

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
GOVERNING BODY MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT SENIOR CENTER  
DECEMBER 3, 2019  
6:30 PM**

Council President Manna 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 regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings are posted at Borough Hall, was sent to *The Record* and the *Ridgewood News*, posted on the Borough website and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

Ms. Siek is sitting in for Ms. Connelly.

**Roll Call:**

Council members: Chae, Englese, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-present

Councilman LaBruno-absent

Mayor James J. Kelly-absent

Motion to Accept Agenda as presented: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

**Mayor and Council Work Session:**

Rent Control-Mr. Leibman is still working on this. He is waiting for the planner to get back to him with some information in order to spark some multi-family development. The concern is that perhaps developers are not pursuing it because they are concerned about rent control. He has drafted an ordinance. He has been working on it with the Borough's rent leveling attorney. It would apply to twenty-five or more units or multiple lots put together through a single project. The Master Plan would have to be reviewed.

**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.

President Manna received a letter from Chief Conner requesting that the police be disengaged from the process of vetting coaches. President Manna said that there should be a meeting with the stakeholders and JIF. Councilman Chae feels if the police department is not checking, there should be a third party checking the coaches.

Councilwoman Stewart explained that Councilman LaBruno did not call in tonight per our ordinance. She also thanked the residents for their generosity Thanksgiving.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**#19-288** R.L. Roem Jr.-Award of Quote for Snow Removal from Unmaintained Properties-\$75.00 per house \*

**#19-289** Dispatcher Amended 2019 Salary Resolution \*

**#19-290** Sgt. Michael Murphy-Authorization of Separation Agreement \*

**#19-291** Authorization of Chapter 159-ADA \*

**#19-292** Authorization to Advertise for 2020 RFQ's for Professionals \*

**#19-293** Settlement Agreement – Snell Litigation \*

Motion to open to the public for comment: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, complained that the Snell resolution was not posted on the website by 2 p.m.the day of the meeting and lack of transparency.

2. Maryanne Russini, 141 Roosevelt, questioned whether President Manna knew that the Snell resolution was going to be on tonight. President Manna responded that after closed session last meeting it was the intent of the Council and the attorney handling the case to have a resolution prepared. It wasn't prepared until late this afternoon and that is the reason the resolution appeared late on the agenda. Ms. Russini asked where the \$400,000 is coming from. Mr. Leibman said there probably is a deductible the Borough would have to pay. Ms. Russini requested the amount this lawsuit cost the town.

3. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked if the details of the lawsuit are public. She also doesn't understand how the police wouldn't be responsible for fingerprinting the coaches. Mr. Leibman stated that after we get the order of dismissal, it'll be public. She can submit a request to Superior Court if she would like copies of complaints and answers.

4. Lili Binney, State College, Pa., asked what happened to the appointment of the Library trustee. Councilwoman Stewart explained that there is a new process so that positions are opened up to the public. Ms. Binney asked where the money paid for the Snell suit comes from. She feels the agenda and resolutions should be on the website the Friday prior to the meeting.

5. Don Morrell, Depew Street, asked if Snell is allowed to coach now that the case is finished. Mr. Leibman explained that there is a settlement agreement and a release being prepared. Ask again at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

6. Gerry Aponte, 88 Hickory Street, said that Snell has already requested a packet to coach.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Stewart

All in favor.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Rossillo, Stewart, President Manna-yes

## **ORDINANCE**

*First Reading*

**#1570** Salary Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance #1554

Motion to waive the formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Englese

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Rossillo, Stewart, President Manna-yes

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

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked about the reimbursables to RSC. She is repeating her question as to how political parties got her email address. At the last Board of Education meeting it was stated that the town is considering giving a part of the PILOT to the Board of Ed. Councilwoman Rossillo responded that she never said that.

2. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, asked if the Building Department lawsuit has been settled. President Manna responded that it is ongoing. Dr. deLyon asked if the Governing Body has an idea of how much overtime the Police Department is getting but President Manna said not at this time. Dr. deLyon asked again about the resolution on surplus. Is Mr. Richards still coming to work? The response was yes. He spoke of interim employees and that they should only get the amount per day plus any legitimate expenses. He has looked into surrounding communities and many have a combined Borough Clerk/Administrator. He asked that the Council look for a full-time CFO. He commended the staff at the Library. He asked how AirGov was hired.

3. Michael Boyce asked why there has been no work done on Gina's Field. Councilwoman Stewart said that we had \$131,000 a year and a half ago to spend on Gina's Field. We then applied for two grants-one we received for \$235,000 and we are still waiting for the other \$200,000. The post on Facebook which said Gina's Field would not be worked on in 2020 is incorrect. The plans should be ready for the public by early January.

4. Don Morrell, Depew Street, said that the Mayor and Recreation has been trying to reach the engineer with no response. He served on the Council with Councilman Manna and thanked him for his wisdom and service on the Council.

5. Karen Valido, said that different towns are discussing sharing the PILOT with school boards. Councilwoman Stewart commented on the money the town spent on the lawsuit.

6. Lili Binney, Pennsylvania, asked the attorney of the PILOT could be shared. Mr. Leibman said that the PILOT that is in effect and on record and filed. Ms. Binney said that she checked whether he house had open permits. The Building Department checked and there were open permits but they were for the home across the street. The wrong address is still listed as her property. She agrees that there should be a full-time CFO and a BA/Clerk. Sue runs the town; I think she should be. How much will the grants cost the taxpayers? Councilwoman Stewart replied that one grant is 25% matching but the second grant can be used to pay that 25%. Ms. Binney asked why there is police presence at the Council meetings. President Manna said that when we started having police presence there had been a threat made on the Mayor, the Clerk and employees of the Borough. In

this day and age, we feel that we need police protection and we are going to keep it. Ms. Binney said that the demeanor of the meetings this year is more civilized thanks to the Borough Attorney.

7. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked if Mr. Leibman has spoken to the DEP in reference to Asplint. He replied that he continues to be in regular communications with her and she thanked him for keeping her apprised. Ms. Russini said she spoke to DEP and was told that Dumont will not be getting any Green Acres money until we solve the issue. They also said that they were told not to give information to residents. Mr. Leibman said that he told the DEP that the Governing Body is exploring different courses of action to deal with the situation and doesn't want the information to get back to the person that we may be litigating against. He doesn't want it discussed in public because there are strategic decisions the Council is going to have to make. We are dealing with someone who is litigious; we have a difficult situation we are trying to resolve it in a way that costs the taxpayers as little as possible.

8. Gerry Aponte, Hickory Street, said that when Asplint moves, Recreation could use the shed. If there are any ductless units around, he would install them at no cost to the town. He will not be returning to the Commission once his term is up in a few weeks.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

All in favor.

Ms. Siek read the Closed Session resolution to discuss:

Potential Litigation-Asplint

Motion: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Following closed session, the meeting was reopened to the public.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Susan Connelly, RMC

Municipal Clerk