

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2021
6:30 PM**

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order.

Flag Salute, 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 date, time and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings are posted at Borough Hall, was sent to *The Record* and the *Ridgewood News*, posted on the Borough website and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

Roll Call:

Council members: Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo – present

Councilwoman Stewart - absent

Mayor Andrew LaBruno – present

Also present: Borough Administrator Chris Tully, Borough Clerk Jeanine Siek, Borough Attorney Marc Leibman, CFO Issa Abbasi

Motion to Accept the Agenda as presented: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the June 22, 2021 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Englese

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

Stewart - absent

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor LaBruno welcomed everyone to the Mayor and Council meeting. The first Rock the Block event was this past weekend, and he thanked all of the volunteers. He was happy to see so many residents, families, children, volunteers and employees there interacting. He thanked the Borough Administrator, Recreation Director, DPW Superintendent, the community events team and all of the businesses that came out to make it a successful event. In August, we will begin the paving project on Lafayette and Quackenbush, which will be a two-phase project because of the issue on the side of the building. The building contractor is mitigating the problem with the road. Suez is now working on an issue and replacing a water line before we repave that location.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gorman

- *Shade Tree Commission*

Twilight at the Gazebo is tomorrow night at 7:30pm and every Wednesday in July. The Gazebo is located on West Shore across from Italian Connection. Please like and follow the Dumont Shade Tree on all social media and the newsletter is posted on the Borough website.

Councilman Chae

- He looks forward to attending the next Rock the Block event, he received great feedback from the community and his neighbors said it was a huge success.

Councilman Englese

- *Police Department*

There were 1,676 telephone calls for service, 82 telephone calls for medical reasons, 15 calls for fire and 4 calls for commitments in June. Patrol issued 48 traffic summonses. There was 1 DWI arrest. They investigated 25 motor vehicle crashes, responded to 19 burglar alarms, travelled 10,509 miles, no warrants served, 6 street lights and 1 decorative light not functioning, no car seats installed, no dark house slips issued.

Councilwoman Rossillo

- *Ambulance Corps*

For the month of June, they had 98 calls and for the month of July so far, they had 28 calls. From January through July, a total of 611 calls.

Councilman Harvilla

- No reports

Mayor LaBruno reminded everyone about Movies in the Park events: on 7/15 Toy Story, on 7/22 Soul and Scoob on 7/29. This weekend's Rock the Block will be held on July 17th at Bedford Field, followed by July 24th on Grant Avenue between Howard and Washington.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Leibman followed up with our Labor Counsel regarding the Building Department lawsuit. They are preparing summary judgment papers and filing it soon. He has been working on a group of ordinances for review and approval by the Council. He met with the ordinance subcommittee, police and Building Department to work on these.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Borough Administrator reported on the leak that occurred on the first floor in the Police Department on July 5th. The ductile iron fitting on a pipe separated and caused a leak. ServPro of Paramus arrived and extracted all the water, placed air movers and dehumidifiers throughout to start drying and began the remediation process. They removed carpet squares and drilled holes in the walls. The Borough is working with professionals to identify the cause and solution of this issue. There was no major damage to furniture or IT equipment. The police operations remained uninterrupted. He thanked the Mayor, volunteers, Recreation Department, PBA, Celebrations Committee, Fire Department and Shade Tree Committee for making the first Rock the Block event a success. Work on Lafayette and Quackenbush will start in August. West Quackenbush will be milled and paved in October, once the work is completed by Suez and our contractor and the road has time to settle.

Bob Klein, Borough Engineer from RVE presented the final plans for Gina's Field Park Improvements. He explained each slide of the plan in detail to the public, specifically measures being taken to save the heritage trees. He discussed the trees, fields, fencing, pathway

modifications, parking, playground equipment, spray park, bathrooms, benches, tables, grading, drainage, utilities and irrigation. Councilman Gorman asked about an 18-inch tree closest to the playground, and if that was being saved. The Engineer replied that it was marked to be removed. If it's small enough, it could potentially be transplanted.

CFO Abbasi reported that the Borough received the first of two installments of the American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds. The first half of funds received totaled \$916,687.20 and the second half will be received about a year from now. Resolution #188 is a Chapter 159 resolution necessary to bring this unanticipated money into the budget as a grant. The State is a pass through since we are a municipality with a population under 50,000. These funds are subject to State and Federal purchasing guidelines. The funds are already in the Borough's account. The Mayor asked the CFO to confirm that we cannot use these funds to repave the Borough's roads. Mr. Abbasi stated you can only repave roads if you if it's part of a sewer or water infrastructure project. Councilman Chae asked if we can purchase vehicles with the funds, and the CFO said he does not believe so.

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

#21-180 – Bills List *

#21-181 – Coleman Szely – Appointment to Rent Leveling Board *

#21-182 – Approval of Block Party on Teak Road *

#21-183 – Tax Exemption – Block 1305, Lot 13 – Gynegrowski *

#21-184 – Tax Exemption – Block 30, Lot 8 – Glori *

#21-185 – Tax Exemption – Block 820, Lot 3 – Griffin *

#21-186 – Approval of Limousine Permits *

#21-187 – Amend Official Banking Depositories *

#21-188 – Amend 2021 Municipal Budget - Chapter 159 – American Rescue Plan *

#21-189 – Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Gina's Field *

#21-190 – Accept Resignation from Mark Abdulla – DPW Laborer *

CFO Abbasi clarified that the ARP funds have to be encumbered between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024, and funds have to be spent by December 31, 2026.

Motion to open to the public for Comments on the Consent Agenda Only: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

1. Cary Stopsky, East Quackenbush Avenue, questioned the trees being taken down at Gina's Field and if Green Acres has reviewed the plan.
2. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked how many trees are being taken down and how many are being relocated. She questioned the final dollar amount, lights at the field and the naming of Gina's Field and David Dervitz park. She commented on the Eagle Scout projects there.

3. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked if the County has been notified and will inspect the spray park.
4. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, commented on the Recreation Commission signing off on the Gina's Field plans.

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

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Chae
Second: Councilman Englese
Roll call vote: Council members: Chae, Englese, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo – yes
Stewart - absent

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading

#1588 Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Business within its Geographical Boundaries and Amending Chapter 455 of the Borough Code

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Chae
Second: Councilman Englese
All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

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

There was no public comment.

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

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Chae
Second: Councilman Englese
Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo – yes
Stewart - absent

Borough Engineer, Bob Klein answered some of the public's questions about the Gina's Field project, regarding trees being removed and replanted. He stated the County and Green Acres will both receive the final plans. Councilman Gorman confirmed that the Recreation Commission originally had a subcommittee for Gina's Field who approved this plan and it was then voted on by the entire Recreation Commission. Mr. Klein stated that the cost estimate will not go up from the projected \$1.2 million, and if anything, it will go down. He continued that the Borough will receive bids from contractors and that's when we will see the final number. The Mayor asked the Borough Engineer to explain the bidding process. The Borough Attorney confirmed that through local public bidding, you have to go with the lowest bid. Mayor LaBruno answered resident's questions regarding lights at the field and Dervitz Park. The Borough Administrator asked the Engineer to confirm that Green Acres is aware of any tree removal.

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

1. Andrew Lyons, Wilkens Drive, commented on the discussion at a previous meeting for the amphitheater and plans at Memorial Park, as well as the grant application concept plan being shared on social media.
2. Cary Stopsky, East Quackenbush Avenue, commented on cars parking on Quackenbush, and how it is a shortcut in town. He also stated that there is a dirt build up from the brook and the wall is collapsing. The garbage company is leaving his pail in front of his neighbor's house.
3. John Sansone, Beacon Street, discussed puddling problems on Beacon Street and the possibility of infrastructure improvements using Cares Act funds, and he mentioned comments made at the last meeting regarding cannabis shops.
4. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, commented on remarks made at the last meeting about the park plans. She stated people want to live in Dumont because it's affordable, and for the schools, not the credit rating. Ms. Normoyle said that Mayor LaBruno is a great community organizer and he has gotten things back together, along with the people in the community. She would like meetings to be livestreamed.
5. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, complimented Rock the Block this past weekend. He asked about the cost of the new monopole, plans for trees at Gina's Field and why the Borough received estimated tax bills.
6. Jennifer Grom, Hickory Street, stated that the Gina's Field plan looks well thought out, and the field will be used more now. She would like to see the cheerleading program stay in town for the flag football program. She appreciates all of the events that the Mayor and Council have organized for the community this summer. She also commented on the grant process.
7. Jim Savage, Howard Street, thinks the community events are a good way to get all residents, those who have lived in Dumont their entire life and those who moved here in recent years like himself, all together. He feels the events should be year-round. He thinks if you want the community to thrive, you need to do something other than attend a council meeting.
8. Michael Sullivan, Andover Road, stated he would like answers to questions on the internet and would like the meetings televised.
9. Gary Buccheister, Virginia Avenue, handed out a packet to the Mayor and Council. He stated he is permanently disabled and uses a wheelchair van with a ramp that opens up on the passenger side. He inquired about a year ago to extend the width of his driveway and was told he has to file for a variance, but he could extend his walkway. His packet shows examples of other driveways in the area. He has requested that the Joint Land Use Board fees be waived. Mr. Buccheister further stated that he appreciates all of the park improvements being done within the Borough.
10. Maryann Burke, New Milford Avenue, asked why there are no handicap buttons on the doors and commented that the elevator button numbering is confusing. She also stated that some of the streets in town need repair.

11. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked what the stimulus money can be spent on and stated that she appreciates the phone calls from the Mayor regarding events in town. She questioned the amount of sheet rock removed from the Police department, why the presentation wasn't on the agenda and if there will be a shredding event. She thanked the Governing Body for approving Ordinance #1588 and thinks Rock the Block events are great. Many of the lifelong residents have always volunteered.
12. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked for an update on the garbage contract. She stated that Rock the Block looked like a fun time. She gave kudos to everyone involved in handling the water main break on Roosevelt. She appreciates all the time the Governing Body spends running the town, but would like more details.

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

CFO Abbasi stated that estimated tax bills are done in order for the Borough to continually have a steady stream of cash flow, and to keep everyone on their payment schedule. The funds that were bonded for the new building are included in this year's tax increase. He also reviewed the uses for the American Relief Plan funds.

The Borough Administrator answered residents' questions. He stated the cost of the monopole and that it was already encumbered. Regarding grant applications, the Borough regularly applies for grants to improve our fields and infrastructure. We submitted a concept plan to Bergen County Open Space, which is regularly done so the Borough has a good idea of the cost of the project. The Borough already had a presentation for Gina's Field, the Engineer was here tonight to present the finalized plan that is being voted upon. In response to parking on Quackenbush, the Borough is working on updating ordinances. He further stated that residents should always report any garbage pick up issues to the DPW or himself. For garbage pickup, he discussed possibly partnering with a neighboring community and reviewed the current contract term. The Borough Attorney added that the Borough only received one bid. It is a flexible five-year plan, and the Borough can contract for however many years it chooses. In some local municipalities, the residents are obligated to get rid of garbage themselves. The Borough Administrator commented that the Borough is very aggressive in applying for grants for infrastructure and road improvements. He followed up with Mr. Buccheister regarding his driveway issue, and stated that the Building department and professionals are advising that he must go in front of the Joint Land Use Board. The shredding event will be in the fall and will be advertised. The Administrator has been working on handicap push buttons at both entrances to the building. The focus on the leak in the Police Department is on remediation right now, and the next step will be repair. He met with the insurance adjuster and is confident it will be covered under insurance.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their comments about the community organizing and events. He calls Dumont one big family. He thanked everyone who has ever volunteered here throughout the years, just as many are doing now. Sometimes people disagree, and maybe don't like the answers they get, but he stated that they went through every question that was asked. The Borough Administrator goes through the minutes and answers any questions that we can't answer today. The Mayor said we are working on live-streaming the meetings using the new

technology in the council chambers and the reverse 911 is something else that was recently added using CARES money. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC

Municipal Clerk