

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
MARCH 7, 2023**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:03 PM

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution for the Closed Session Meeting to discuss:

- Potential Litigation – Municipal Complex

Council President Russell called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

**Flag Salute, Moment of Silence**

**Sunshine Law:** In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, Notification of this Meeting has been sent to our Official Newspapers, posted on the Borough website and Notice posted at Borough Hall and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

**Roll Call:**

Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – Present

Mayor: Andrew LaBruno – Absent

Also in attendance: Borough Administrator Chris Tully, Borough Clerk Jeanine Siek, CFO Issa Abbasi, Borough Attorney Jared Geist

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the February 7, 2023 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to approve the February 7, 2023 Closed Meeting Minutes: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to approve the February 21, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes; Harvilla - abstain

Motion to approve the February 21, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Aponte; Second: Councilman Kelly

Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Councilwoman Aponte

- *Recreation*

The Recreation meeting was held March 1<sup>st</sup>. They are preparing for summer recreation camp and in the process of interviews for Camp Director. All spring programs are ready to go and the participant numbers are high. There is a coach's clinic at 7pm on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall. The next meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

- *Fire Department*

There were 36 calls; 1 structure fire, 1 mutual aid, 1 vehicle fire, 25 fire alarms, 1 carbon monoxide call, 5 gas emergencies, 3 odor and 1 smoke investigation.

The Councilwoman is currently working with the Ambulance Corps to provide monthly reports on their calls.

### Councilman Harvilla

The Councilman stated he had missed quite a few of his committee meetings due to the flu, however he gave a brief update stating the Rent Leveling Board was due to have their first meeting of the year.

### Councilman Kelly

- *Finance*

The Finance Committee has had meetings on Wednesday evenings, and met with a number of Department Heads to review past year expenditures and requests for capital improvements. The next meeting is tomorrow evening.

### Councilman Morrell

- *Police*

There were 1,724 phone calls for service; 101 medical calls, 36 fire calls and 7 commitments. There were 228 traffic summonses issued: 137 for parking and 91 for moving violations; 23 motor vehicle accident investigations; 13 burglar alarms responded to; 4 warrants were served; 7 street or decorative lights reported not functioning; 2 car seats installed; 2 cases regarding animal cruelty; 64 dark house slips issued; 3 total arrests by detectives; 13 domestic violence, 13 firearm and 32 criminal cases investigated. The BP gas station provided the catalytic converter etching free service to 60 residents. They had the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Adopt a Cop program, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades had the LEADs program and plans for the 2023 Junior Police Academy is underway. Interviews for promotions will be this weekend.

### Councilwoman Stewart

- *Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee & Cultural Affairs Committee*

Both committees operated last year without a budget. They are working on some events but nothing specific until the budgets are put together. The Councilwoman is hoping to involve the Library in what they are doing with these groups.

### Councilman Russell

- *DPW Committee*

The Councilman thanked them for the great job they did with the snow last week. They are replacing the bleachers at Memorial Park

- *Ordinance Committee*

The committee is planning on meeting in the next couple of weeks.

- *Shade Tree Commission*

The next meeting is at 7pm on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Peter TenKate from Boswell Engineering said he submitted the application to the Riverside Coop for the street paving and provided the street quantities to Millennium Strategies for the next DOT grant. They have investigated the sewer issues at Borough Hall and provided some preliminary cost estimates for Memorial Park for the Council's consideration.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Geist stated many of his items currently fall under closed session. He is going through the Borough's contracts with professionals and met with Councilman Russell and the Shade Tree Commission, and there is another Affordable Housing Committee meeting tomorrow.

Councilwoman Stewart added that volunteers are needed for the Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee and the Cultural Affairs Committee. Anyone interested should reach out to the Council President or the Borough Clerk.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tully thanked the DPW for their great work keeping the roads safe during the recent snow fall. They are now installing bleachers at Memorial Park. VCS is coming to do in house training for the new attendance software the Borough is using. The Boxcast system has been ordered to allow for livestreaming across different platforms. Mr. Tully will be meeting with DPW Union representatives, the Finance Committee regarding the budget and the Ordinance Committee. The Borough is meeting with Veolia and Boswell to coordinate their lead pipe replacement program with the Borough's road paving program. The Affordable Housing Committee is also meeting with BFJ, the Borough Planner. The Recreation Committee met with DPW to review Memorial Park. The Borough submitted the Local Transportation Project grant for Prospect Avenue and an AARP grant for new bocce courts at the Senior Center.

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 Council member or member of the public. Any item may be removed for further discussion or 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**

- #23-98 – Bills List \*
- #23-99 – Approval of Selzer School PTO On-Premise Merchandise Raffle Application \*
- #23-100 – Approval of Dumont Little League On-Premise Merchandise Raffle Application \*
- #23-101 – Approval of Dumont Little League On-Premise Cash Raffle Application \*
- #23-102 – Reappoint Dave Gluckman Fire Official \*
- #23-103 – Accept Resignations of Ryan Botto and Thomas Pfeiffer from Fire Department \*
- #23-104 – Accept Application from Paul Neville as Probationary Firefighter \*
- #23-105 – Accept Application from Nicholas Sinanian as Probationary Firefighter \*
- #23-106 – Approval of Berkley Place Block Party Request \*
- #23-107 – Endorsement of Vantage Health System CDBG Project \*
- #23-108 – Adopt 2023 Emergency Temporary Appropriations \*
- #23-109 – Authorization of 2022 Budget Account Transfers \*

#23-110 – Award of Quote to Mike Versace Landscaping, LLC for Maintenance of Abandoned and Bank-owned Properties \*

#23-111 – Appointment of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC as Borough Labor Attorney for 2023 \*

#23-112 – Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough’s Risk Manager for 2023 \*

#23-113 – Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Body Worn Cameras \*

#23-114 – Approval of Revision to Police and Courts Council Committee \*

**Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only**

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, asked how the body worn cameras are being funded. Mr. Tully answered it was part of a previous capital bond, as well as a grant.
2. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked about multiple bills and the out of sequence checks on the bills list. The Administrator and CFO provided answers.
3. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, questioned the bleachers, shipping cost of Easter eggs, temporary fencing and why RFQ’s for professionals went out to publish a couple of times. Council members answered that the bleachers are up to state code and the fencing is for the landscaper whose lease is up in September of this year. The Administrator stated the bleachers will continue to be replaced across the community as part of a multi-year plan. Councilman Harvilla said new members of the council requested to go back out for more RFQ’s.

Councilman Kelly commented on a sewer back up on the ground floor of the Municipal building and said the engineer has been out to inspect the issues with the sewer system.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

**Public Comment - General Comments**

Motion to open to the public for General Comments: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
All in favor.

1. Joan Strubel, Golfview Drive, commented on Borough Hall lights being on, residents expanding their driveways due to the overnight parking enforcement and the street paving project. She said there has been flooding recently by the corner of Berkley and Golfview. Councilman Morrell stated the lights are on motion sensors and the Police do check the building at night. The Administrator said the Borough will start notifying residents over the next couple of months regarding overnight parking, and explained the road paving program and how streets were chosen for this year.
2. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, commented on rate increases and the effect on bond costs and the annual debt statement. He stated that he had to install a concrete driveway, but his neighbors did not, and he would like better communication regarding this situation. Mr.

Tully stated that the Construction Official did contact him, and he was requesting information on other individuals' properties.

3. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked about the JLUB publication of minutes. Mr. Geist stated the JLUB is independent and would be able to answer that. She also asked about the website. Mr. Geist responded it is a closed session item. Ms. Russini asked about the phases of Memorial Park. Councilwoman Aponte stated the Council is being very strategic about the phases at Memorial Park and plan on being very fiscally responsible. Ms. Russini suggested that someone should have the bills list available at meetings to answer questions and the Council should sign the purchase orders. Councilman Harvilla stated that everyone on the dais has the bills list ahead of time, and he makes notes about each question asked by a constituent. As Councilman Morrell stated, they will be going back to a process where the Council signs off on purchase orders. Ms. Russini asked if the order of the Council vote is ever changed.
4. Avinash Melkote, Brookfield Road, discussed the results of the study done in quiet zones, initiating a quiet zone with FRA regulations and the safety of materials being transported through Dumont on the tracks. Councilman Harvilla stated that he personally would not be in favor of a quiet zone due to the number of individuals who have lost their lives at the crossings, and does not think it would be in the best interest of public safety. Mr. Geist cautioned the Council about reaching out to CSX due to the pending litigation with them. Councilman Kelly viewed the Facebook page regarding the quiet zone, and stated the study and any changes to the grade crossing would be the responsibility of the Borough and would be a substantial expense. Dumont is a very populated town and some of the grade crossings border the property of the high school, the supermarkets and are heavily crossed by pedestrians and cars. It would be impossible for studies to reflect the number of fatalities that were avoided due to of the sounding of the horn. The Councilman stated he would rather see what's involved in some of the towns to the north before committing any of the Borough's money to a study.
5. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked about the Cummings information she received from Finance. Mr. Abbasi explained the discrepancies in the vendor reports and why it showed two different amounts. She questioned the payment for the Snell lawsuit and asked if there is an accounting for what the Borough owes for law suits. Mr. Geist stated any law suits become public record once the case is settled. Sometimes the Borough makes payment, but sometimes it's covered by insurance. Every case is different. Councilman Harvilla stated when settlements are reached, they are mandated by law. Councilman Kelly commented that the Finance Committee will review any records regarding this with the Finance Department while preparing the budget. Ms. Normoyle asked if AirGov is still the webmaster? Mr. Geist answered that they are.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

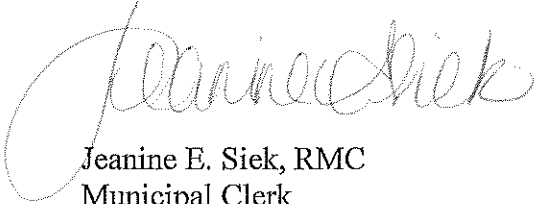
Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

Council President Russell commented that the Borough Clerk distributed a letter for the Governing Body's review regarding a memorial bench that he would like to add to the next meeting agenda for the Council's consideration and approval.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilman Harvilla  
All in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanine E. Siek". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC  
Municipal Clerk