

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2020
6:30 PM**

Administrator Tully Administrator Tully acted as moderator of the meeting from Borough Hall. He announced that the meeting is being held electronically as per the Governor's Executive Orders 107 and 108.

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order.
Flag Salute, Moment of Silence for all the individuals who have been stricken by COVID 19 and those we've lost during the past couple of months. Also, those fighting injustices and inequality throughout our nation.

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, Stewart-present
Councilwoman Rossillo-absent
Mayor Andrew LaBruno-present

Administrator Tully wanted to answer a question that came up during the last meeting regarding a letter from our PILOT attorney. The letter was marked Attorney-client privilege. It had been sent to the Governing Body. After speaking to Council president Stewart and upon advice from our Borough Attorney Marc Leibman, he would like the Governing Body to vote to release the letter this evening and post it on the website.

The Municipal Clerk requested that Administrator Tully explain that it's very important that everyone submit the 2020 Census so that Dumont can get its fair share. We have our billboards and campaign going up in full force.

The Recreation summer camp has been cancelled.

Tonight, there will be a presentation by our architect, RSC and our Construction Manager Joe Cascio on our new Municipal Complex. The presentation is posted on our borough website. They will stay on the line to address any comments.

Motion to accept agenda as presented: Councilman Gorman
Second: Councilman Manna
All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 19, 2020 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Gorman
Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes
Motion to approve the June 2, 2020 Public & Closed Session minutes: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, 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

#20-124 Bills List *

#20-125 Chapter 159-2020 Census *

#20-126 Approval to Hire Mediator *

#20-127 Endorsement of a DOT Application for Grant Avenue II *

#20-128 Approval of Towing Companies for the Police Department *

#20-129 Chapter 159-Police Body Armor *

#20-130 Resolution Implementing Temporary, Conditional Reopening of Retail Establishments *

#20-131 Authorization to Post the PILOT Opinion Letter on the Website *

Motion to open for public comment-Consent Agenda Items: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Lili Binney, State College, Pa.-asked about items on the bills list-Brown & Brown, Hometown Café, coffee for streets and roads.
2. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked about the PILOT letter.
3. deLyon, Beacon Street, noted the resolutions hiring a mediator and a construction attorney. He commented on Cumming's bills and that we will be running out of money in Ordinance #1519. The project could have been pared down.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

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

Presentation-Municipal Complex-Jeff Schlecht of RSC Architects and Joe Cascio of Lehrer Cumming. The slides showed the stage the building is in now and next to it, what it will look like when it is completed. There are three floors. It is 75%-80% completed.

ORDINANCES

First Reading

Ordinance #1577

**AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 392 OF THE DUMONT BOROUGH CODE-
POOLS**

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor?

There was no discussion from the Council

Motion to pass on 1st reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Ordinance #1578

**SUPPLEMENTAL BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF DUMONT
ADDING \$3,500,000 IN TOTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE MUNICIPAL
BUILDING PROJECT**

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to pass on 1st reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Ordinance #1579

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS BY THE BOROUGH OF DUMONT, APPROPRIATING THE
AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$762,000**

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Discussion from the Council?

Motion to pass on 1st reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Motion to open to the Public for Comment on the Presentation and General Comments:

Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. deLyon, Beacon Street, stated that he is still waiting information on the one minute rule. He feels the Borough's surplus is too high. We bonded for moving expenses and this project is over \$24,000,000. The project should have been cut back. In 2019 there were 81 full-time and 32 part-time employees. In 2020 there were 86 full-time and 34 part-time. What department do these people work under? There is also a large increase for Special Counsel.

2. Lili Binney, State College, Pa., asked if furniture and computers have been purchased.

3. Thomas Kelly, Beacon Street, asked if the pool ordinance changes could be explained since it is on for first reading again. Will the building have a fire pump? Will the new antenna be free-standing or building-mounted? Will there be off-site antennas? He asked the depth of the low grade for the sally port entrance. It looks steep.

4. Marianne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, feels that zoom would be better for these meetings. She asked why the motions and seconds are the same throughout the meeting. She asked about Asplint being on the closed session resolution.

Administrator Tully clarified that the pool ordinance is the first reading. There were some changes made. The second reading will be at our next meeting.

Mr. Cascio stated that furniture is being purchased. It will be on time. The fire pump has been eliminated from the project; receiving a credit of \$20,000. The antenna will be free-standing. The base will be reused. Mr. Schlecht explained that the sally port is not below grade. Drainage was a consideration.

Councilwoman Stewart answered the question about the bill for Hometown-it was for food for the volunteers who oversaw the free COVID testing offered by the County. The Mayor said that about 400 people were tested that day.

Councilwoman Stewart responded to the question about motions and seconds, saying that the Municipal Clerk can keep track and the Council members are not talking over each other.

Councilman Manna stated that the Brown & Brown bill was a renewal for the fire insurance policy for the town. He thanked the Mayor for being a facilitator of making sure that the organizers of the march were in contact with the correct departments so that safety was ensured. Mayor LaBruno added thanked the Dumont Police Department, Bergen County Sheriffs and all the surrounding towns that assisted us that day. It was a very peaceful march.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to enter Closed Session to discuss:

Personnel

Asplint-Litigation

Motion: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Mayor LaBruno announced that there would probably be some resolutions to be voted upon after closed session. The residents were told to call back in at 8:15PM when the meeting will go back into public.

Following closed session, the Governing Body dialed into the public access number.

Resolution #132-Ms. Lustig said that this resolution addresses certain payments in the amount of \$4,163.16 for accrued time as a result of the Sergeant Flaherty's employments with the Police Department. He passed away January 27, 2020 so this money will go to his estate.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Lili Binney, State College, Pa. asked if the explanation could be repeated. She hopes that the next meeting will be live.

2. Lynne Vietri also hopes future meetings will be live. The BOE will be going live in July.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt Resolution #132: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Resolution #133

Ms. Lustig explained that COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way in which we conduct ourselves from a business standpoint. Because there is no summer camp, certain crossing guards, who would have continued to work during camp, are being furloughed. Non-essential Municipal Court staff also will be furloughed. All of these employees have signed a RICE notice and elected to have the discussion of their employment in closed session. The furlough would be in effect from July 3rd until the start of the new school year.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Marianne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked for clarification of the resolution.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt Resolution #133: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Resolution #134

Ms. Lustig explained that this resolution authorizes the Governing Body to enter into a separation agreement with DPW Foreman Baierwalter, who will be retiring as of December 31, 2020.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt Resolution #134: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Stewart-yes

Mayor LaBruno stated that the Borough took early action to take necessary precautions, before the Executive Order, to close our Senior Center and our Public Library. Before COVID-19 our meetings were held at the Senior Center. Our seniors are our most vulnerable population and to suggest that we go into a building at the height of this pandemic is unreasonable. We will examine the best steps to handle these meetings if we are going have them in person. He will not put our seniors or public at harm just to hold public meetings. We are getting our business done on the phone. We will continue to operate this unless the State and the Department of Health say it's ok to go back into the Senior Center. We also have two members on the Council who are also at that age range. He thanked Administrator Tully and Borough Clerk Sue Connelly and everyone involved. It is a very trying time for all of us.

Councilman Manna stated that the paramount issue is the safety of the seniors and the public. He commended the Mayor for the actions he has taken to keep the seniors and public at large safe. He supports continuing on this path.

Councilwoman Stewart said that as someone who is age and health-vulnerable, she appreciates Mayor LaBruno's stance on this.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:45PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Municipal Clerk