

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2020
6:30 PM**

Administrator Tully announced that he is hosting this electronic meeting of the Governing Body from Borough Hall, 80 W. Madison Avenue, Dumont.

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order.

Flag Salute, Moment of Silence for the lives lost to COVID-19 and to the Marines who lost their lives. Today marks the 245th birthday of the Marine Corps.

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: Councilman Manna
Second: Councilman Gorman
All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 15, 2020 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Manna
Second: Councilman Gorman

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

Motion to approve the October 27, 2020 Public Meeting and Closed Session minutes:
Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

ORDINANCES

Second Reading

#1581 Chief of Police-Promotional Procedures-Amendment of Chapter 75 of the Borough Code

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Discussion from the Council?

Arthur Thibault explained that the amendment is mainly due to the pandemic. The oral interview for applicants would be conducted by a Mayor & Council designee committee. It is now consistent with the promotional process for Sgt. through Chief. The Mayor added that it falls in line with the process for hiring department heads, also.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked how the committee is chosen.

2. Resident's name and address were inaudible-she would like some notice ahead of time if there would be work going on that would affect certain residences, due to the noise.

3. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked if the committee is comprised of only members of the Mayor & Council.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Mr. Thibault explained that the Mayor and Council will designate who will be on the committee. The Mayor and Council could designate someone other than themselves.

Mayor LaBruno stated that the committee consists of Council members Englese and Manna and the Mayor.

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

First Reading

#1582 An Ordinance Amending Borough Code Chapter 75 - Provisions setting forth the Police Department Table of Organization and Promotional Procedures

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Discussion from the Council? Councilman Manna explained that this amendment provides flexibility to the Governing Body and Police Chief.

Mr. Thibault stated that it also may extend the life of the applicant list for an additional month. The Governing Body may fill each rank in the table of organization. There was a change in the structure to make the Department a little more efficient relative to supervision.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

#20-208 Bills List *

#20-209 Authorization to Advertise for RFQ's for 2021 *

#20-210 Approval of Sustainable Jersey Energy Project Grant Application *

- #20-211 Regulations for Remote Meetings *
- #20-212 Antonio Spina-Accept Application as Probationary Firefighter *
- #20-213 Mike Davis-Accept Resignation as a Firefighter *
- #20-214 Award of Quote for Snow Removal from Vacant and Bank-owned Properties to R.L. Roem-\$75.00 per hour *
- #20-215 Adoption of the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan *
- #20-216 2019 Audit Corrective Action Plan *
- #20-217 Authorization of 2020 Budget Transfers *
- #20-218 Designation of Police Chief Oral Interview Committee *

Comments from the Council? Councilman Manna asked Mr. Tully about the Hazard Mitigation Plan to which he responded that it is a County recommendation and suggested by the Acting Police Chief.

CFO Abbasi thanked Councilman Manna for his service for Veterans Day tomorrow. He explained #216. The deadline for the audit was extended to September 30th due to the pandemic. It included up to 12/31/19. The eight recommendations noted need corrective action and all have been put in place. The audit was reviewed by Mr. Tully, Councilman Manna, Councilman Chae, Council President Stewart and himself. We are looking forward to reducing the number of recommendations for the next audit.

Mr. Leibman stated that #211 refers to pending statutes to allow us to continue having remote meetings.

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, cited the repeat comments from previous audits. The CFO had said that these are habit-based. Repetitive habits should change. The Borough hired a municipal housing liaison to administer the Borough's affordable housing and file all necessary documents by a due date. Who was responsible for this in 2018 and 2019?

2. Thomas Kelly, Beacon Street, said that some carriers like Sprint don't allow participation in telecom meetings. This should be addressed since it effects OPMA.

3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, referred to the bills list and the purchase of the shed for \$10,000. What will it be used for? She questioned #218 and the fact that outgoing Councilman Manna is on the committee. The Police Committee should be corrected on the website.

4. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, questioned the bills paid for the Record advertisements dating back to 2018 and 2019.

5. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, questioned the payment of \$899 for scanners charged to the Streets & Roads account.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

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

Motion to open to the public for General Comment: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, asked who the Municipal Housing Liaison to administer the COAH report was and the person or firm in 2018 and 2019. How much were they paid?

2. John Holt, 34 Stratford, is following up on his concern regarding residents of Washington Promenade parking on his street. When it is fully occupied what will happen? There have been instances when cars have blocked his driveway. Mr. Tully asked for his phone number and will get back to him.

3. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked the progress of Borough Hall. He said questions from the residents should be answered at the following meeting.

4. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, is disappointed that the COAH requirements are not being followed. He asked about development fees. Maybe there should be an Affordable Housing committee, which could scope out a plan where additional units could be accommodated so there is no scrambling at the last minute.

5. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, referred to the bills list and that T&M's bill was paid for work on Washington and Grant Avenue from a Municipal Complex ordinance. She asked if the A-frame and shed were going to be used by the Recreation Department. Did the Mayor have the meeting with the Police Acting Chief regarding threats? If there was a meeting and actions to be taken, what would it cost the residents?

6. Mary Normoyle is concerned with first amendment rights and asked the results of the meeting between the Mayor and Acting Chief McKeary pertaining to a potential threat to the Governing Body.

7. Michael Sullivan, Andover Street, said that Mr. Tully answered his questions.

Mayor LaBruno will look into the 2018 and 2019 COAH report. He said he has a COAH report submitted by CME. He asked that Mr. Tully follow up. In reference to some type of police presence at his or other Council members' houses, he isn't sure what the residents are speaking of but there is no such detail so there is no cost to the residents.

Councilman Manna pointed out that Mr. Tully and Mr. Abbasi started working in Dumont in 2020. He is confident that they will follow up on the Audit recommendations.

Mr. Abbasi addressed the question about the scanner. Each department has a line item for office supplies and miscellaneous items so it was not an improper charge. In answer to Ms. Vietri's question, he explained that bond ordinances may not be specific, it could be used if needed.

Mr. Tully said that the COAH paperwork was filed June 30, 2020. He gives his cell number out at every meeting and answers questions at the next meeting. He mentioned Sprint and that he has never heard from anyone about there being a problem participating our meetings. If it's someone you know has an issue, have them call him to discuss it.

Councilman Manna pointed out that Mr. Tully, Mr. Abbasi and the Mayor took office as of January 1, 2020. This audit reflects what was done in 2019. He said he is confident that Mr. Tully and Mr. Abbasi have the ability to make corrective action.

Mayor LaBruno stated that Councilman Manna has been on and off the Council for over fifteen years and that he understands what the residents need. The Councilman weighing in on the interviews is key. He thanked him for his service all these years and has appreciated his mentorship.

Councilwoman Stewart stated that the shed will be used by the DPW. They will be moving it themselves.

Councilman Gorman thanked Councilman Manna for his leadership and experience. He thanked him for his service to this nation.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to go into Closed Session to discuss:

Litigation-Cavadias

Sale of Borough Property

After closed session:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Municipal Clerk