members: Gorman, Rossillo, Russell,
Stewart, Wrightington – yes; Harvilla – absent

Motion to approve the July 20, 2022 Closed Session Meeting minutes: Councilman Russell;
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; Roll call vote: Council members: Gorman, Rossillo, Russell,
Stewart, Wrightington – yes; Harvilla – absent

Motion to approve the August 16, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo;
Second: Councilwoman Wrightington; Roll call vote: Council members: Gorman, Rossillo,
Russell, Stewart, Wrightington – yes; Harvilla – absent

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor LaBruno thanked all of the volunteers, vendors, programs, DPW, Fire Department, Police Department, DVAC, Tony Como and Cliffhanger Productions for making Dumont Day an amazing event. The fireworks were spectacular. He thanked Matt Banta and the Dumont Fire Department for continuing the remembrance ceremony on 9/11, and also thanked the guest speaker and Boy Scouts for presenting the colors and playing Taps.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gorman

The Councilman thanked the DPW, Police Department, EMT's and all of the Borough employees who worked to make Dumont Day a success this year.

- *Recreation*

They had their first meeting since the summer, and he thanked Tony Como and all of the camp counselors for running a fun, safe and successful summer camp.

- *Police*

There were 1,954 calls for service, 97 medical calls and 41 fire calls. There were 171 traffic summonses issued, 25 motor vehicle accident investigations; 28 burglar alarms responded to; 8,496 miles traveled by patrol activities. The Councilman observed a lost child at Dumont Day, and he thanked the members of the Police Department for a job well done in keeping the child calm and safe until they were reunited with their parent.

Councilwoman Rossillo

The Councilwoman thanked everyone who was involved in Dumont Day. There was a phenomenal turnout and it was a beautiful day.

- *Board of Education*

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22nd, which will be a combination meeting including a work session and a regular business meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Councilwoman Stewart

The Councilwoman stated she had no reports, but thanked everyone who contributed to Dumont Day and said the fireworks were spectacular.

Councilman Russell

The Councilman thanked everyone who helped with Dumont Day and it was a great day.

- *Shade Tree Commission*

On September 2nd, he met with the Borough Attorney and two Shade Tree commissioners and went over the ordinance line by line to address the changes. Mr. Leibman sent a follow up email yesterday, and the next step is review by the Ordinance Committee. The next Shade Tree meeting is September 19th in the conference room at Borough Hall.

Councilwoman Wrightington

- *Board of Health & Stigma Free Committee – No reports.*

ENGINEER'S REPORT

John Dunlea, Neglia Engineering Associates stated the projects he is currently working on are the Riverside Cooperative Roadway Paving Project and the Virginia Avenue/Bedford Road milling and paving projects. Bedford Road was substantially completed in advance of the Dumont 5K on September 3rd. The only outstanding item is striping. Virginia Avenue is underway, and they are working on curbing. They are trying to accommodate the residents as best as they can. The concrete work should be done by the end of next week, and they will then mill and pave the road. Mr. Dunlea explained there were two separate bonds, for a total of about \$2 million for both the Virginia/Bedford and Riverside Cooperative projects. There is a little over \$769,000 left over between those two bonds. He has analyzed the cost to add some additional roads under the Riverside Coop, such as Church Court, Rucereto Avenue, Lexington Avenue, Revere Drive and Summit Avenue under the Riverside Cooperative, which would be in the area of \$500,000 to expend some of those monies the Borough has already bonded. The contract for Virginia and Bedford could also be considered for some additional improvements by paving the entrance by the DPW yard and the parking lot by the new splash park.

Councilman Russell asked for clarification that the work on Revere and Summit will only be paving, and not include curb work. Mr. Dunlea confirmed it is strictly paving. If the

Governing Body wishes to do so, this will expend money that has already been bonded. Mr. Dunlea stated the estimates of \$100-\$120 per ton were based on the cost of asphalt and fuel prices at the time. The Borough received very favorable prices, especially through the Riverside Cooperative. It was \$83.43 per ton for asphalt which was the advantage of going through the Coop to get better pricing. The Virginia and Bedford project was about \$95 per ton.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Rafael Corbalan from Chiesa Shahinian and Giantomasi was covering for the Borough Attorney. He reported Ordinance #1610 Care and Control on the Work Session was introduced and is the ordinance for public parks and sets rule for sports and usage. It was submitted to NJDEP for comments. They have responded, and the ordinance is being withdrawn. Mr. Leibman will take their comments into consideration and it will be re-introduced with changes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tully stated the Facebook live sound is not working. Colonial Parkway and Seminole Avenue bids are being awarded tonight, which came in under the projected cost. He thanked everyone involved with Dumont Day, as well as Matt Banta and the first responders for the 9/11 ceremony. Upcoming community events include a fall Rock the Block on October 22nd, the Mayor's Senior Lunch on October 15th at the Dumont Senior Center, the Cultural Affairs Committee has their Latin Night this Friday, the Flu Clinic was earlier today and another Flu Clinic is scheduled at the Dumont Senior Center next Tuesday and the Halloween Festival is October 29th.

Mayor LaBruno asked the Governing Body if they had any further comments on the Care and Control Ordinance before Borough Attorney Leibman gets more information. Councilwoman Stewart felt it's premature to discuss it now. Mr. Tully stated the DEP came out with more guidance. The Borough Attorney needs to go through it and make sure the Borough is abiding by everything with the State, and there will be another first reading. Mr. Tully added that he would like to work with the Borough Engineer and the DPW Committee to move forward on the roads Mr. Dunlea discussed paving with the money that has already been bonded. They will coordinate with the contractors to do more roads and infrastructure in the community, and asked for the Governing Bodies support in working on this shared goal.

The Municipal Clerk read the 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

#22-227 – Bills List *

#22-228 – Authorize Bid Advertisements for Library Barrier-Free Improvement Project *

#22-229 – Accept Resignation from DPW Driver/Laborer - Darius Wynn *

#22-230 – Accept Resignation from Police Dispatcher - Jonathon Byrd *

#22-231 – Approval to Establish a Formal Policy for the Home Depot Credit Account Store Card

*

#22-232 – Award of Bid for FY21 CDBG Colonial Parkway Road Improvement *

#22-233 – Award of Bid for Seminole Avenue Road Improvement *

#22-234 – Emergency Appropriation to Purchase Fire Department Chief Vehicle *

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked about the amounts on Resolution #234, the Dixon Homestead bids and the check for removal of trees at Gina's Field.
2. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked various bills list questions. She questioned if the Borough will be reimbursed for the fire truck that was totaled and about the credit card policy resolution. Ms. Normoyle asked about the website and new key fobs.
3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, commented on the bidding and funding for Colonial Parkway and Seminole Avenue road improvements. She asked various questions on the bills list, the credit card policy and fire truck reimbursement.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilwoman Wrightington; All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno answered residents' questions stating that the tree removal was for one tree and the person who hit the fire truck had no insurance so JIF will cover that. The Borough Administrator explained the Borough is meeting with the Dixon Homestead Library this week to review a timeline. The goal is to have the project completed within the year. The determination regarding the tree at Gina's Field was made by the Arborist and CTE professional. The fire truck will go through the Borough's insurance, and the written policy for the Home Depot credit card policy was a recommendation by the Auditor to capture the process already in place. Colonial Parkway is a CDBG grant and Seminole Avenue will be paid for by the Borough's most recent bond. Thompson and Son payments were for two pay apps for Gina's Field which captures a majority of the project, but there are still punch list items being reviewed by contractor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman; Roll call vote: Council members: Gorman, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart, Wrightington – yes; Harvilla – absent

Mayor LaBruno added a special thanks to all of the volunteers and the Dumont Police Department and Police Reserves who helped out with the Dumont 5K. It was an excellent event with a good turnout. He also thanked the sponsors and runners who came out for the event.

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, commented on the Mayor's political donations.
2. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, commented on a remark made by a Shade Tree member at a prior meeting. Ms. Vietri said Dumont Day was a great success and she loved the bags.

3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, commented on availability of hard copies of ordinances and asked about Zoom meetings. She asked if fire trucks are equipped to go 4 or 5 stories, and if there is a public record of fines given out by property maintenance.
4. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, commented on the downtown being looked at as an area in need of redevelopment. He asked if there were closed session meetings or a committee working on this, and when the planner started working on this. He commented on the Mayor's campaign donations.

Councilwoman Stewart remarked that the Fire Department ladder truck goes up 9 to 10 stories.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno stated his donations have always been open since he first got involved with the Borough. He has a professional fundraiser and a CPA that handles all of his information. He does not control who attends or donates to his events. The Mayor stated he follows the law and the rules, and he would not let a \$2,500 volunteer job dictate what he does in his law enforcement career. He would never do anything illegal, and he hopes this settles anyone's questions about his campaign donations. As for rezoning, nothing is being rezoned. It is being looked at because back in 2015-2017 the Borough was not in the driver seat. They were in the back seat and were sued by a builder and Fair Share Housing. The Borough has to get something done by 2025. The Mayor stated he does not love development or overdevelopment, but they owe them over 100 units for fair share housing. He walked with the group years ago to stop what was going on at DeAngelo's Farms because they weren't doing things the right way. The Governing Body got sued and the Borough spent a lot of money suing our own Board of Education, and it was embarrassing. He does not want to put the Borough in that situation again. Property owners will sue the Borough if they do not work within the legal means, and that is what is happening here. It is being studied, and it does not mean anything is being approved. It will be presented in public for everyone to see. There is a lot of misinformation being shared that the Borough is building. The Borough is not building anything, but wants to be in the driver seat this time. The Borough can work with the property owner and try to make sure it fits Dumont. The Mayor and Council is trying to be proactive instead of reactive. The Mayor has a lot of family in Dumont and cares about the community.

Councilman Gorman added that the Cultural Affairs Committee is having the Latin Dance Night at the Elks. They put a lot of work into it, and this is one of their first big events. He also thanked the Elks for everything they did at Dumont Day.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:


Jeanine E. Siek, RMC, Municipal Clerk