

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
SENIOR CENTER
JULY 17, 2018
6:30 PM**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order
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 date, time and place of this public meeting. Notice was sent to *The Record* and *The Ridgewood News*, filed with the Borough of Dumont, and posted on the Borough website and the official bulletin board.

Roll Call:

Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-present
Mayor James J. Kelly-present
Councilman LaBruno-absent
Also present, Borough Attorney Lafferty and Borough Engineer Nash.
Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Riquelme
Second: Councilman Manna
All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the June 12, 2018 Executive Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Di Paolo
Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-yes
Motion approve the June 12, 2018 Closed Session minutes: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Manna
Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Stewart-yes
Councilwoman Rossillo-abstained
Motion to approve June 19, 2018 Public and Closed Session minutes: Councilman Riquelme
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo
Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-yes
Councilman Manna-abstained

Mayor's Report

Mayor Kelly remarked that July 20th of 2019 is the borough's 125th anniversary. After speaking to members of the Council, a committee will be formed to discuss ways to celebrate.

Engineer's Report

Bob Nash from Remington Vernick explained that he is the new borough engineer and also the engineer handling the new municipal building. He went over the various projects the borough currently has in the works-Columbia Avenue, Gina's Field, Memorial Park, ADA ramps, County paving of Washington Avenue, DeLong Avenue,

First Street and the new municipal building. Thompson Street is finished and we are just waiting for paperwork to close that out.

Administrator's Report

The lightning detector has been moved from borough hall to the police trailers, the 911 transfer will be done tomorrow. The first aid will be on the new system by the end of the week. The generator move is scheduled for Monday. The remediation of asbestos at borough hall will begin Monday. The crest in the courtroom and the front of the building have been removed and put in storage. The demolition people will try to save the Dumont High School concrete etching. Columbia University will be filming a movie at the Memorial Park field. There was a sewer collapse on Washington Avenue, which was repaired immediately, so that other houses wouldn't be affected. Mr. Richards spoke of grants submitted by Millennium.

Council Committee Reports

- Councilman Di Paolo

No report

- Councilman Manna

The Councilman congratulated the Shade Tree Commission for a successful second year of Twilight at the Gazebo.

Ordinances

They have been working on the no-knock policy and sidewalk newspaper kiosks.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee had received four resumes for the CFO position. Only one was willing to take the position part-time. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to hire him.

This past month we had an incident where a resident made comments that, in this environment, was raised to the level of a terroristic threat involving a weapon. The follow-up investigation was conducted by our detectives to determine whether there were weapons on this person's property. A report was filed with the Bergen County Prosecutor's office. In the near future we feel there should be police presence at our council meetings. The Mayor agreed.

Finance Committee

Council members Manna, Riquelme and Stewart and Mr. Richards have been in constant contact with department heads. This is why there was a change in the financing of the capital budget. Their needs had radically changed from budget introduction to adoption to the present. This is the reason he is requesting that the Recreation Commission gives the Council an opportunity to go over their ideas and plans.

- Councilman Riquelme

Police Department

There were 2,062 telephone calls for service, 90 for medical reasons and 9 for fire. The patrol division issued 130 traffic summonses-9 parking and 121 moving. 38 motor vehicle crashes were investigated. 8,589 miles were traveled. The Detective Bureau conducted 13 firearms investigations, handled 36 criminal cases and investigated 10 domestic violence incidents with 3 mandated arrests. Three officers received mandated MEL training and two officers received discretionary active shooter training.

- Councilwoman Rossillo

No report

- Councilwoman Stewart

Ordinance Committee

We are finally receiving money for our vacant and abandoned ordinances. We have looked at several options of the no-knock ordinance but were met with potential lawsuits. We are now working on an ordinance, which would give residents the opportunity to register as a no-knock home with a decal in place at their home.

Newspaper kiosks have been showing up around town. We can't ban them but we can limit the location of the kiosks. We are currently working on an ordinance to address this.

There was an article about the resurgence of downtowns. One of the things that is attracting people back to their downtown areas is dining. We have a number of good restaurants here in Dumont. We are considering offering these restaurants al fresco dining.

Library

On August 6th the Library and Recreation Commission are going to sponsor a concert in the park-The Koots. The Shade Tree Commission have also planted a tree and refurbished all the gardens on the Library property. This is evidence of committees working together toward a common goal.

Shade Tree Commission

Twilight at the Gazebo is a great community builder-the concerts and the arboretum are stunning and bringing attention to the area.

Councilwoman Stewart explained that she has an issue with not allowing people to ask questions. She understands that some questions could be asked ahead of time so that the information would be ready for the meeting but sometimes questions arise during the meeting.

Attorney's Report

No report

Mr. Richards explained that the Council has made a dramatic effort in negotiating with the owner of 27 W. Quackenbush. Many solutions were offered. Last week we thought we had a deal but the next day he increased his number by another \$25,000. Therefore, tomorrow there will be a filing at the county level to go to eminent domain. On the bills list there is a check for \$325,000 made out to the State Treasurer so that we can move forward. We are still trying to work things out.

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

#18-155 Capital Budget Amendment for Bond Ordinance #1549 * (previously tabled)

#18-170 Bills List *

#18-171 Approval of Dumont High School Music Boosters Off-premise Cash Raffle to be drawn April 1, 2019; ID#109-5-36714, RL#514 *

#18-172 Approval of Dumont High School Music Boosters On-premise Cash Raffle to be held September 7, September 21, October 5, October 19 and November 22, 2018; ID#109-5-36714, RL#515 *

#18-173 Rebecca Vazquez-Increase in Salary for Certification as Technical Assistant *

#18-174 Thompson Street Road Program Change Order #1-minus \$9,068.05 *

#18-175 Extend Sustainable Communities Contract through December, 2018 *

#18-176 Direct Install-Authorization of Execution of Agreement for the DPW and Dixon Homestead Library *

#18-177 Authorization of Payment Certificate #1 to AJM Contractors-\$124,789.77 *

#18-178 Sercan Zoklu-Hire as Part-time CFO-\$20,000 annually *

#18-179 Approval of K of C #1345 St. Johns Council Casino Raffle Application to be held August 4, 2018; ID#109-6-7021, RL#516 *

#18-180 Approval of Block Party to be held on Erie Street *

#18-181 Approval of Block Party to be held on Hickory Street *

#18-182 Approval of Towing Companies-July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 *

#18-183 Authorization for the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System to Include the Borough of Dumont in the BCCPS Natural Gas Supply Service Bid *

#18-184 Janet Vietri-Authorization to Hire as Part-time Crossing Guard-\$15.00 per hr. *

#18-185 Approval of Shared Services Agreement with Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority *

#18-186 Authorization of Disbursement of \$325,000 for Eminent Domain-27 W. Quackenbush Avenue *

There were no questions or comments from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Riquelme

All in favor.

1. deLyon, Beacon Street, asked how many hours Mr. Zoklu would be working and who he would be reporting to. Councilman Manna replied a minimum of ten hours a week. The closer we get to budget time, the more hours he'll be spending here. He will be reporting to the Administrator and Governing Body. Dr. deLyon questioned the figures in the Capital Budget Amendment and bond ordinance #1549.

2. Andrew Rowell, Randolph Avenue, asked the value of 27 W. Quackenbush Avenue. Mr. Richards responded that it is \$325,000.

3. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, asked if the demolition of Borough Hall is still contingent on using 27 W. Quackenbush, what the offers were and if litigation is possible. The Mayor answered the property is necessary. Mr. Lafferty said there were offers back and forth. The property becomes the property of the borough upon the filing of the declaration of taking that gets recorded. The case as to what is the fair market value could go on quite a while.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Riquelme
Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

ORDINANCES

Second Reading

#1548 Ordinance Dissolving the Environmental Commission and Creating a Beautification Committee

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Councilman Manna stated that he and Councilwoman Stewart are working on a list for the Governing Body to appoint to this committee. Councilwoman Stewart added that it is a five-member committee, which will vote on the chairperson.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to close: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on second reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Riquelme

Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

#1549 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements by the Borough of Dumont, Appropriating the Aggregate Amount of \$2,360,000 including Two Grants in the Aggregate Amount of \$150,861 Expected to be Received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, a Grant in the Amount of \$156,725 Expected to be Received from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,858,900 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Riquelme

All in favor.

1. deLyon, Beacon Street, asked why Bond Ordinance #1549 was voted on when the capital budget amendment resolution was tabled. He asked about the grants referred to in the ordinance. The Mayor replied that the introduction was voted upon. Mr. Richards explained that once the projects are finished, vouchers will be sent for reimbursement. Dr. deLyon asked if the bond is for almost \$1.9 million. Councilman Manna replied yes. He asked why Councilman Manna had said it was for \$887,000. Discussion ensued regarding the projects in the bond ordinance.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Di Paolo

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on second reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Di Paolo

Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

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

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Judy Parker, 55 Susan Drive, Closter, owns the building next door to 50 Washington Avenue, expressed concern about rats when 50 Washington Avenue is demolished. Mr. Richards said they will make sure there are traps.

2. Melanie Funt, 116 Roosevelt Avenue, complained about work that PSE&G performed. Her lawn, sprinkler system, walkway, driveway and sidewalk have been affected. There is a manhole cover in her sidewalk. She provided photos. She had contacted Jason Posterino at PSE&G. Mr. Richards said that PSE&G will replace the sidewalk. Ms. Funt would like to have a say in work done on her property. The Mayor said we will reach out to PSE&G.

3. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, said he had submitted a list of questions to the Mayor to distribute to the rest of the Council, as well. He hasn't received an answer from anyone. Mayor Kelly responded that when something is thrown at him, he ignores it. Dr. deLyon handed the Mayor the list and asked that it be part of the minutes. He had complained about the condition of the memorial park at the last meeting. The next day the DPW cleaned it up. He complained about the allotted speaking times and questioned a working number for the increase on the project, which Mr. Richards had provided.

4. Michael Sullivan, Andover, asked who the speaker was at the beginning of the meeting. The Mayor replied it was our borough engineer. Mr. Sullivan asked about the report he had mentioned. Mr. Richards said that he will be getting a report and sending it to the Governing Body. Mr. Sullivan complained that the people on the dais are not speaking into the microphones. He asked if the affordables will have air conditioning. He asked if Massachusetts Avenue in Haworth will go through. The Mayor said he will check on the air conditioning and believes it will go all the way through. He clarified that Massachusetts Avenue was partially in Haworth and Dumont. Mr. Sullivan asked about the tax bill. He asked about the employee hearing. The Mayor said the results should be coming soon.

5. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, said he appreciated the fact that Councilwoman Stewart supported residents' ability to ask questions. The Councilwoman said that she had spoken to several of the Council, who agreed. Mr. Kelly asked about the Massachusetts Avenue project. Residents of Beacon Street have flooding during storms so he hopes that that it is addressed during the paving. He said the fact sheet on the website doesn't mention the types of chemicals in the soil or how much was being moved. It would be helpful if the fact sheet were expanded upon. Very little soil was removed. Mr. Richards said there were complaints about pounding and shaking. What was being done was that the dirt was being compounded so that there is no sinking or shifting of the foundation.

6. Daniel Rowell, 106 Randolph, said the former attorney had mentioned “blending”, which he would like someone to check and the trucks’ tires were supposed to be cleaned. He would like to know how much removal was done. He said they had tried to get some unredacted emails from Paster and found out that there was a court order blocking it.

7. Ted L’Estrange, 43 Prospect Hill Rd, Cuddebackville, N.Y. spoke about genocide by scalpel referring to organ donation in China, which is culturally taboo in that country. He left a packet concerning this issue.

Motion to close: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to enter closed session:

Purchase, Acquisition or Lease of Real Property with Public Funds

Motion: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Di Paolo

Roll call vote: Council members Di Paolo, Manna, Riquelme, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Following closed session:

Motion to return to public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Riquelme

All in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC
Municipal Clerk

