

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
APRIL 18, 2023**

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 - Present

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

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the March 21, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilman Kelly

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

Motion to approve the March 28, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilman Russell

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

Motion to approve the April 4, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Stewart

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

**WORK SESSION**

Memorial Park Improvement Program Open Space Grant – Councilman Kelly requested this matter be discussed and that decisions be made regarding direction of the grant. Councilman Morrell agreed that things need to be done at Memorial Park including addressing the Pavilion and the sinks keep getting destroyed. Councilwoman Aponte stated the handicapped bathroom door in the girls' bathroom at Memorial Park is off its hinges and there is no lock. In the boys' bathroom, one of the sinks and urinals is coming off the wall and the base of the Pavilion is rotting and needs to be replaced. Councilwoman Stewart added that the summer camp program needs a water feature. Councilman Morrell believes the DPW Superintendent has a water feature already made up. Councilwoman Aponte stated there was discussion with the engineer to put a water feature in place of where the sand is. Councilman Stewart assured the Mayor that the

basketball court would not be affected by the water feature. Mayor LaBruno stated funds from the 2023 grant would have come in handy, if we had applied for it. Councilman Kelly stated with budgetary concerns over funding the two grants already awarded, and the projects that needed to be done, there was justification to pause on a new grant application this year. Councilman Harvilla wanted to clarify if all expenditures, as outlined by Boswell, were necessary and doable. Councilwoman Aponte believed the walkways did not need to be redone. Councilman Harvilla inquired about the ADA access improvements. Councilman Kelly stated his opinion would be to financially focus on repairing or improving things in disrepair, rather than adding new features. Councilman Kelly would like to go through the particulars on the Memorial Park restroom renovation but the priorities are the sinks and plumbing, and the Memorial Park Pavilion park bench and pad is not a priority. He is not going in the direction of replacing the sand area with a “spray park.” Regarding compliance of a water feature and the camp program, Councilwoman Aponte stated, whatever the DPW created last year with PVC piping will be repeated. She also stated to save money the DPW could remove the sand, although there may be DEP issues involved. The Councilwoman additionally said, the shingle roof on “Gail’s Place” needs to be repaired and the scope of the repairs of the soccer building roof needs to be looked at and clarified. Regarding Pickleball on Berkley, Councilman Kelly wanted to look into less costly options in renovation but would like to get the facility open, as it is locked now. Councilman Morrell spoke about a way to raise the net on the tennis courts at Memorial Park so they can be used for volleyball. Regarding a process of reviewing these types of grant matters and park improvements, Councilwoman Stewart suggested that the Recreation Council Committee meet and come back to the rest of the Council with their suggestions. Councilman Kelly would like to review the report regarding the needs of Twin Boro done by Neglia to determine if they are a priority. Councilman Morrell will speak to Anthony Schiraldi and determine how much of work can be done by the DPW.

FY 2023 COPS School Violence Prevention Program – Councilman Harvilla stated that on 4/17/23, a letter was received from Congressman Gottheimer’s office regarding the COPS grant and applications are due on 5/10/23. Last year’s awards were mostly given to school districts so if the Borough was interested in applying, the BOE might want to consider taking the lead and partnering with the police department. Councilman Harvilla wanted to know if the Council would agree that this opportunity be forwarded to the BOE. Councilman Morrell thought it was an excellent idea. It is a 25% matching grant and Councilman Morrell would hope that the BOE would pay for it. Councilman Harvilla will forward the grant opportunity to the BOE.

Outdoor Dining – Mayor LaBruno wanted to see where the Council was with regard to outdoor dining as it is almost May, and the local restaurants need guidance. Attorney Geist stated he had spoken to at least two members of the Council and they would want to do hybrid outdoor dining plan on private property but would not want structures in the street. He did not have time to get this into a resolution for the meeting tonight but if there is a consensus, he could get it on for the next meeting. Councilman Harvilla stated any accommodation made for one restaurant should be made for all. Councilman Kelly said when this matter was discussed last amongst the Council, members were going to talk to restaurant owners. Councilman Morrell said he had spoken to the various businesses on Veteran’s Plaza, as well as the owner of the properties. The owner would be agreeable to putting tables along the side of the building but does not want to interfere with parking. It was thought there would only be room for tables with two chairs but Bobby Sherrow

can confirm the table size allowed. Councilman Harvilla would like businesses to have advance notice if the Council was going to change the policy on outdoor dining. It was clarified that the as long as platforms were not being built in the street, there is a consensus amongst the Council that outdoor dining can proceed. Mr. Geist will work on the resolution for the next meeting.

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**

#23-132 – Authorization of 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption - Block 312, Lot 2 \*

#23-133 – Hire Kristian Diore as Summer Camp Director \*

#23-134 – Approval of Harwich Road Block Party \*

#23-135 – Reappointment of Kathleen Molina to Board of Health \*

#23-136 – Approval of Conditions & Contingent Offer to Hire David Ramos as Police Department Dispatcher \*

#23-137 – Approval of St. Mary's Church On-premise Merchandise Raffle Application \*

#23-138 – Approval of St. Mary's Church On-premise 50/50 Cash Raffle Application \*

#23-139 – Salary Increase for Municipal Court Administrator – Glenda Hickey \*

#23-140 – Appoint Kenneth Armellino to Joint Land Use Board – Alternate 3 \*

#23-141 – Employment Agreement for Borough Administrator – *Pulled from Consent Agenda*

Councilman Harvilla requested to **Pull Resolution #23-141** – Employment Agreement for Borough Administrator from the Consent Agenda.

#### **Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only**

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

1. Lynne Vietri, stated, Resolutions 23-140 and 23-141 were not on the website. The Borough Clerk stated all resolutions will be posted after the meeting.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Harvilla  
Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilman Kelly

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

#### **Non-Consent Agenda Items**

##### **Council Comments – Resolution #23-141**

Councilman Harvilla, commented that Resolution 23-141 was not a resolution presented with the advice or consent of the entire council. The Councilman had only seen this resolution for the first time today at 1:00 pm. He stated, not including one or two members of the council in establishing a transition plan is bad business and does not do the constituents justice. Councilwoman Stewart stated she had first seen this resolution this evening but because the resolution took the form of an agreement, but she will not fight to table it. She stated it was

troublesome to have gotten the resolution so late. Mayor LaBruno clarified that the resolution was placed on the agenda by Council President Russell and not by him.

**Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-141** – Employment Agreement for Borough Administrator:  
Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilman Russell  
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell Stewart – yes

## **ORDINANCES**

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Reading***

**#1620** – Calendar Year 2023 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: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

No one from the public wish to be heard.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

Motion to **ADOPT** on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

**Roll Call Vote:** Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – Yes

Mayor LaBruno excused himself at 8:01 pm.

### **Public Comment - General Comments**

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

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

1. Simona Sirbu, stated it is disheartening to see resolutions on the agenda so late and it shows that there is no transparency in the process. She commended the Borough Administrator's job performance and that he was always involved in town activities. Attorney Geist stated there is a legal process that needs to be followed with a resolution like 23-141. He added there were discussions with the Borough Administrator that started before this evening.
2. Lynne Vietri, asked about reimbursement for repairs to Borough Hall and if the Pavilion was an Eagle Scout project. Attorney Geist stated the reimbursement for repairs to Borough Hall continues to be the subject of closed meeting discussions. Councilman Kelly stated the roof of the Pavilion was an Eagle Scout project. Councilman Morrell had spoken to a scout master at a recent event and they would be happy to help.
3. Bruce DeLyon, inquired about who initiated contact with the prosecutor's office regarding the Girls Softball audit. He commended the council of the removal of the Borough Administrator. Attorney Geist responded, upon labor attorney advice, no more information regarding the Girls Softball audit will be provided, other than what has already been provided.
4. Michael Sullivan, commented that a lot of council discussion from the evening should be held in closed session. He questioned the status of the property on the corner of Gordon

Avenue. Councilman Kelly stated the property is not owned or maintained by the Borough. Mr. Sullivan suggested that when the DPW repairs potholes, they should look around to see if there are other potholes in the same area that could be remedied. He specifically mentioned Andover Avenue.

5. Maryanne Russini, asked if there were any updates to the borough website. Attorney Geist replied that the website was an issue being discussed in closed session. Referring to a splash pad, Ms. Russini questioned how many days of recreation camp were cancelled due to weather. Ms. Russini only remembered five restaurants that had outdoor dining and asked which restaurants inquired about outdoor dining.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

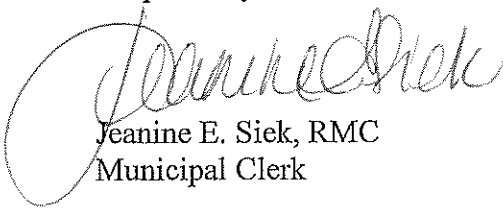
Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell

All in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

