

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 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, Stewart – present

Rossillo - 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: Councilwoman Stewart

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno asked the members of the Dumont Travel Girls Softball 12U team to step up to recognize their accomplishments, and presented the team with a Proclamation.

Mayor LaBruno then asked members of the Dumont Travel Girls Softball 14U team to step up to recognize their accomplishments and presented the team with a Proclamation.

Motion for a five-minute recess: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor LaBruno reported that Dumont Day was a great success. He thanked everyone who participated, all the community members and vendors, Tony Como and the Celebrations Committee. The Grant Avenue project is going to out to bid and the work will commence in the summer into order to not impede school operations.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gorman

- *Recreation*

Recreation sports are experiencing lower registrations than pre-COVID, which seems to be across the board. There is a need for volunteer coaches, and he asked that anyone interested reach out to the Recreation Commission.

- *Shade Tree*

He thanked the Shade Tree members and everyone else for everything they did for Dumont Day. The Shade Tree Commission educated the public on what they do in town, on identifying invasive species, giving out seeds and gifting trees. Please reach out to the Shade Tree if you're interested in getting involved, follow them on the social media and always consult them before removing a tree. Councilman Gorman expressed his gratitude to the DPW, Police, EMT and Fire Dept. for their response to the storm.

Councilman Chae

He thanked Recreation, DPW, the emergency workers and everyone involved in Dumont Day. It was a huge success.

- *Cultural Affairs Committee*

The Committee met and will be holding some events. There will be proclamations for Hispanic and Italian Heritage month. The big highlight they are preparing for is the Halloween event. They need volunteers for the Trunk or Treat. The date will be October 23rd.

Councilman Englese

- No reports

Councilwoman Stewart

- No reports

Councilman Harvilla

- *Library*

The last meeting was on September 22nd and he welcomes the new director, Kate Gorman who started on September 27th. He also thanked the Acting Director, Korine Stopsky for efforts, advocacy and leadership over the past year and a half particularly during the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Dixon Homestead Library was selected to receive an American Rescue Plan Act mini-grant in the amount of \$15,513.46 which will be used to purchase a tablet for the library. They did an initial review of the library's audit report for the year ending 12-31-2020. The budget is \$791,855 and there were no discrepancies and no comments for recommendation.

- *Board of Health*

The quarterly meeting was held on September 13th and it was the first in person meeting in Borough Hall. The new president, Donna Pleus, was sworn in. They discussed coordinating a thorough comparative review of the Board of Health rules and regulations, and looking at the actual functions of the Board of Health and the NJ local Board of Health. This will be ongoing for the next three to six months, as we identify points of action.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No reports

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

We are looking to authorize the bid opening tonight for October 20th for the Grant Avenue improvement project. Per the NJDOT State grant, we have to award by November. However, due to the location of the school on Grant Avenue, we do not want to do anything to affect operations there so we will move forward with Grant Avenue at a later date in 2022. After talking with our CFO and Finance Committee, we are looking to start our budget meetings earlier this year, preferably in the latter half of 2021 in preparation for 2022. As the Mayor discussed, we are expanding our Halloween festivities this year. We will continue with the parade, but the Celebrations committee and Council members are working to do more

community events. Dumont prides itself on events and being a family friendly community and we want to do more to reflect that. He thanked all of the volunteers, our Fire Dept., EMS, Tony Como and everyone who made Dumont Day such a success. FEMA set up operations here on Sunday to help residents continue to recover from Hurricane Ida. Our garbage collections from the storm have ceased, but we are trying to help out where we can. The Administrator stated he could place a message on the Borough website that Recreation is looking for volunteers. He also requested that the Council table Resolution #21-240, the emergency contract authorization for Maco because he received a secondary quote after the agenda went out, and he wants to make sure the quotes are comparable. He asked the CFO to explain the emergency resolutions and where the funds would come from for DCG, the furniture and ServPro.

CFO Issa Abbasi explained that for Resolutions #238, 239 and 240 pertain to ServPro, DCG and Maco. Where the resolutions are charged to depends on the nature of the expense. If the expense is related to a clean up or something similar that is deemed an operating cost, we would charge that expense to the 2021 budget. If the expense is capital in nature, similar to DCG which pertains to work on the infrastructure of the municipal building, that is charge to the bond ordinance.

Borough Engineer Bob Klein explained the Grant Avenue Improvement project will involve resurfacing the road, milling out the top 2 inches and resurfacing with 2 inches of new asphalt. The project limits extend from Knickerbocker Road to Howard Street, curb to curb. We will also be reconstructing the crosswalks, all of the ramps will be ADA compliant and it will result in some curb and sidewalk work at each one, and the installation of detectable warning surfaces. The curb is in generally good condition along that road. They will also replace any striping.

Mayor LaBruno asked if there has been any investigation about doing rumble strips in the area surrounding the school on Grant Avenue for safety in the crossing guard areas. Mr. Klein stated he will look into it. Mr. Klein further stated the bid opening is scheduled for October 20th and the award can take place at the following meeting. The project will be constructed next summer, so we will wait until the spring to do a preconstruction meeting. This is a NJDOT funded project.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 10, 2021 Public Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Englese

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

#21-228 – Authorization to Waive Permit Fees Due to Tropical Storm Ida *

#21-229 – Approval of Block Party on Hickory Street *

#21-230 – Approval of Camp Acorn Calendar Raffle License *

#21-231 – Approval of Dumont High School Music Booster On-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle License *

#21-232 – Approval of Membership Renewal for Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund *

#21-233 – Hire Joseph Woska as a Crossing Guard *

#21-234 – Hire Bruce Madsen as a Crossing Guard *

#21-235 – Authorizing the Submission of a Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs *

#21-236 – Approval of Contract Renewal with E-Revival Electronics *

#21-237 – Approval of Block Party on Teak Road *

#21-238 – Authorization of Emergency Contract with ServPro for Municipal Complex Flood Damage Repairs *

#21-239 – Authorization of Emergency Contract with DCG for Municipal Complex Repairs *

#21-240 – Authorization of Emergency Contract with Maco Office for Municipal Complex Repairs *

#21-241 – Authorization to Bid – Grant Avenue Road Improvements *

#21-242 – Award of Bid – Memorial Park Basketball Court Improvements *

Motion to Table Resolution #21-240 – Authorization of Emergency Contract with Maco Office for Municipal Complex Repairs: Councilman Chae

Second: Councilman Englese

All in favor.

Councilman Harvilla requested to pull Resolutions #21-233 – Hire Joseph Woska as a Crossing Guard and #21-234 – Hire Bruce Madsen as a Crossing Guard for further discussion.

Mayor LaBruno commented on Resolution #21-228 - Waive Permit Fees Due to Tropical Storm Ida and that it is good business for our residents who were impacted by Tropical Storm Ida. Our residents should not be paying permit fees for costs to repair from extensive damage due to the storm. Also, regarding Resolutions #21-233 and #21-234, we are in dire need of Crossing Guards, not only in Dumont, but in communities throughout northern New Jersey. Please reach out to Acting Chief Brian Joyce.

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

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

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked if the work for resolutions 238, 239 and 240 was performed yet and what was the cause of the damage.
2. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, thanked them for the information and detail regarding Grant Avenue improvement project. She asked about the resolutions to remediate the municipal complex flood and why they were paid from these accounts.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of 21-233, 21-234 and 21-240:

Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

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

#21-233 – Hire Joseph Woska as a Crossing Guard & **#21-234** – Hire Bruce Madsen as a Crossing Guard:

Councilman Harvilla pulled these resolutions from Consent because he will abstain on the vote. He explained it is not any issue with the individuals being hired but, on the process, where the individuals began their training on September 24th but we are not voting until September 28th. He understands it was vetted out by legal counsel but himself not being aware of the process he cannot vote either way, so he will abstain. The Mayor explained that these hires are done out of the Police Department and they were down two crossing guards, which was a safety issue. Acting Chief Joyce has a list that he can hire from, and we are just confirming it.

Motion to adopt Resolution **#21-233** – Hire Joseph Woska as a Crossing Guard & Resolution **#21-234** – Hire Bruce Madsen as a Crossing Guard: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

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

CFO Abbasi once again explained the financing behind resolutions #238 and 239, it goes back to nature of expense. Services cannot be capitalized. The only service that can be charged to a Bond Ordinance is a Section 20 cost for lawyer, engineer or architectural fees. ServPro was a service conducted on the building, so it has to be charged to the budget. As for DCG, the nature is remediation for the building, which is a physical structure and has a useful life for more than 5 years and value of more than \$25,000. It meets every check box to be expended against the bond ordinance. Again, it goes back to the nature of the expense and that's why some are charged to the budget, while others are charged to the bond ordinance.

The Borough Administrator followed by saying ServPro was an emergency service and came right away to perform remediation due to the flood. The insurance company required three quotes for the repairs to our Police Department. The quote is for the flooring, drywall and walls. The Borough did their due diligence to get to get the quotes and make sure it is approved by insurance. It was an emergency, and the Borough Administrator has the authority to move forward on this as quickly as we can and not use the bidding process. The work will be performed as soon as the contractor is available to start.

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading

#1590 Amendment to Municipal Towing and Storage Ordinance

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Borough Attorney Leibman noted a slight modification between readings. It is not a substantive amendment and it just changed the date the applications will be received by the Borough, and the date the towing list will be established. It doesn't change anything else with regards to the towers obligations, fees, etc. It was necessitated because this ordinance took so long to draft, and we are now right on top of the deadlines, and we would be unable to abide by our own ordinance if we didn't do that. It is ok adopt it on second reading despite that ministerial change.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

There was no public comment.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

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

#1592 Amending Chapter 63-1 of the Borough Code - Pension to Widows and Children of Deceased Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Corps Members

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilman Chae

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

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Chae

All in favor.

1. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, thanked the Administrator and the DPW Superintendent for their answers. She further asked about DPW standby on the weekends, overtime and if that included a Supervisor. She questioned specific Borough Attorney Borough Engineer bills. Ms. Normoyle asked if meetings would be livestreamed.
2. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked about numerous bills on last month's bills list and if money will be recouped from architects and engineers from the pipe burst. She also asked if the Police Department took on water during the storm.
3. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked about livestreaming the meetings and if the landscaping was going to be completed at the new Borough Hall. He questioned what was going on with CSX and what was cause of flooding at the Borough Hall. Mr. Sansone provided vendor payment lists for Cummings to the Mayor and Borough Administrator and had questions regarding the payments listed on these accounting summaries.
4. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked about Resolution #242, if the Police Department detention center issue has been resolved, and about the sinkhole on West Quackenbush. She also asked if there was any water in the building from Hurricane Ida. Ms. Russini further asked when the work at Gina's Field would begin and when recreation approved the plan.

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

The Borough Administrator replied that when the DPW is on standby on the weekends it is overtime and double time on weekends, East West Electric was related to the flood and the landscaping will be completed in house. The sink hole on West Quackenbush was related to work that was previously done during the building construction and the contractor performed the work before we moved forward on our road program. In the first week of October, we'll be starting on Lafayette and then paving Quackenbush as well.

Steve Marsich, T&M Engineers reviewed the project being done at the Memorial Park Basketball Courts Improvements. He stated there was pretty extensive cracking at the basketball courts, which is mostly caused by moisture being trapped under the asphalt. The design calls for an underdrain under the courts, a new gravel layer and the asphalt will have a new trench drain between courts two and three. The courts are being spread apart slightly so there will be sidelines in the courts, allowing for better grading towards the trench drain. The sprinklers are being removed which may have exasperated the problem. The bid was advertised, a pre-bid meeting was held and about 10 suppliers/contractors who specialize in this type of work were contacted, and 7 bidders responded to the plans. The base bid for the low bidder was \$305,743.00 with an option for color-coating at an additional \$33,000.00

The Borough Engineer, Bob Klein discussed the preconstruction meeting for the Gina's Field Improvement project that was held with the contractor to review the work. He plans to break ground next week and will start with converting the field to soccer/flag football and the fencing around it. The rest of the project will commence later on, such as the spray park and playground.

The Borough Clerk commented on Resolution #242 being added late, as the bid opening was held this morning and everything had to reviewed before being added to the agenda. Copies of the resolution were provided with the agendas outside the door for review.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk