

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2021
6:30 PM**

Administrator Tully announced that the meeting is being held by electronic means. He is hosting it at Borough Hall, 50 Washington Avenue. Flag Salute-Mayor LaBruno; Moment of Silence for all those affected by 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, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-present
Councilman Gorman-absent
Mayor LaBruno-present

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 9, 2021 executive meeting minutes: Councilman Englese
Second: Councilman Harvilla
Roll call vote: Councilmembers Chae, Englese, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

MAYOR'S REPORT

We are now located at 50 Washington Avenue. He said he had stopped by during the move and it was all hands-on-deck. He thanked Mr. Tully for all his hard work. Hopefully, we'll all be back in the building shortly,

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tully explained that we began moving the weekend of February 20th. The Police Department moved over February 22nd. We have posted our new address on our website, Nixle, Facebook and at our former Borough Hall. In addition, the DPW began to break down the former Borough Hall to restore it to its previous state and turn it back over to the owner. Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, we continue to be open to the public by appointment and encourage the public to conduct borough business remotely as much as possible. We thank the residents for their patience and support. This building does belong to the residents of Dumont. The Borough is hoping to have an official dedication in the Spring with the hope that it will be a time that is safe for all and the building can be open to the public. Any ceremony that takes place will adhere to the

State guidelines during a State of Emergency. Mr. Tully thanked Anthony Schiraldi and the DPW, Captain Foti who ran point on the Police Department operations, Jeanine, who helped make determinations on the move into Borough Hall, Tony Como, who ran point on the move. We no longer will have to pay rent for the former borough hall and storefront on Madison. There are still some items to complete-the electronic sign, removal of the trailers and going out to bid for a portion of our parking lot. The important thing is that we are up and operational. The first responder services of the Borough continue.

Mr. Tully stated that he has spoken to Borough Engineer Norbert. The primary work on the Columbia Avenue sewer has been completed and we are making sure that everything is documented and will fight to get the entire scope of the project refunded because it is our sincere belief that the emergency was caused by the work of CSX.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Leibman stated he is very impressed with Mr. Tully and Mr. Norbert in handling the Columbia Avenue emergency that CSX created. They have been relentless in the calls, following up and documentation so we can have an evidentiary trail should we need it. He noted that everyone has done an amazing job and put in excessive hours.

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

#21-86 Nick Sinanian-Accept Application to Dumont Fire Patrol *

#21-87 Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Dumont to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Riverside Cooperative *

#21-88 Authorization for Administrator Tully to Sign the Estoppel Certificate for the Redevelopment Agreement *

#21-89 Bills List *

#21-90 Authorization of 2020 Budget Transfer *

#21-91 Approval of Establishing a Committee to Explore Options for Waste Hauling and Recycling Disposal *

#21-92 Authorization of an Emergency Temporary Appropriation for Columbia Avenue Sewer Repair *

There was no discussion from the Council.

Mr. Abbasi explained Resolution #90. The bulk of this transfer is for garbage, trash removal and recycling fees. This came about the last two months. It was the new contract awarded to the sole bidder, Suburban and their disposal company Gaeta, no longer Covanta. The market has changed. We are no longer making revenue from recycling. Thankfully, due to salary breakage, the bulk of this transfer is coming from the Police Salary and Wages line.

Mayor LaBruno said that this is why we have Resolution #91 on the agenda. He, Councilman Englese and Councilman Gorman will be members of a committee exploring other options. He explained that they will look into shared services or the option of

purchasing trucks. We have to make sure that our residents get the best service at the lowest cost.

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

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, referring to the bills list, questioned a donation that was made to Calvary Church.

2. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, remarked on the budget transfer resolution and overbudgeting. He asked why the 80 W. Madison Avenue lease payment was not charged to Bond Ordinance #1519. Referring to Resolution #9, he feels the committee could use some professional help. When will the committee report to the Council and residents?

3. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked if the Council reviewed the actual bills. The overdevelopment resolution is getting bipartisan support. She questioned DATUM and asked what high-density filing is. She asked about the payment to AirGov.

4. Lili Binney, State College, Pa. said that they were told in the past that Mr. Abbasi and Mr. Tully would be doing a cost analysis pertaining to garbage hauling. She questioned the T&M concept plans and asked the reason that there are a lot of recurring bills that are past due.

5. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, referred to Resolution #91. He said that tipping fees should be taken into consideration as well as other factors. He offered his services to help do research on the subject.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

Ordinance

First Reading

#1584 New Emergency Drainage Line Repair-Columbia Avenue Sanitary Sewer Repair Replacement

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno thanked Mr. Tully, Mr. Norbert and Mr. Leibman for their hard work on this matter. The Mayor had reached out to Congressman Gottheimer, who called CSX to no avail.

Motion to pass on first reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

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

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue asked the final cost of furniture. Did the bid for the parking lot go out? She suggested that there be a separate section on the website home page for jobs and public notices. Are the plans for Gina's Field done? Will there be a presentation? Where will the \$706,000 for the grant come from? There were no Council Committee reports tonight.

2. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked when the money for the new building hit the tax rolls. We should now be able to have in-person meetings. He offered to help do research on the automated garbage trucks. He feels parking will be a problem.

3. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street asked if once all costs are encumbered, will we have enough money? Has Bennett been paid? There is a refund for bond interest from 2016 on the bills list. What is that? When will the money from the new building hit the tax rolls?

4. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked about litigation with CSX. Would Mr. Leibman handle it or would it be a specialist? She asked the difference between redevelopment and revitalization. What was the total paid to Bennett?

5. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Avenue, asked why the meetings were changed to the second and fourth Tuesdays. When will there be in-person meetings? Could a Nixle be sent out to remind people of the meetings?

6. Lili Binney asked how the PILOT payment of \$99,000 was arrived at. Will the March audit be made public?

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno stated that Recreation is reviewing the plans for Gina's Field. They will make a final determination and there will be a presentation. He said that they could not negotiate with the garbage company since they were the only ones to bid. The DPW Superintendent and Finance team will be involved with discussion regarding the options for any changes with garbage and recycling plans. Regarding the arm garbage trucks, Mr. Richards and Mr. Schiraldi had met with an arm truck company. They toured the town and it can be done in Dumont. There were changes in the Council meetings because there were scheduling issues among some members of the Council. We cut the Police Department budget by 5%. This was done by restructuring the Police Department, adding more supervision on the streets and the proper change in command. There were some issues with our Table of Organization. The Mayor and Police liaison Englese worked with Chief McKeary to lower their budget by 5% and layered supervision, which is a big bonus point for our accreditation company.

Council Committee Reports

Councilman Harvilla gave committee reports. In January, Rafael Riquelme was sworn in as the Library Treasurer. The capital improvements plan was reviewed. Their five-year furniture technology capital improvement plan. This information was forwarded to the Borough Administrator so that the grant writers could be involved in advancing that agenda. The next meeting will be February 24th. There was a meeting of the Economic

Development Committee in January. Sarah Lachenauer was sworn in. The Committee discussed events to promote local businesses once COVID-19 protocols permit. In February the Committee discussed platforms to promote these events with an eye to ensure best as possible the success of future business events. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th. Councilman Harvilla said that in light of the passing of Senator Cardinale this week, he extended his sympathy. The Senator's 54-year record of public service to New Jersey was personally inspiring to him.

Mayor LaBruno had our flags lowered to half-staff in honor of Senator Cardinale and it will stay at half-staff upon the order of the Governor in memory of those who we lost to COVID-19 for about a week.

Mr. Leibman explained that the payment for the PILOT is based upon the PILOT agreement. Audit results will be made public.

Mr. Tully sat down with the Construction Manager and Finance to go over the questions Mr. Sansone had emailed. The fee for Lehrer Cumming is \$165.00 per hour through February. Since 2016, Cumming has been paid \$526,272, according to the latest finance report. Remington Vernick is a sub for RSC on this project. RSC has been paid 639,600 since 2017. The P.D. ceiling is approximately 85% complete. The total cost was \$55,400. The credit from Bennet for paving the remainder of the parking lot is \$45,000. We still have to go out to bid on this project. The tonnage of soil removal is 22,423 tons. It is not possible to break down by property. The entire site was labeled as historic fill. Numerous tests were performed by T&M, which indicated the soil was not suitable and there was nowhere to store the soil. There was no change to initial elevation of the building, according to Mr. Casio. The initial distance between the building and the existing radio tower-the concrete pad was five feet to the corner of the building foundation. The radio tower structural integrity was in jeopardy prior to demo. The stress points at the base were in constant motion due to high winds. We have paid approximately \$34,900 at this time according to our latest finance report. The response to other questions-the parking lot bid has not gone out yet and the updated website will be user-friendly.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Englese
Second: Councilman Harvilla
All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC
Municipal Clerk