

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 5, 2020  
6:30 PM**

Administrator Tully explained that due to the social distancing protocols as mandated by Governor Murphy in Executive Orders 107 and 108, we are convening to hold our meeting by electronic means. He said that the meeting will be open to the public for comments. Everyone's patience is appreciated during this public health crisis. He stated that he is hosting this meeting at Dumont Borough Hall at 80 W. Madison Avenue.

Roll Call to make sure the Mayor and Council are on the call. Also, on the call are CFO Abbasi, Borough Attorney Leibman and Borough Auditor Vinci.

**Flag Salute, Moment of Silence**

Mayor LaBruno asked for a moment of silence for all the residents we have lost to COVID-19 and to the rest of our community that has been affected by this public health crisis.

**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, date and location of this public meeting of the Governing Body by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b) on the Borough website, Borough Hall and Facebook.

**Roll Call:**

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

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

**Mayor and Council Work Session:**

Tax Relief Task Force Report: Governor Murphy recently signed Executive Order 130 which allows Municipalities to extend the grace period for fourth quarter property taxes from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. He said that he was hoping to see extensions on our two largest obligations: Board of Education and the County of Bergen. The Mayor had contacted the Board of Education and the Bergen County Executive asking them to partner with the Borough in assisting our residents during this crisis by extending their payment dates to June. Bergen County is unable to change and the BOE Superintendent said he is unable to provide an answer before tonight's meeting. Our Tax Relief Task Force and Finance team have been working diligently and after careful analysis this evening will be voting on Resolution #117, which will extend the grace period. Any payment made after June 1<sup>st</sup> accrues retroactive interest back to May 1<sup>st</sup> as per the statute.

Mayor LaBruno added that in light of the public crisis and the economic issues, the Borough is announcing an immediate freeze on all hiring and promotions until further

notice. Additionally, the Borough will conduct a freeze on all discretionary spending. Our Governor stated that a fiscal disaster is months away and the highest representatives at our federal government stated they would rather see municipalities declare bankruptcy rather than provide the essential financial aid, which New Jersey needs. Tonight's budget tackles tough fiscal realities but also represents a responsible budget. Our municipal operations are well under the State's mandated 2% cap. All options are on the table including our current employee structure. These are desperate times. He thanked Finance chair Council President Carole Stewart, the Finance team, our BA, CFO, Council.

One of our top priorities is the health and safety of our residents and employees and we believe the early decisions made by the Borough helped to limit the spread of the virus and save lives in our community. That is why we have determined that all parks and recreation facilities shall remain closed at this time. Unfortunately, we are forced to cancel our annual Memorial Day Parade but are looking into options to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Dumont also was one of the first to institute remote work whenever possible. We are exploring bringing testing sites into the Borough.

Budget: Borough Auditor Gary Vinci stated that tonight is the introduction. The public hearing and presentation on the budget will be conducted on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Right now, the budget increase to an average home valued at \$307,000 the municipal increase is \$93.00 and the largest part of that increase has to do with the recent bond sale. Right now, the interest is coming due in six months and that interest needed to be brought back into the budget. The bonds were \$15,500,000 so of the \$93.00, \$36.00 of that had to do with the most recent bond sale. The sale took place April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Borough had bonds to finance various capital projects, the largest which was the Municipal Project. Therefore, approximately \$15,000,000 pertained to the building. As part of the process, Standard and Poors does a credit rating of the Borough. They affirmed a AA rating for the Borough. The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate. The interest rate came in at 2.79%, which is an excellent rate for a twenty-five-year bond issue. There will be a hearing at which time the Council can decide whether to amend the budget. The second component of the building project will be financed by a bond anticipation note and the Financial Advisor is recommending issuing those notes this month and those notes will finance the balance of the building as well as two other ordinances the Borough adopted in 2018 and 2019. The note will be approximately \$9,000,000.

Council President and finance chair Stewart stated that she has been involved with the budget process for three years and this year has been like no other. They began the process in December, 2019 by meeting with all the Department Heads. No sooner had they finished this process, they saw the first inklings of the potential repercussions that COVID-19 would have on our community. That process now began process #2. In early March, when the devastating impact potential of the virus was becoming evident, they entered process #3. She said they believe the budget they are presenting protects our taxpayers, our employees and our first responders while maintaining essential services of the Borough. Our capital budget will be much smaller than in previous years. She thanked the Department Heads, especially the DPW Superintendent Anthony Schiraldi, Police Chief Conner, Fire Chief Baierwalter, our Borough Administrator Chris Tully, our

CFO Issa Abbasi, our finance committee members Carl Manna and Jimmy Chae, Mayor LaBruno and our auditor Gary Vinci for their hard work and cooperation in this effort.

Mr. Tully said the Borough continues to provide vital services despite the modified work force hours. Modified remote operations have been extended to June 1<sup>st</sup> as we are working tirelessly to continue to re-evaluate the ever-changing situation as it pertains to our Borough providing essential services while doing all we can to protect our residents and our work force. He thanked the Governing Body for their quick decision making and thanked the employees; especially our first responders they've had to perform during the unprecedented time.

Mr. Tully added that the Borough was awarded a \$5,000 grant provided by Bergen County in regards to the 2020 Census. We want to make sure that we do everything to make sure Dumont counts. We have begun the process to purchase ad space and social media to spread the word. He has been working diligently with Borough Clerk Sue Connelly to make sure that process is begun. We are currently at 65% but need to have everyone counted.

The Delong Avenue project is going well. Paving is set for next week, weather-permitting.

Mr. Tully said that if anyone knows of any issue a resident has had calling in, please contact him directly.

In response to some questions we had received, he had contacted our PILOT attorney. He assured him he would be able to provide Mr. Tully with an opinion letter that will address the terms and conditions in approximately two weeks. Regarding the questions about the study on Gordon Avenue, the executive summary was addressed by Councilman Manna at an October Council meeting. He consulted with the Borough Attorney and since this report contains information pertaining to private property that the Borough might be interested in, it was recommended that we contact the owner of the property via letter to discuss releasing the full report to the public. Mr. Leibman will be sending that letter. Regarding litigation, the Borough does not comment on any pending litigation.

If you have any questions or comments on the budget, contact Sue Connelly at [sconnelly@dumontboro.org](mailto:sconnelly@dumontboro.org).

### **General Order of Business**

**#20-111** Introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget

Motion to adopt: 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**

**#20-110** Approval of Borough of Dumont Non-CDL/Non-DOT Drug and Alcohol Policy-Revised Title \*

**#20-112** Approval of State-Contracted JCT Solutions' proposal for Security, Teledata, A.V. and IT for the New Municipal Building-not to exceed \$868,431.49 \*

**#20-113** Authorization of Tax Appeal Settlement for 65 W. Madison, LLC \*

**#20-114** Lehrer Cumming Extension of Contract-\$71,800 \*

**#20-115** Temporary Suspension of Use of Tenafly Court \*

**#20-116** Authorization for the Tax Collector to Prepare Estimated Tax Bills \*

**#20-117** Authorization of Extension of the Fourth Quarter Property Tax Grace Period \*

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

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, commented on Resolution #112-was that the original amount? He also wanted to know the status of the radio tower.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

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

## **ORDINANCE**

*First Reading*

**#1576** Ordinance Amending Borough Drug and Alcohol Policies for all Non-police Employees

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

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

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

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, repeated his question as to whether the \$15,500,000 is dedicated or can some be used for the municipal building. He also objected the one-minute speaking opportunity.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the Closed Session resolution to discuss:  
Asplint-Potential Litigation  
Building Department-Litigation

Following closed session, motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilman Manna  
All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk