

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
JULY 11, 2023**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

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

- Pending Litigation – Building Department Lawsuite
- Pending Litigation – CSX
- Contractual Matters – Swim Club
- Attorney-Client Privilege – 20 Washington Avenue, Urstadt Biddle
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice regarding Borough Website

Mayor Andrew LaBruno 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 – Present

Councilwoman Stewart – Absent; Mayor Andrew LaBruno - Present

Also in attendance: Municipal Clerk/Interim Borough Administrator Jeanine Siek,  
Borough Attorney Jared Geist

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

**General Order of Business**

**#23-202** – Approval to Hire Police Officer Matthew J. Cocciadiferro

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-202 Approval to Hire Police Officer Matthew J. Cocciadiferro:

Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

**#23-203** – Approval to Hire Police Officer Joseph N. Manginelli

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-203 Approval to Hire Police Officer Joseph N. Manginelli:

Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

**#23-204** – Approval to Hire Police Officer Kyle F. McKeary  
Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-204 Approval to Hire Police Officer Kyle F. McKeary:  
Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
**Roll call vote:** Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;  
Stewart - absent

**#23-205** – Approval to Hire Police Officer Brendan M. Cervantes  
Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-205 Approval to Hire Police Officer Brendan M. Cervantes:  
Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
**Roll call vote:** Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;  
Stewart - absent

Councilman Morrell made comments regarding the process of hiring the new police officers. The Councilman commended the police department on the process and asked Police Chief Joyce to say a few words about each new officer.

Police Chief Joyce thanked the Mayor and Council for acknowledging the need for additional police officers and taking action.

### **Oath of Office Administered to Dumont Police Officers by Mayor Andrew LaBruno**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the May 16, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;  
Stewart – absent

Motion to approve the June 13, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;  
Stewart – absent

Motion to approve the June 13, 2023 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell - yes;  
Stewart – absent

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Councilwoman Aponte

- *Recreation*

The Councilwoman reported Dumont Summer Camp is in progress and has been running very well. It will end on 8/4. Football Cheerleading sign-up for grades 3-8 is in progress and will end on 8/1. There is a good turnout for Dumont Junior Football. Sign-ups are complete. Flag Football for K-8 registration is open and will end on 8/18. Dumont Day will be on 9/9 with rain date of 9/10. The time of Dumont Day is not yet finalized. The next Recreation meeting will be on 9/6 at 7pm.

- *Fire & Ambulance*

There was a total of 3 structure fires, 10 other fires, 13 mutual aid, 11 motor vehicle accidents, 1 vehicle fire, 92 fire alarms, 12 carbon monoxide incidents, 23 natural gas emergencies, 2 smoke reported, 4 odor of burning, 2 appliance malfunction, 1 gas alarm, 2 brush fire, 6 utility power line issues, 2 hazardous material incident, 1 technical rescue and 3 utility water call, 1 good intent and 1 elevator emergency. Total calls for service were 190 and 2,457.5 total man hours  
Councilman Harvilla.

- *Library*

The last meeting was on 6/28. There will be no meetings in July and August and the next meeting will be 9/27. The Summer Reading Program, All Together Now, continues through 8/15. The final three events in the Spring/Summer Concert Series are at 6:30 pm: 7/12 The Watchdog Blues Band; 7/19 Vera and the Force; 8/16 Beauty and the Grease. The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter metrics shows continued growth. Highlights include, juvenile circulation up 20%; audio circulation up 53%; e-book circulation up 52%; overall circulation in all categories up 16%; new registrations up 62%. Year after year library program attendance: ESL attendance up 21%; young adult program attendance up 61%; juvenile program attendance up 97%; adult program attendance up 105%.

- *Cultural Affairs, Inclusivity and Diversity*

The committee did not meet in July. The next meeting will be on 8/10.

- *Board of Education*

The last meeting was on 6/7 followed by the Honiss and Selzer School 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotions on 6/14 and 6/15. Dumont High School graduation was on 6/20. The next meeting of the BOE will be on 7/20.

Councilman Kelly

- *Finance*

The Councilman reported the committee is in the process of reviewing budget status for all departments and categories. The committee is looking forward to working with the new CFO. There have been a few unforeseen expenditures. Copies of the budget presentation were made available.

- *50 Washington Ave./COAH*

The committee has been investigating new construction issues at 50 Washington Ave. Some issues with sewage are being looked at. Further information will be released as it comes in. There have been monthly meetings with the COAH Planner discussing compliance.

Councilman Morrell

- *Police*

Councilman Morrell reported 1,753 calls for service; 113 medical calls, 28 fire calls and 9 commitments. There were 102 traffic summonses issued: 18 for parking and 84 for moving violations; 21 motor vehicle accident investigations; 17 burglar alarms responded to; 5 warrants were served; 1 car seats installed/checked; 0 cases regarding animal cruelty; 8,509 miles traveled for patrol activities; 8 lights and 3 non-functions were identified by PSE&G for repair. There were 15 total arrests by detectives; 6 domestic violence, 2 for shoplifting, 1 for burglary, 1 for receiving stolen property, 1 for controlled substance/heroin, 1 criminal trespass, 3 borough ordinances, 21 domestic violence incidents were investigated, 7 expungements, 18 firearm investigations/carry applications and 53 criminal cases investigated. There was a joint investigation with the BCPO financial crime unit that resulted in 1 2<sup>nd</sup> degree arrest. Also, with the BCPO Special Victim Unit, there was 1 arrest for sexual assault of a minor. Our police

department coordinated with Pink Heels for a special parade of vehicles to pass an 11-year-old resident battling a serious illness. Councilman Morrell noted that it was an incredible event. Storytime with a Cop was held on 6/28 and 6/30 at the Dixon Homestead Library. The next story times will be on 7/26 and 7/28. New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Mobile Unit will be in Dumont on 8/3 at the Borough Hall from 10am to 2pm. Coffee with a Cop took place on 6/15 at the Library. Junior Police Academy was very successful. Members of the Police Department attended Family Night at Lincoln School on 6/2.

#### Councilman Russell

- *Ordinance Committee*

A few ordinances will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- *DPW*

Nothing to report.

- *Shade Tree Commission*

The Shade Tree Library presentation was on 6/26. Councilman Russell thanked all the commissioner for a great production. The next meeting will be on 7/17.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Ten Kate reported he anticipates having a pre-construction meeting for the Riverside Coop Road Program on 7/20. The contractor has agreed to start right after Labor Day, after the pool closes. With regard to the DOT Local Aid Projects, the Borough just applied for Phase III of Prospect Ave. The application was submitted on 6/30. Finally, budgets were submitted for the Open Space grant for municipal park improvements and the engineer will wait for Council's direction.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Geist reported that he continues to work with and follow up with the various committees that he reported on last meeting including upcoming ordinances that will be introduced at the next meeting and also the Affordable Housing Committee report that is being adopted.

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**

#23-206 – Bills List \*

#23-207 – Amend 2023 Municipal Budget - Chapter 159 Clean Communities Grant \*

#23-208 – Approval of Teak Road Block Party \*

#23-209 – Renewal of La Taberna Liquor License \*

#23-210 – Approval of 2 Bedford Road Clean-up by Mike Versace Landscaping (*pulled from Consent*)

#23-211 – Approval of LSRP Twin Boro Field Inspection \*

#23-212 – Support Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Plan Agreement \*

#23-213 – Accept Resignation from Dumont Police Officer McInerney \*

#23-214 – Refund Taxes Due to Veteran Tax-Exempt Status – Block 110, Lot 12 \*

#23-215 – Refund Taxes Due to Veteran Tax-Exempt Status – Block 402, Lot 17 \*

- #23-216 – Authorization of 100% Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 804, Lot 2 \*
- #23-217 – Authorization to Enter into Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System \*
- #23-218 – Authorize Redemption and Disbursement of Tax Sale Certificate \*
- #23-219 – Adopt 2023 Affordable Housing Annual Report \*
- #23-220 – Hire Salvatore Ciotti as Dumont Police Dispatcher \* (*pulled from Consent*)
- #23-221 – Hire John Arlin as Dumont Police Dispatcher \*
- #23-222 – Hire Christopher Rutch as Part-time CFO \*
- #23-223 – Accept Mahir Dave’s Application as Probationary Firefighter \*
- #23-224 – Accept Joseph Russo’s Application as Probationary Firefighter \*
- #23-225 – Accept Jorge Vela’s Application as Probationary Firefighter \*
- #23-226 – Hire Seasonal Positions for 2023 Summer Recreation Camp \*
- #23-227 – Approval to Participate in Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System \*

Mayor LaBruno requested to **Pull Resolution #23-210** – Approval of 2 Bedford Road Clean-up by Mike Versace Landscaping. The Mayor stated correspondence was received from Code Official, Robert Sherrow, indicating that the all work that was necessary for the property was completed and they are just waiting for the dumpster to be removed. As such, there is no reason for Mr. Versace to do the clean-up.

Councilman Harvilla requested to **Pull Resolution #23-220** – Hire Salvatore Ciotti as Dumont Police Dispatcher. Councilman Harvilla indicated he had a conflict of interest, as Mr. Ciotti was one of his Eagle Scouts.

**Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only**

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

1. Lynn Vietri had numerous questions regarding the Bills List. She also questioned why the Borough does not hire a full-time CFO. Attorney Geist reported Mr. Liebman’s charge was for the CSX litigation and that Mr. Liebman wrote his own contract. Mayor LaBruno stated that Dart does all of our IT and security. Interim Borough Administrator and Borough Clerk Jeanine Siek stated there are educational requirements that Clean Communities has to spend grant money on. Councilman Kelly stated when the splash pad was opened serviced in the spring, it was discovered that the nozzles and some tools were missing and had to be replaced. An insurance claim has been submitted and there will be an investigation as to what happened. Councilman Kelly also stated the charge for the automatic doors was an extra charge and was not built into the building plans and will be billed against the bond for Borough Hall.
2. Maryanne Russini had questions regarding certain charges on the bills list, including a charge for field maintenance, attorney and engineer charges.

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

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Kelly  
 Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

**Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-220** – Hire Salvatore Ciotti as Dumont Police Dispatcher:  
Councilman Harvilla; Second: Councilman Morell  
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;  
Stewart – absent; Harvilla – abstain

**Motion to Table Resolution #23-210** – Approval of 2 Bedford Road Clean-up by Mike Versace  
Landscaping: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilman Russell  
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;  
Stewart - absent

**Public Comment - General Comments**

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

1. Maryanne Russini questioned why the JLUB is not streaming their meetings. Councilman Russell indicated that the matter was discussed at one of the JLUB meeting but he will follow up. Ms. Russini commented on the Mayor's and Borough Administrator's report.

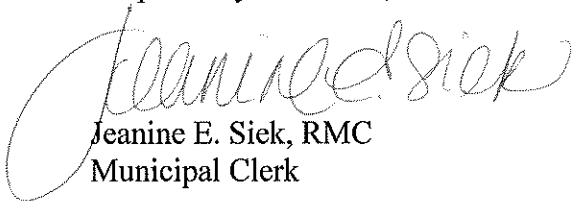
Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Councilman Harvilla commented that all attorney bills are not related to litigation and that every organization, company or entity that operates within the parameters of the law, requires legal guidance and counsel.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
All in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC  
Municipal Clerk