

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2022
6:15 PM**

Mayor LaBruno call the meeting to order at 6:38PM.

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 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) on the Borough website, Borough Hall, The Record and Ridgewood News and Facebook.

Roll Call: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell: present
Stewart: absent
Mayor Andrew LaBruno: present

Mayor LaBruno welcomed the new Council members, Mary Novoa and John Russell. He looks forward to working with them this year and in the years to come.

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Harvilla
Second: Councilwoman Novoa
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

- #22-01 – Appointment of Lisa Rossillo as Council President for 2022 *
- #22-02 – Approval of Mayor and Council 2022 Meeting Dates *
- #22-03 – Approval of Council Committees *
- #22-04 – Frank Berardo-Reappointment as the Borough's Qualified Purchasing Agent*
- #22-05 – Reappointment of Sustainable Communities Associates *
- #22-06 – Establishment of Delinquent Tax Rate/Penalties *
- #22-07 – Authorization of Investment of Idle Funds *
- #22-08 – Designation of Official Depositories *
- #22-09 – Adoption of 2022 Temporary Municipal Budget *
- #22-10 – Approval of Payroll Account *
- #22-11 – Approval of Bergen County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid *
- #22-12 – Fire Department Interborough Mutual Aid *
- #22-13 – Fire Department Mutual Aid with Oradell, New Milford and River Edge *
- #22-14 – Appointment of Christopher Tully as Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and

Cathy Romeo and Jodie Delehanty as Alternate JIF Commissioners for 2022 *

#22-15 – Appointment of Jeanine Siek as Affirmative Action, Public Agency Compliance Officer for the year 2022 *

#22-16 – Designation of the Borough’s Official Newspapers *

#22-17 – Approval of Volunteer Tuition Credit Program *

#22-18 – Approval of Membership in the N.J. League of Municipalities *

#22-19 – Approval of Membership in the Bergen County League of Municipalities *

#22-20 – Participation in New Jersey State Cash Management Fund *

#22-21 – Approval of Block Party, Street Closing and Live Entertainment Applications *

#22-22 – Reappointment of Carolyn Blakeman as Clean Communities Coordinator *

#22-23 – Reappointment of John Pampaloni as Wastewater Consultant *

#22-24 – Appointment of Chief Brian Joyce as OEM Coordinator *

#22-25 – Appointment of Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi as Borough Attorney for 2022 *

#22-26 – Appointment of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy as Borough Labor Attorney for 2022 *

#22-27 – Appointment of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins as the Borough’s Auditors for 2022 *

#22-28 – Appointment of McNERNEY & Associates, Inc. as the Borough’s Appraiser for 2022 *

#22-29 – Appointment of Waters, McPherson, McNeil as the Borough’s Bond Counsel for 2022 *

#22-30 – Appointment of Irene Kim Asbury as Special OPRA Counsel for 2022 *

#22-31 – Appointment of Acacia Financial Group as the Borough’s Financial Advisors for 2022 *

#22-32 – Appointment of Millennium Strategies, LLC as the Borough’s Grant Writers for 2022 *

#22-33 – Appointment of Dart Computer Services as the Borough’s IT Firm for 2022 *

#22-34 – Appointment of Colliers Engineering and Design as the Borough’s Planner for 2022 *

#22-35 – Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough’s Risk Manager for 2022 *

#22-36 – Appointment of Boggia & Boggia, LLC as the Borough’s Tax Appeal Attorney for 2022 *

#22-37 – Appointment of Breslin & Breslin as the Borough’s Prosecutor for 2022 *

#22-38 – Appointment of Law Offices of Elsbeth J Crusius LLC as the Borough’s Alternate Prosecutor for 2022 *

#22-39 – Appointment of the Law Offices of Louis G. DeAngelis as the Borough’s Public Defender for 2022 *

#22-40 – Appointment of the Law Office of Jerry Elashmawy, LLC as the Borough’s Alternate Public Defender for 2022 *

#22-41 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s Affordable Housing Administrator for 2022 *

#22-42 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s COAH Planner for 2022 *

#22-43 – Approval of Selzer School PTO On-premise Lottery Raffle RL#572 *

#22-44 – Appointment of Borough’s Special Counsel for 2022: Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Cappuzzo; Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy *

- #22-45 – Appointment of Borough’s Special Projects Engineers for 2022: Remington & Vernick, T&M Associates, Costa Engineering & Colliers Engineering *
- #22-46 – Appoint Councilman Harvilla as Class III Member of the Joint Land Use Board *
- #22-47 – Approval of Appointment Chief Brian Joyce to Cultural Affairs, Diversity, Inclusivity and Celebrations Committee *
- #22-48 – Reappointment of Margaret Preis to the Stigma-Free Committee *
- #22-49 – Appointment of Neglia Engineers as Borough Engineers for 2022 *
- #22-50 – Approval of Appointment of Jimmy Chae to the Rent Leveling Board as Homeowner Representative *
- #22-51 – Appointment of Janice Savage to Unexpired Term on Cultural Affairs, Inclusivity, Diversity and Celebrations Committee *
- #22-52 – Reappointment of Michael Versace to the Rent Leveling Board as Landlord Representative *
- #22-53 – Appointment of Kevin Grom to the Rent Leveling Board as Tenant Representative *

Councilwoman Rossillo requested Resolution #1 be moved to Non-consent Agenda. Motion to pull Resolution #1 from the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Novoa
 Second: Councilwoman Harvilla
 All in favor.

Councilman Russell requested that all professional appointment resolutions be moved to Non-consent agenda, as he did not get to review them all yet. Motion to pull all professional appointment resolutions from the Consent Agenda: Councilman Russell
 Second: Councilman Harvilla
 All in favor.

The Borough Clerk clarified the Resolution numbers that Councilman Russell requested to be moved to the Non-consent agenda included #25 through #42, 44, 45 and 49.

Motion to open to the public for comment on the Consent Agenda only: Councilwoman Rossillo
 Second: Councilwoman Novoa
 All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, commented on the number of Mayor and Council meetings for 2022, Council committees, and additional liaison positions. She asked questions about the professional appointments and temporary budget.
2. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, commented on the temporary budget being 26.25% of previous year’s budget, the debt service amount and the hourly rates of professionals and their appointments.
3. Lily Binnie, State College, PA asked about the OPRA Specialist and Borough Attorney’s hourly rates.
4. Jill Winant, Magnolia Avenue, thanked Jimmy Chae for his service to the town and welcomed Mary and John. She wished everyone the best of luck.

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

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda excluding Resolutions #1, 25 through 42, 44, 45 and 49: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell: yes

Non-consent Agenda:

#22-01 – Appointment of Lisa Rossillo as Council President for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Novoa

Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Russell: yes

Councilwoman Rossillo abstained

#22-25 – Appointment of Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi as Borough Attorney for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-26 – Appointment of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy as Borough Labor Attorney for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-27 – Appointment of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins as the Borough's Auditors for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-28 – Appointment of Mc Nerney & Associates, Inc. as the Borough's Appraiser for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-29 – Appointment of Waters, McPherson, McNeil as the Borough's Bond Counsel for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-30 – Appointment of Irene Kim Asbury as Special OPRA Counsel for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained

#22-31 – Appointment of Acacia Financial Group as the Borough’s Financial Advisors for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-32 – Appointment of Millennium Strategies, LLC as the Borough’s Grant Writers for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-33 – Appointment of Dart Computer Services as the Borough’s IT Firm for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-34 – Appointment of Colliers Engineering and Design as the Borough’s Planner for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-35 – Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough’s Risk Manager for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-36 – Appointment of Boggia & Boggia, LLC as the Borough’s Tax Appeal Attorney for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-37 – Appointment of Breslin & Breslin as the Borough’s Prosecutor for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes

Councilman Russell abstained

#22-38 – Appointment of Law Offices of Elsbeth J Crusius LLC as the Borough’s Alternate Prosecutor for 2022

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-39 – Appointment of the Law Offices of Louis G. DeAngelis as the Borough’s Public Defender for 2022
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-40 – Appointment of the Law Office of Jerry Elashmawy, LLC as the Borough’s Alternate Public Defender for 2022
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-41 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s Affordable Housing Administrator for 2022
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-42 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s COAH Planner for 2022
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-44 – Appointment of Borough’s Special Counsel for 2022: Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Cappuzzo; Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo: yes
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-45 – Appointment of Borough’s Special Projects Engineers for 2022: Remington & Vernick, T&M Associates, Costa Engineering & Colliers Engineering
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo: yes
Novoa: no
Councilman Russell abstained
#22-49 – Appointment of Neglia Engineers as Borough Engineers for 2022
Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Council members Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo: yes
Councilwoman Novoa & Councilman Russell abstained

Motion to open to the public for General Comments: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, understands why Mr. Russell abstained and asked when the Councilman was given access to material.
2. Lily Binnie, State College, PA, how much did engineer charge for Borough Hall project and how much have we paid so far? How can we find that information?
3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, why do we keep getting notifications that police department phones are down? What is status of handicap door and work at Borough Hall from storms? When will Department of Corrections sign off on police department? She welcomed the two new council people.
4. John Sansone, Beacon Street, welcomed John and Mary and moving Dumont forward in 2022. He looks forward to next month's meeting.
5. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, asked about the Economic Development Committee minutes and results of the survey sent out to residents last year. He inquired about the planner's presentation from a recent EDC meeting, and if that was available to the public. He commented on potential plans for properties in the downtown area.
6. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, expressed concern over affordable housing requirements and a resolution she would like to see brought forward to legislators. She would like to hear the Councils' opinions regarding this.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilwoman Novoa

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno responded to Dr. DeLyon's comment and stated he reached out to both new Council members with the Administrator and Clerk, advising them of whatever they needed and guiding them before taking office in January. We did everything to give them what they needed in a timely fashion. They were both here the other night reviewing documents. RVE was not contracted on the building, RSC was. RVE is an affiliate of RSC and paid through them for the building. The phone issue with the Police department is a Verizon issue. The Administrator and Police Chief have been in contact with them, and it has nothing to do with the phones in the building. The Bank of America property went to the Joint Land Use Board and was told a drive-thru wasn't suitable at that location as per Borough ordinance.

The Borough Administrator followed up on the Verizon phone situation. The Borough has told them the problem with the service is unacceptable and has demanded they figure out the issue, or the Borough will take their business elsewhere. Mr. Tully has two quotes for the ADA doors and has to schedule installation. There is no update on the DOC sign off. As stated, 26% is the correct amount for appropriations of the 2022 budget.

The Borough Attorney stated the committee structure in Dumont runs afoul with something called the effective majority rule. Everyone's familiar with the Open Public Meetings Act law. The quorum number changes depending on what the public body is. A number of the ordinances or practices have three council members on the same committee. Four members of the Governing Body is sufficient to take action, and the majority of four is three. Therefore, three members of the council together in a room could be considered a violation of the OPMA because it's an effective majority. It leaves

the borough in a situation where the committees should really only be two people. That is why committees are being reduced to two people.

Mayor LaBruno clarified that according to the by-laws he is only required to appoint one Council person as the chairperson, which was done, as well as one additional Council member. The Mayor feels they have a lot of good committees, and he asked each Council member, including the two new Council people, what they preferred. He stated they've done their best to make sure Mary and John have access to everything. They are all here to do their best for the Borough of Dumont and have communicated with one another. The Mayor welcomed Mary and John and looks forward to working with them.

Councilwoman Novoa stated that Mayor LaBruno, the Clerk and Administrator have been really great providing access to any necessary documents. They have been available during the transition period so they can get into the building to see the necessary documents, and very forthcoming with all of the data that was asked for.

Councilman Harvilla commented that there have always been two liaison positions for the Economic Development Committee. He referred to a resolution a resident asked about going back to March of last year. The Councilman had vetted out all bipartisan resolutions that were available through the assembly. He had asked the resident to email him the specific resolution she was referring to, and had not yet heard back. The Councilman feels every single opportunity for development should be viewed based on its fiscal and environmental impact. He discussed some of his environmental concerns at a previous meeting that aren't compartmentalized to Dumont alone. He will comment on actual developments as they arise. Councilman Harvilla welcomed Mary and John and looks forward to embracing their perspectives. He also thanked Jimmy Chae and Damon Englese for all of the heavy lifting they have done.

Councilman Russell thanked everyone for the warm welcome and looks forward to working with everyone here. He hopes to make 2022 a better year than 2021.

Councilman Gorman welcomed Mary and John, and looks forward to working with them both. He will be working together with Councilman Harvilla on the Committee and making informed decisions. They will take everything on a case by case basis. He wished everyone a Happy New Year, and congratulated Councilwoman Rossillo on her appointment to Council President.

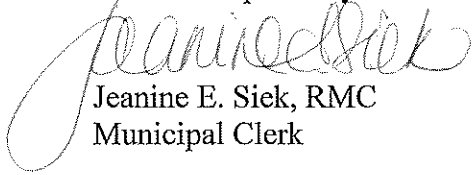
Council President Rossillo thanked everyone for the vote of confidence, and she looks forward to serving everyone as Council President. She is always open to comments, questions and open dialogue. She wished everyone a Happy 2022, and welcomed Mary and John aboard. She thanked Jimmy and Damon for everything they did during their time on the Council, and wished them the best.

Mayor LaBruno thanked the Council President. He thanked Jimmy and Damon for their service to the Borough. They did a lot on their time on the Council.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Russell
All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk

