

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
SENIOR CENTER  
FEBRUARY 20, 2020  
6:30 PM**

Mayor LaBruno 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 time, place and change in date of this public meeting of this Governing Body. Notice of the change in the meeting date was 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.

**Roll Call:**

Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-present  
Mayor LaBruno-present

Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tully said he met with Councilwoman Stewart and Councilman Manna regarding the budget. He also met with the Police Department, Ambulance Corps, Fire Department, Building Department, Judge and Court. He conducted meetings with our Finance Department and CFO, who is here tonight. Mr. Tully has met with the Clerk's office and has been working with Sue during the week. He checked out the DPW on site and also met with the pool representative regarding a fence issue and possible clean-up issue, which he'll be discussing with the Borough Attorney. Our grant writer has reached out regarding a census grant. We had a bid opening and the award is on the agenda tonight. He attended the State of the County address today. This week we were made aware that the Bergen County Department of Health conducted a limited lead hazard assessment at Grant School on January 8th. They determined the presence of lead hazard so in the interest of transparency and to make sure the public is aware a statement was issued stating that lead remediation will be taking place the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor LaBruno said he was contacted by a resident, a parent from Grant School, who sent documentation to him regarding the lead. He contacted the borough attorney immediately. The Administrator and the Mayor called the Board of Education and spoke to the Business Administrator and Superintendent. They are complying with the County and cleaning up four classrooms.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Councilman Chae

No report

- Councilman Gorman

*Shade Tree Commission*

The Councilman attended their meeting February 10<sup>th</sup>. He learned how they operate. They are preparing for Arbor Day and other events.

*Recreation Commission*

The Councilman attended a meeting last night. They will be working on the by-laws.

- Councilman Manna

*Beautification Committee*

There was discussion of their budget at the last meeting. They spoke of different projects for this year, which include acquiring planters for the business district, rehabbing the corner of Veterans' Plaza and Madison Avenue and changing the seasonal banners.

*COAH*

Peter Van den Kooy, representative from CME, met with the Councilman, Bill Paige and Sue Connelly to discuss a checklist for collecting data to be used for annual reports.

*Library*

Two members of the Board of Trustees were sworn in: Ms. Consentino and Ms. Quaglino. They went through the bills list and appointments for different committees. He did a walk-through of the Library with Director Dodwell. The alarm system is now working properly. The computer class was very well attended.

- Councilman Englese

No report

- Councilwoman Rossillo

*Ambulance Corps*

They had 107 calls and 1,954 hours spent in January

*Board of Education*

Last week the Councilwoman and Councilwoman Stewart met with several members of the Board of Ed. It was a positive meeting in which they shared a lot of good ideas. They hope to have more meetings in the future to help build a stronger relationship.

- Councilwoman Stewart

*Stigma-free Committee*

The Councilwoman congratulated the Stigma-free Committee for becoming a rapidly important part of the community and setting up two dates in March for mental health awareness first aid training. They are being offered for free.

*Recreation*

The Councilwoman stated that someone in the audience had said that we would not be getting Green Acres funding. The Councilwoman read a letter from February 4, 2020 from Green Acres stating that Green Acres can award grants for Gina's Field.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Leibman has been drafting documents, some of which are on tonight's agenda. The Chapter 75 police ordinance has been a work in progress.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Don Norbut reported that the Borough has received a DOT grant for Grant Avenue, a Green Acres grant for Gina's Field and an Open Space Grant for Gina's Field. We had the bid opening this morning for the Delong Avenue Improvements, which is on the agenda tonight to be awarded. The deadline to notify the NJDOT of the grant award is tomorrow. The preliminary design drawings have been approved. Remington Vernick will submit a professional services proposal to prepare the final design and bid

documents. Councilman Manna wanted to make sure the funding for the handicap ramps on Washington & New Milford Avenues is correct. Mr. Norbut will be meeting with them next week and will confirm. Councilman Manna wanted to make sure that residents impacted by the Delong project are notified. Mayor LaBruno asked that a meeting be set up with Tri-Valley to apprise them of the project, also.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor and Councilman Englese have engaged an attorney to start conversations with the DPW and Police Department for contract negotiations. The Mayor has been working with the DPW Superintendent on several sewer jobs. He has had conversations with Councilman Manna and Millennium grant writers to try to get funding for four road projects this year-Bedford Road, Virginia Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Lafayette Avenue. The DPW graded these streets as some of the most in need of repair.

Mayor LaBruno congratulated Ryan Hanley and Colin Merkovsky on attaining their rank of Eagle Scout.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

Motion to approve the January 21, 2020 Closed Session: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Manna

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

Motion to approve the February 4, 2020 Meeting: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

Motion to approve the February 4, 2020 Closed Session: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

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

**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**

**#20-76** Approval of DHS Music Booster On-premise Cash Raffle to be held 2/26, 3/26, 3/27, 3/28 and 4/29; ID #109-5-36714, RL#556 \*

**#20-77** Approval of Honiss School PTA Off-premise Merchandise Raffle to be held March 27, 2020 \*

**#20-78** Bills List \*

**#20-79** Adoption of 2020 Emergency Temporary Appropriations \*

**#20-80** Resolution Implementing Employee Sick Leave Policy \*

**#20-81** Fees for 2020 Recreation Commission Programs \*

**#20-82** Approval of Boy Scout Troop #1345 Car Show to be held July 18, 2020 \*

**#20-83** Approval of 2019 Fire and Ambulance LOSAP Contributions-\$38,400 \*

**#20-84** Revision of the 2020 By-laws \*

**#20-85** Authorization to Advertise for Special Construction Litigation Counsel \*

**#20-86** Coaching Appeal of Permissive Disqualification \*

**#20-87** Approval of Dumont PBA Application for an Off-premise Merchandise Raffle to be held April 26, 2020; ID#1-5-41381, RL#558 \*

**#20-88** Award of Bid for DeLong Avenue Road Improvements to American Asphalt & Milling Services-\$636,387.28 \*

Referring to the By-laws, Mayor LaBruno explained that Council President Stewart had been working on them-it was a working document that was not approved and wrongfully ended up on the agenda. Council President Stewart said that the portion of the By-laws that seem to be of most concern is the Meetings section. It was not the Council's intention to decrease the number of times the public could speak. There are actually four opportunities to speak with a time limit of five minutes. There were a number of new committees, which have been added to these by-laws.

Mayor LaBruno explained Resolution #85-the reason we are bringing this professional on is for preparation. The new borough hall is probably one of the largest projects we'll see in Dumont. We want to make sure we have an attorney who is well-versed in the construction field to review our documents for the protection of the Borough and our tax payers.

The Mayor addressed Resolution #86 and stated that the Recreation by-laws are outdated. We have engaged an attorney to work with Recreation and the Recreation Committee to prepare new by-laws. In the meantime, we want to ensure that our youths and our residents are protected. We would like to provide individuals who feel they were wrongfully terminated an appeal process.

Motion to open to the public on the Consent Agenda items: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, 119 Beacon, asked why we are hiring a special construction litigation attorney. Why wasn't it done at the beginning of the project? He read a response to an OPRA request and there seemed to be a lot of bickering about the radio tower. Is that why? The Mayor said that we want to be prepared. Mr. Sansone referred to the DeLong project and whether Cresskill or Dumont owned them. The Mayor replied that the handicap ramps at the two corners belong to Dumont.

2. Liz Marchese, 235 Larch Avenue, feels it's good to be proactive in hiring special counsel. She asked what is different in the new sick policy. The Mayor said we are trying to bring it up to speed. Ms. Marchese asked if there are changes to the Recreation fees. Mr. Cuomo explained that the only fee going up is the camp fee because there is an additional week. CFO Abbasi explained that we are amending the temporary budget fronting the Recreation Department with funds to purchase football helmets.

3. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, said that the By-laws state there should be a committee to change them. Councilwoman Stewart stated that is was done by the Ordinance and Resolution Committee as opposed to a special by-laws committee. Mr. Leibman stated that these are administrative changes; the Governing Body can adopt them.

4. Tom Kelly, 70 Beacon Street, agreed with Ms. Vietri. He doesn't believe by-laws

should ever be put on the Consent Agenda. Changes should be discussed. Other items such as policy changes should be discussed in public prior to voting. Controversial items should be on Non-consent.

5. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, asked if there is a maximum fee on Resolution #85. The Mayor replied that it is just advertising for RFQ's.

6. Dan Monte, 107 Second Street, said the by-laws state that the Mayor shall appoint a special committee for amendments. Mr. Leibman suggested that perhaps the Council would like to consider striking out Paragraph B in Section 2 and that would satisfy everyone in the public who is concerned about it.

7. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked if we figured out the address for Sustainable Communities and how many employees are in this company and what their revenue is. She asked how many grants Millennium has proposed. She asked about Goosetown radios. The Mayor explained that it has to do with the DPW radios. Councilman Manna said that the radios the DPW was using were over twenty years old.

8. Mary Normoyle, 106 Randolph Avenue, asked when the new complex will be finished. Mayor LaBruno responded that it should be November but he would have to check with the Construction Management firm. Ms. Normoyle asked again who initiated the by-law changes.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Manna

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

## **ORDINANCES**

### *First Reading*

**Ordinance #1572** Revision of Chapter 216-7 of the Borough Code-Fire Watch

Motion to waive the formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

Councilman Manna explained that if a building or residence needs a person to make sure the fire doesn't reignite. The fee would be \$25.00 per person per hour. The Borough would not be responsible for paying it.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

**Ordinance #1573** Revision of Chapters 69-26-69-32 of the Borough Code-Sick Leave Policy

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Councilman Manna explained that updating this, creates a consistent policy for employees across the board. Contract employees may differ in certain respects. There are sick day limitations for new hires after March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

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

**Ordinance #1574** Ordinance Creating a Celebration Committee

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno and Council President Stewart met with Recreation Director Como. We hold a lot of events in town and after speaking to Mr. Como it was evident that he needed more help. This ordinance would involve all committees and commissions. Mr. Como will be the Co-chair of this committee. The Mayor read the authority the Committee will have.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

1. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, stated that he has submitted a lot of OPRA requests recently and shared with other people. He asked why the professionals weren't present at this meeting. The Mayor replied that there are topics that the Council wanted to be more fully aware of before the presentation. Dr. deLyon said that it seems there is a lot of controversy and questions over the radio tower. He asked what executives would Mr. Tully's raise be based upon according to the contract. The Mayor answered it would be based on other Department Heads. Dr. deLyon asked about the bond ordinances for the new municipal complex. He said it looks like you'll run out of money.

2. Liz Marchese, Larch Avenue, asked if the construction presentation will be the next meeting. She asked how the budget is for the building. Mayor LaBruno responded that the auditor is going through the bills now to give us an idea. Ms. Marchese asked if a new construction management firm will be hired. The Mayor replied that their contract ends in April and it is an item for discussion in closed session. Ms. Marchese said she is happy that there is new open discussion with the Board of Education.

3. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked if residents will be able to ask questions. The answer was yes. He asked if the dumpster ordinance would apply to a place like Fink's- the dumpsters are an eyesore.

4. Bill Linder, 18 Blanche Court, questioned the fact that Mr. Leibman's firm was appointed. Mr. Leibman took exception to Mr. Linder's comments. He then spoke about the by-laws.

5. Karen Valido, Overlook Drive, thanked the Mayor for addressing the lead situation at Grant School. The Superintendent is very proactive and meeting all the protocols. There are AARP grants available, not only for seniors. She spoke about two-family houses and accessory developed units. Perhaps the ADU's can be counted toward affordable housing. The Mayor mentioned that he spoke to the Tax Assessor, who will review the two-family houses. He doesn't think the numbers are as high as the Building

Department said. We are still going to move forward with notifying those houses involved.

6. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked if there are any lawsuits besides Snell, the Building Department and Asplint. The Mayor answered no. Ms. Vietri asked about the emails that come from the Mayor's office. Mayor LaBruno replied that they come from his website. Ms. Vietri asked if the former director of the Recreation summer camp resigned. She was told that personnel issues can't be discussed.

7. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, welcomed Mr. Tully. She asked if we have received the T&M Engineers contamination report on Gordon Avenue. The answer was no but they have reached out to the Mayor to set up a meeting. Ms. Russini asked if the members of the Economic Development Committee are taking courses. The Mayor responded that the Chair and the Co-Chair went to classes dealing with engaging businesses. Ms. Russini asked if there will be lights on Gina's Field. She was told it is not in the plans. There was discussion about Ms. Russini's statement that Green Acres was not going to give Dumont money but they have.

8. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, feels that the residents are interested in the new Complex. He suggested updates on the website and would like to have answers on the financial impact on the residents. He asked the status of the Rent Leveling ordinance. Mr. Leibman said the Board hasn't selected an attorney yet. Councilman Manna asked if we could add pictures of the new building to show the progress.

9. Dan Monte, Second Street, said the Stigma-free dates are March 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. He asked if he could see the list of streets in need of repair. There is concern about the location of the radio tower in the future.

10. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, brought up the issue Mr. Leibman spoke to her about after the last meeting regarding attorneys being involved with developers. He said if there was ever a conflict, he would tell them and walk out the door.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to enter closed session to discuss

Potential Litigation-Asplint

Contract Negotiations

Personnel-Police

Motion: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

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

Following closed session, motion to go back into public: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk