

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2021
6:15 PM**

Mayor LaBruno call the meeting to order at 6:45PM. He led the flag salute.

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, The Record and Ridgewood News and Facebook.

Roll Call: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart: present
Mayor Andrew LaBruno-present

Motion to accept the agenda as presented Councilman Englese
Second: Councilman Chae
All in favor.

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

- #21-01 Appointment of Carole Stewart as Council President for 2021 *
- #21-02 Approval of Mayor and Council 2021 Meeting Dates *
- #21-03 Approval of Council Committees *
- #21-04 Frank Berardo-Reappointment as the Borough's Qualified Purchasing Agent-\$5,000 *
- #21-05 Reappointment of Sustainable Communities Associates-\$3,500 per month *
- #21-06 Establishment of Delinquent Tax Rate/Penalties *
- #21-07 Authorization of Investment of Idle Funds *
- #21-08 Designation of Official Depositories *
- #21-09 Adoption of 2021 Temporary Municipal Budget *
- #21-10 Approval of Payroll Account *
- #21-11 Harry Stylianou-Appointment as the Municipal Court Judge *
- #21-12 Fire Department Interborough Mutual Aid *
- #21-13 Fire Department Mutual Aid with Oradell, New Milford and River Edge *
- #21-14 Appointment of Christopher Tully as Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and Cathy Romeo and Jodie Delehanty as Alternate JIF Commissioners for 2021 *
- #21-15 Appointment of Susan Connelly as Affirmative Action, Public Agency Compliance Officer for the year 2021 *
- #21-16 Designation of the Borough's Official Newspapers *

- #21-17 Reappointment of Larry Bongard as Recycling Coordinator-\$4,264 annually *
- #21-18 Approval of Bergen County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid *
- #21-19 Approval of Volunteer Tuition Credit Program *
- #21-20 Reappointment of Carolyn Blakeman as Clean Communities Coordinator-\$3,000 annually *
- #21-21 Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for Senior Center Donations *
- #21-22 Approval of Membership in the N.J. League of Municipalities *
- #21-23 Approval of Membership in the Bergen County League of Municipalities *
- #21-24 John Pampaloni-Reappointment as Wastewater Consultant - \$330 per month *
- #21-25 Participation in New Jersey State Cash Management Fund *
- #21-26 Appointment of Kaufman Semeraro & Leibman as Borough Attorney for 2021 *
- #21-27 Appointment of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy as Borough Labor Attorney for 2021 *
- #21-28 Appointment of CME Associates as the Borough's Affordable Housing Administrator for 2021 *
- #21-29 Appointment of McNerney & Associates, Inc. as the Borough's Appraiser for 2021 *
- #21-30 Appointment of RSC Architects as the Borough's Architects for 2021 *
- #21-31 Appointment of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins as the Borough's Auditors for 2021 *
- #21-32 Appointment of Waters, McPherson, McNeil as the Borough's Bond Counsel for 2021 *
- #21-33 Appointment of Burgis Associates as the Borough's COAH Planner for 2021 *
- #21-35 Vicki Iucci-Approval of Reappointment to the Stigma-free Committee *
- #21-36 Appointment of Acacia Financial Group as the Borough's Financial Advisors for 2021 *
- #21-37 Appointment of Millennium Strategies, LLC as the Borough's Grant Writers for 2021 *
- #21-38 Appointment of Dart Computer Services as the Borough's IT Firm for 2021 *
- #21-39 Appointment of Burgis Associates, Inc. as the Borough's Planner for 2021 *
- #21-40 Appointment of Breslin & Breslin as the Borough's Prosecutor for 2021 *
- #21-41 Appointment of the Law Offices of Louis G. DeAngelis as the Borough's Public Defender for 2021 *
- #21-42 Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough's Risk Manager for 2021 *
- #21-43 Appointment of Boggia & Boggia, LLC as the Borough's Tax Appeal Attorney for 2021 *
- #21-44 Appointment of Borough's Special Counsel for 2021: Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Cappuzzo *
- #21-45 Appointment of Borough's Special Projects Engineers for 2021: T&M Associates; Neglia Engineering Associates; Maser Consulting P.A., Costa Engineering *
- #21-46 Approval of Block Party, Street Closing and Live Entertainment Applications *
- #21-47 Danielle Velez-Approval of Appointment to the Beautification Committee *
- #21-48 Amanda Karpinski-Approval of Appointment to the Beautification Committee *
- #21-49 Daniela Apolito-Approval of Appointment to the Economic Development Committee as the Bank Representative *

#21-50 Kathleen Molina-Approval of Appointment to the Board of Health *
#21-51 Rafael Riquelme-Approval of Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees *
#21-52 Michael Versace-Approval of Appointment to the Rent Leveling Board as a Landlord Representative *
#21-53 Gary Barber-Approval of Appointment to the Rent Leveling Board as a Tenant Representative *
#21-54 Jennifer Grom-Approval of Appointment to the Rent Leveling Board as a Tenant Representative *
#21-55 Kevin Grom-Approval of Appointment to the Rent Leveling Board as a Tenant Representative *
#21-56 Simuy Keys-Approval of Appointment to the Rent Leveling Board as an Alternate Homeowner Representative *
#21-57 Reverend Elaine Wing-Reappointment to the Stigma-free Committee *
#21-59 Sarah Lachenhauer-Appointment to the Economic Development Committee *
#21-60 Authorization of Change Order #3 for the Municipal Complex-\$66,585.20 (to be reimbursed by CARES Act) *
#21-61 Award of Contract to Millennium Strategies to Submit a Grant Application for Tropical Storm Isaias Recovery Funds-not to exceed \$10,000 *

Councilman Stewart would like to move Resolution #58 to Non-consent Agenda. The reason for Resolution #21 is that there are people who want to donate to our Senior Center and Senior Activities. Therefore, we have to make an application to the State to set up this special fund.

Councilman Chae asked to have Resolution #34 moved to Non-consent.

Motion to open to the public for comment on the Consent Agenda only: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, thought she heard something about a Borough newspaper.
2. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, feels that RSC is incompetent and doesn't understand why you would reappoint them. The Borough should have a forensic audit.
3. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked why the Council meetings have been changed to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. She asked about Council Committee reports and why we need a Temporary Budget. What was the sizeable donation? A couple should not be on the same Board.

Mayor LaBruno clarified that the newspaper resolution is necessary because we have to advertise public notices. As far as RSC, there is no work scheduled for them outside of the new Municipal Building. In answer to a question about the Board appointment, he said that just because people live together does not mean they have to agree.

Mr. Abbasi explained that the adoption of the Temporary Budget allows the Borough to spend money against its 2021 budget before it is adopted. It does not exceed 26.25% of the previous budget.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese
Second: Councilman Chae
All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda excluding Resolutions #34 and #58: Councilman Englese
Second: Councilman Chae
Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart: yes

Non-consent Agenda

#21-34 Councilman Chae-Appoint as Class III Member of the Joint Land Use Board

Motion to adopt: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart: yes
Councilman Chae abstained

#21-58 Appointment of Remington Vernick as Borough Engineers for 2021:

Motion to adopt: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Harvilla abstained

Councilwoman Stewart-no. The reason for her vote is her way of expressing her discontent with the performance of our Borough Engineer on certain projects we've been working on.

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

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked why a public relations firm was not appointed. She said the information on the website should be proofread. She expressed appreciation to Councilwoman Stewart for Remington Vernick "no" vote.

2. John Sansone, Beacon Street, said he was glad Councilwoman Stewart voted her conscience. He asked for the total spent on the new building and whether the 3-minute limit for speaking was still in effect.

3. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, complained about 30-45% raises in the last three years. He is concerned about the people who are struggling financially during this pandemic. He complained about no transparency.

4. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, appreciated Councilwoman Stewart standing up individually on the Engineer vote. She asked what happened to the ordinance that disappeared. What can they expect as far as the PILOT?

5. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, would like the meetings to start later. The swearing-in ceremony was live-streamed-why not the Council meetings? She asked if the donations are for Senior activities or to the food pantry. She doesn't think it's right for a couple to be appointed to the Rent Leveling Board.

6. Lili Binney, State College, Pa., thanked Councilwoman Stewart for her Engineer

vote. She hopes that the town can recoup some of the money from the errors committed on this project. She doesn't feel that people from the same family should serve on Boards together.

7. Jennifer Grom, Hickory Street, said that live streaming is not possible to broadcast and to include residents' comments. These platforms are not secure. She disagreed with the statement that a couple cannot serve on a Board together. She and her husband come from different backgrounds. They are very ethical. She said to feel free to scrutinize them. She hopes that despite differences in opinions, we can move forward and be civil.

8. Karen Valido, Overlook Drive, thanked Carole for standing up on the Engineer vote. She said there are meeting platforms that are very secure and allow comments..

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

In response to questions asked by the public, Mayor LaBruno said that the speaking limit is 5 minutes and nobody has been cut off yet. The streaming of the swearing-in ceremony was donated by John Jay Photography. It took place outside. He feels we are a close-knit community. We will be revamping the website to make it more user-friendly. No employees received more than a 2% increase. The Mayor said that the Wells Fargo property is part of the overlay zoning. He would like the information of the person who asked about it so that he can call her and explain. The CFO was asked to have at the next meeting the figure for the total amount spent on the building.

Mr. Tully said the professionals for the building will be on the call next meeting.

Councilwoman Stewart explained that Senior Services is separate from the food pantry.

Councilman Harvilla said that it is an honor to be elected to the Council for three years. He stated that he appreciates the opportunity to work with the Council and the town to move us forward. He hopes to help build a much more robust culture.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC
Municipal Clerk

