

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2021
6:30 PM**

Jeanine Siek, Deputy Municipal Clerk, opened the meeting stating that this is a meeting of the Dumont Mayor & Council. We continue to conduct our meetings by electronic means. She added that she is hosting this meeting at Dumont Borough Hall at 50 Washington Avenue.

Flag Salute-Mayor LaBruno; Moment of Silence

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 Andrew LaBruno-present

The Municipal Clerk pointed out a typo on Resolution #96. The figure in the body of the resolution is correct. The Mayor will sign it once the figure is corrected.

Motion to Accept the Agenda as presented: Councilman Gorman
Second: Councilman Englese
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

- #21-93 David Gluckman-Reappointment as Fire Official *
- #21-94 Ryan Hanley-Accept Application to the Dumont Fire Auxiliary *
- #21-95 Mark Fredrick-Accept Application to the Fire Department *
- #21-96 Authorization of Payment to Montana Construction-Emergency Bypass Pumping on Columbia Avenue *
- #21-97 Jorge Vela-Accept Resignation from the Fire Department *
- #21-98 Colin Delibero-Accept Resignation from the Fire Department *
- #21-99 2021 Emergency Temporary Appropriations *
- #21-100 Temporary, Conditional Re-opening of Retail Establishments *
- #21-101 Authorization of Additional Furniture for the New Building *

#21-102 Approval of Road Closures for Outdoor Dining *

#21-103 Declare Solidarity with the Asian and Asian-American Community *

Councilwoman Stewart expressed support for Resolution #103. As a community we must reject all forms of racism and bigotry.

Mayor LaBruno thanked Councilman Chae for suggesting we put this resolution on the agenda. We had adopted a Cultural Affairs ordinance because we are an inclusive community and this is a resolution that shows we will continue to move forward with our Asian-American brothers and sisters in our community.

Councilman Chae said it makes him proud that Dumont is standing behind this resolution against violence and any hate against minorities.

The Mayor said that Resolutions 100 and 102 will provide the capabilities for our establishments to take their storefronts and restaurants outdoors during the pandemic.

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda Items: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

1. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked why the work session was skipped.

2. deLyon, Beacon Street, questioned Resolution #99. Why weren't the pension payments planned for? What are you doing with the extra \$435,000? Social security, pension, federal and state withholding are paid on a monthly basis.

3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked how much we have paid for furniture. Is this the end?

4. Jennifer Grom, Hickory Street, thanked Councilman Chae for not only bringing up Resolution #103 and is proud he is on our Council. It sets a good example for our kids.

Mayor LaBruno said there are no work session items.

CFO Abbasi said that NJSA 48:4-20, the New Jersey Budget Law clearly has a section about emergency temporary appropriation. Pension payments are due April 1st. The numbers in the resolution include the two figures from PERS and PFRS bill and include the prior expenditure for the sewer repair.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

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

ORDINANCE

Second Reading

#1584

Bond Ordinance Providing for the Financing of an Emergency Temporary Appropriation Related to Sewer Line Repairs for Columbia Avenue in the Borough of Dumont, New Jersey, Appropriating \$450,000 therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$428,500 Bonds or Notes of the Borough for Financing the Cost thereof

Motion to waive Formal Reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

The Mayor stated that it is strongly believed based on evidence from our engineering firm and the company that's performing the work on the sewer system that this issue is a direct result from the work was done by CSX on that line. The Borough attorney, Engineer and Administrator are documenting everything and doing all they can to get the money reimbursed.

Administrator Tully added that they are working on a meeting with CSX to discuss the scope and cost of this project.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

1. Lynne Vietri thanked everyone who is working on getting reimbursement for the town.

2. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, said he appreciates the efforts that are being made to get reimbursement. If we are reimbursed by CSX, will we immediately pay off the bond?

3. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, said he appreciated the quick turnaround. What would the tax impact be?

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

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

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

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, inquired about the parking lot bid due March 17th. Are there provisions for the public to attend? He hopes the information will be provided tonight. He questioned the third item in the closed session resolution. There is no transparency.

2. John Sansone, Beacon Street, thanked Mr. Tully for answering his questions but he is still waiting for the Remington Vernick's charges for the Complex. There is a discrepancy between the figures we were told last meeting and the vendor's list from October, 2019. The auditor's bills from last month are for 2019. Does the engineer have to draw up new specifications? Is that going to add cost to the paving? We need to have in-person meetings in order to get to know the Council.

3. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked if the holding area in the Police detention center has been finished and approved. She would like to know the difference between revitalization and redevelopment. Who won the bid of Wells Fargo? How is the bills list scrutinized? Is there a new contract for the Police Chief and DPW? Has there been follow up on the AARP grant? She would like to see that resolution put back on the agenda.

4. Lynne Vietri wants in-person meetings. Has there been any discussion about pot shops? Do all purchase orders have to have an invoice? If their questions were answered they would not have to submit OPRA requests.

5. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked about the Wells Fargo and Bank of

America buildings. She didn't know about the parking lot bid. She would like ad on our website. Call-ins are not working. What is the update on the Building Department suit?

6. Lili Binney, State College, Pa., thanked Councilman Harvilla for noticing the discrepancy on the resolution. She thanked Councilman Chae for resolution #103. She thanked Mr. Abbasi for his explanation on Resolution #99. She has asked what the April T & M bill was for and what bond number it should be.

7. Jennifer Grom, Hickory Street, cited an article in the New York Times pertaining to young people's mental health as the pandemic drags on. A lot of children don't see the pandemic as temporary. She would like to thank Mayor LaBruno for recording a video for the Honiss PTA to distribute to the student body in celebration of Read Across America Week. He also suggested that the students send letters and artwork to Borough Hall. This is what the children need right now. Chief McKeary had one of the police officers read a book about police. Recreation is up and running-she is very grateful for everything that provides joy to the children. A realtor from out of town had said that Dumont is an up-and-coming town and do a lot of things for kids.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

Councilwoman Stewart said that 400 hot meals from the County were distributed today to residents of Dumont through Social Services and our Task Force.

Mr. Abbasi stated that the \$500 donation made to a church was from a Clean Communities grant. This grant is supposed to be contributed to schools, non-profits and churches. The Borough provides gloves, rakes, etc. The refuse is then picked up the next day. The appropriate word to use is "contribution".

The Mayor said that Wells Fargo and Bank of America are private properties. Unless there is an application submitted to the Joint Land Use Board, we would not know Information about them. He read the definition of "revitalization" and the definition of "redevelopment".

Mr. Tully said he expects this to be the last of the furniture needed. The goal would be to pay back the money is we are reimbursed by CSX. The Police Department floor pitch still needs to be completed and then final inspection will come from the DOC. Mr. Tully thanked the Recreation Director Tony Como, Recreation Commission and our Risk Manager for making sure our recreation programs safe. There are no contracts with our Police Chief or DPW yet.

Mayor LaBruno said we are in negotiation with Police Chief McKeary and with our DPW. We will be starting negotiations with our Police Department soon. He stated that he, Councilwoman Stewart and Public Safety Chairman Englese met with Chief McKeary and applicants for the position of police officer.

Mr. Leibman said that redevelopment is a very specific term in New Jersey. There hasn't been discussion to designate an area in need of redevelopment. It is inappropriate for the Governing Body to get involved in a private real estate transaction. Employees are working very hard; there is nothing nefarious going on. Some professionals wait a long time to send their bills. He added that legal strategies won't be shared in public.

Mayor LaBruno stated the Governing Body is not here for debate. OPMA gives you the right to comment. We attempt to answer your questions in full. We cannot speak about the building department litigation.

Motion to close the meeting to go into closed session: Councilman Gorman
Second: Councilman Englese
All in favor.

Municipal Clerk Connelly read the resolution to enter Closed Session to discuss:
Asplint-Negotiations
Sale of Public Property
Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b. (4)
herein in which the public body is, or may become, a party, or matters falling within the
attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the
attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer
Litigation-Cavadias
Motion: Councilman Gorman
Second: Councilman Englese
Roll Call Vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Following closed session, motion to adjourn: Councilman Gorman
Second: Councilman Englese
All in favor.
The meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC
Municipal Clerk