

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
AUGUST 8, 2023**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

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

- Contractual Matters – Swim Club
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice regarding Borough Website
- Potential Litigation – Municipal Building Construction
- Attorney-Client Privilege – PBA Grievance

Council President John Russell III 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, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – Present
Councilman Kelly – Absent; Mayor Andrew LaBruno - Absent

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

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

Motion to approve the July 11, 2023 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Harvilla;
Second: Councilwoman Stewart
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Morrell, Russell – yes; Stewart – abstain

Council President Russell presented Proclamations honoring the 2023 USATF Junior Olympic Track and Field Champions.

Motion to take 5-minute recess for pictures: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Borough Engineer Peter Ten Kate of Boswell Engineering made a presentation regarding the Change in Scope and Location for the Year 2021 BCOS Trust Fund Grant Award – Veterans Memorial Park Phase II and Berkley Park Improvements Project.
Councilwoman Stewart commented she was pleased with the addition of the pickleball courts.
Councilwoman Aponte stated she has heard from other towns that pickleball courts are well-used

Councilwoman Stewart

- *Court*

There were 8 subpoenas to testify in June and 11 in July; 8 expedited expungements ordered in June and none in July; 4 arrest warrants issued in June and 7 in July; 4 bench warrants issued in June and 5 in July; 2 trials, hearing and motions in June and 7 in July; 44 in-person defendants scheduled for court in June and 42 in July; 42 virtual defendants scheduled for court in June and 82 in July; 50 traffic charges adjudicated in the court in June and 73 in July; 14 criminal charges adjudicated in court for June and 3 in July; and bail collected from 1 individual in June and 2 in July.

- *Arts, Beautification and Economic Development*

Councilwoman Stewart commended the committee on their work, especially in light of their limited financial support. Some programs the committee is working on is a Veterans Banner Program and the Vanity Gardens.

- *Cultural Affairs, Inclusion, Diversity and Celebrations*

The Committee is sponsoring a Latin Dance night on 9/15 at La Taberna. The Committee also sponsored the Pride event in June. Councilwoman Stewart commended their work.

Councilman Russell

- *DPW - No Report.*

- *Ordinance*

The Committee is trying to schedule a meeting do discuss certain ordinances at the request of Chief Joyce.

- *Shade Tree Commission*

The next meeting will be on 8/21.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Ten Kate reported that he is working with the DPW on a sewer issue at Prospect and Locust. The pre-construction meeting for the Riverside Coop took place with the contractor. That project will start in early September. They are also working on designs for the Open Space grant and the 2023 Road Improvement Program.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Geist thanked Councilman Harvilla for his detailed report on the Bylaws. He wanted to clarify that Rockaway was the only town he found in the entire state that had removal from office as a penalty if the council member or mayor missed 8 meetings in a calendar year. His legal advice was not to make removal a penalty for Dumont but that is a policy decision for the Mayor and Council. He also agrees that if Dumont were to explore penalties, it would be for the Ordinance Committee to discuss and not the Bylaws Committee.

Interim Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Siek noted that all parks within the Borough are open 30 minutes after sunrise and closed at sunset with the exception of Memorial Park and Twin Boro, which close at 10:00 pm. Ms. Siek also welcomed the Borough's new CFO, Chris Rutch. Ms. Siek reported on the issues with the automatic opening doors both at the front entrance of Borough Hall and in front of the Police Department. The Borough is waiting for parts and everything is under warranty. Additionally, a tree was removed on the Randolph Grant walking path and there is discussion regarding reopening he path. Finally, Ms. Siek gave an update on the Gina's Field Splash Pad. The issues continue to be worked on.

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

#23-228 – Bills List *

#23-229 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Off-premise Cash Raffle Application *

#23-230 – Submission of Change in Scope and Location to 2021 BCOS Space Trust Fund Grant Award – Veterans Memorial Park Phase II and Berkley Park Improvements Project *

#23-231 – Approval of Town Wide Garage Sale – Dumont Community Group *

#23-232 – Authorization of Submission of 2024 ROID Grant Application to NJDCA *

#23-233 – Reappoint Jeanine Siek as Interim Borough Administrator *

#23-234 – Hire DPW Seasonal Employees *

#23-235 – Hire Carlos Sanchez as Social Services Assistant *

#23-236 – Authorization of 100% Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 317, Lot 1 *

#23-237 – Authorization of 100% Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 717, Lot 3 *

#23-238 – Authorization of 100% Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 1109, Lot 26 *

#23-239 – Approval of Dixon Homestead Library Barrier Free Improvements Project Change Order No. 1 *

#23-240 – Approval of Dumont Elks Pull Tab Raffle License Application *

#23-241 – Authorization of Execution of Borough Administrator Contract – Michael Kazimir *

Attorney Geist noted a change regarding the start date in Resolution 23-241. The date should read as 9/5/23 and not 9/1/23.

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

1. Lynn Vietri had questions regarding charges on the bills list, including charges for water and R. Rothman. She also had a question regarding the Vanity Gardens.
2. Mary Normoyle, questioned the splash pad water bills and leaf and grass pickup charges.
3. Maryanne Russini questioned certain charges on the bills list, including a \$2400 website charge, an Amazon charge, attorney bills, a Goosetown charge and the water bills. She also had a question regarding Resolution 23-234. Attorney Geist stated website charge was for maintenance and not for a new website.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

ORDINANCES

1st Reading

#1622 – Bond Ordinance to Amend Sections 2 AND 4.D of the Bond Ordinance (Ord. No. 1621) Entitled: "Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Making of Various Capital Public Improvements, In, By and For the Borough of Dumont to Appropriate the Sum of \$2,654,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds" Adopted on June 13, 2023

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Ms. Siek explained that Ordinance #1622 is to amend Ordinance #1621, which was adopted 6/13/23. It is to be able to include the Berkeley Park Improvements as we are moving forward with the Bergen County Open Space grant change of scope.

Motion to pass on 1st Reading: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll Call Vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Morrell, Russell, Stewart - yes

#1623 – Ordinance Amending Chapter 196 of the Dumont Borough Code – Dumpsters and Refuse Containers

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to pass on 1st Reading: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll Call Vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Morrell, Russell, Stewart - yes

#1624 – Ordinance Amending Chapter 339 of the Dumont Borough Code – Grease Traps

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Councilwoman Stewart stated she was happy the Council is moving forward on revising this ordinance.

Motion to pass on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll Call Vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Morrell, Russell, Stewart - yes

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

1. Catherine Hughes spoke regarding the illegal use of fireworks and the suggestion of a public service announcement regarding the issue.
2. Avinash Melkote spoke regarding the feasibility of establishing a quiet zone along the train line and OPRA requests regarding accidents.
3. Maryanne Russini spoke about the splash pad repairs and attendance at meetings.
4. Lynn Vietri spoke regarding the quick police and DPW response to a fallen tree limb.

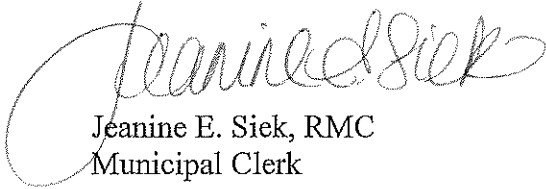
Councilman Morrell introduced the new Borough Administrator, Michael Kazimir, who will be starting in September.

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

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

The meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk