

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
GOVERNING BODY MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2021  
6:30 PM**

Administrator Tully announced that the meeting is being held by electronic means. He is hosting it at Borough Hall.

Flag Salute led by Councilman Chae. Mayor LaBruno asked for moment of silence for all those lost to CoVid-19

**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). Notice was sent to the Record and the Ridgewood News, posted on the Borough website, Borough Hall and Facebook.

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**ORDINANCE**

*Second Reading*

**#1583** The Establishment of the Borough of Dumont Committee of Cultural Affairs, Diversity, Inclusivity and Celebrations

Motion to Waive Formal Reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Discussion from the Council?

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Avenue, had a problem with people being nominated before the ordinance was adopted and that there are no seniors on the committee. There should be a Citizen Leadership tab on the website. She asked that everyone reapply and more residents be considered.

2. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, doesn't understand why Maryann Russini is not on a committee. It seems personal.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

Motion to adopt on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, 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**

- #21-76 Revision of Resolution #20-184-Green Acres Enabling Resolution-\$235,632 \*
- #21-77 Ratification of the Public Notice for a Senior Minivan Grant \*
- #21-78 Authorization for Installation of IT Equipment for the Municipal Complex by Dart Computer Services-\$27,850.00 \*
- #21-79 Authorization to Purchase IT Equipment for the Municipal Complex from Palisades Sales-\$23,067.00 \*
- #21-80 Endorsement of Vantage Health’s Application for a CDBG Grant \*
- #21-81 Authorization of 2020 Budget Transfers \*
- #21-82 Appointments to the Cultural Affairs, Diversity, Inclusivity and Celebrations Committee \*
- #21-83 Authorization of Emergency Temporary Appropriation-\$450,000 \*
- #21-84 Authorization of a Road Closure Due to a Sewer Emergency Repair on Columbia Avenue \*
- #21-85 Authorization for the Borough Administrator to Sign an Amendment to an Agreement with CSX \*

Administrator Tully explained the sewer line issue on Columbia Avenue. Montana Construction was called in and worked on a parallel sewer line overnight. At that time, it was discovered that the sewer line was cracked, which was deemed a health hazard, caused most likely by CSX. J Fletcher Creamer & Son, through Riverside Co-op, of which Dumont is a member, was called in. This job involves the width of Columbia. The Borough Engineer is providing plans since the railroad is active.

Councilwoman Stewart stated that the Administrator has worked diligently to make the point that the issue is CSX’s fault.

Motion to open to the public on the Consent Agenda: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, referred to Resolution # 82 and thinks the number of members in incorrect. She requested a response to the matching funds of \$706,896 in Resolution #76.
2. deLyon, Beacon Street, said that Resolution # 82 should be tabled. He stated that everything possible should be done to have CSX pick up the entire cost.
3. John Sansone, Beacon Street, referred to Resolution #82, saying that seniors should be included and asked that the resolution be tabled. Resolution #76 should be explained better.
4. Lynn Vietri asked that Resolution #82 be tabled.
5. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked if there are substantial changes in

Resolution #85.

6. Lili Binney, State College, Pa. asked about the totals of #78 and #79. She said the last meeting the amount was wrong on the agenda. In addition, she complained that there are errors on the website and the bills list. She said there's a quality control issue.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

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

Motion to open to the public for general comments: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. deLyon, Beacon Street, said that adopting Resolution #82 shows that there is no concern for citizens' input. He criticized the process and procedure.

2. Maryann Russini wants to know if a PR firm is hired. Have the bids gone out for the parking lot? How many buildings are occupied at the farm, referring to the PILOT program.

3. John Sansone asked many questions. He will email them to the Administrator and would like an answer at the next meeting: Cumming-\$165 an hour, total payment for RSC and RVE, P.D. ceiling status and cost, credit for the parking lot, any other expenditures than the six bonds for the building, quantity and cost of soil removal, real story of the monopole and cost for attorneys.

4. Mary Normoyle, said that they ask questions and get selective answers. She asked how many C of O's there are for the apartments. Do we still have the PILOT expert? What is the status of the building lawsuit? She asked why the Mayor did not put the resolution concerning overdevelopment on the agenda.

5. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, asked about the CSX agreement. He wanted an explanation of the IT purchases. There hasn't been any discussion by the Council. There should be more transparency. He requested that the overdevelopment resolution be put on the agenda.

6. Lynne Vietri asked if the nomination of Kevin Grom was as an alternate on the Rent Leveling Board. She questioned what was meant by continuing to set COVID protective items aside. Why were the meetings changed to the second and fourth Tuesdays? She is disappointed that there are no seniors on the Diversity Committee.

7. Jim Savage feels the Committee is a positive for the town.

8. Lili Binney, State College, said that due process was not followed for the Committee. What was the selection method? What is the status of Gordon Avenue? What method do we use to collect the \$99,000 and can that method change? Is there an upcoming court date for the Cavadias lawsuit?

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Municipal Clerk Connelly read an email from Karen Valido into the record:  
Good evening, Mayor & Council.

I know I have brought this to the Council in the past but, as applications are opening soon and Gina's field is on the agenda for renovation, I believe this would be an appropriate time to look into this grant. Any savings to our already tax burdened residents would be prudent, especially given that many of our residents are struggling not only financially but, as witnessed at our food pantry, also for food.

As I could not find the opening dates for applications on the AARP Community Challenge website, I emailed them and received this response and I really believe we could qualify. Past recipients' can be viewed on their website.

Hi Karen, applications for the 2021 Community Challenge grant program will be accepted from nonprofits and municipalities through the AARP web site from Feb. 17 – April 14. Challenge grants are used to improve public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement/smart cities, and will also support Coronavirus recovery and projects that target diversity & inclusion. Grants don't pay for ongoing programming and are only permitted to cover minimal staff costs – they are really designed to support tangible purchases, innovative pilots or specific community activities. Projects are short-term, quick-action and would need to be completed within a four-month late summer/fall window. There is no minimum or maximum ask, but the average grant is around \$13,000 and they typically range from \$500-\$20,000. On rare occasion, slightly more may be awarded. Examples of projects we fund, category videos and previous grantees can be found on our web site – the application, sample documents and 2021 criteria will be posted on Feb. 17. If you don't have nonprofit or government status, you will need to find a fiscal sponsor or partner to accept the funds. All applications will need to be submitted online during the submission period.

Also, you can apply for help renovating your park. Perhaps there is a specific project within the overall plan that would be a good fit for a Challenge grant. Like, the town is investing X money to improve the park. We're applying for a small part of that to cover the cost of the tables, or sun shades or walkway, etc.

Thank you, Tracy and the Challenge Team

Mayor LaBruno commented on Ordinance #1583. He corrected the comment that there are no seniors on the Committee. The Recreation Chair is non-voting and a senior. The Long Hill overdevelopment resolution is a no-action plan. He suggested that residents call their legislators. The Economic Development Committee has been working with our planner to be pro-active. The Joint Land Use Board and Building Department and Building Department are aware of the affordable housing obligation that we have.

Borough Attorney Leibman said that this is the second time he is apologizing for putting that resolution on the agenda without first consulting with anyone on the Council. He was trying to be pro-active. Mr. Tully has been working late and on weekends to solve this sewer problem. He has been persistent in continuing pushing this process forward. People don't realize the disaster that can be created by this issue. We have an agreement with CSX from 1925. It is being amended to allow for the changes in the pipes that are going underneath the rail line. Our engineer has also done a great job in gathering the documentation we need to recoup everything the Borough is entitled to.

Mr. Leibman does not see any continued need for Mr. Porro's advice on the PILOT program. At this point, an audit will be conducted by the end of March. When we receive the audit, we will determine whether additional sums are due. If so, a letter will be sent out and additional sums will be collected. Labor Counsel has been handling the Cavadias suit. Due to the pandemic, there will be a huge backlog. There is no update on the road widening questioned earlier. It appears to be at a standstill now.

Mr. Norbert, the Borough Engineer, said that of the approximately \$235,000, the town has to provide 75%. The good news is that the Council has been diligent in seeking other funds for the project and has received two Open Space grants. Green Acres does allow use of other grants so the Borough's portion should go down to 50%.

Mr. Tully said he will look into the website issues and we are working to update our website. Bids on the parking lot will hopefully go out this week. If there are any CARES expenditures, we are still marking them as COVID-related. In the hope that CARES money is available, we will be ready.

The Mayor said that right now there are no plans to hire a PR firm. If you read Ordinance #1583 you would know that it is the Committees job is to not work only within their committee but also work with every other committee in town. That includes our Senior Services Center. Tony Como is co-chair of the Committee and is a senior.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk