

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
APRIL 7, 2022
6:30 PM**

Council President Rossillo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart: Present
Mayor: Andrew LaBruno: Absent

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Engineer's Report – Robert Klein, RVE

Mr. Klein reported that the Gina's Field project is moving along nicely. Most of the utility work is complete, such as water, sanitary and storm sewer installation, PSE&G relocated the utility pole at the corner. The foundation for the restroom building is complete, and construction of the building will start in the next two weeks. The playground is graded, the curb border is complete and the equipment arrived. The structure should be erected within a week or two, and the safety surface will follow soon after. The area is graded for the spray park, water piping is installed and equipment is onsite. Installation of spray park equipment and the concrete pad will begin shortly. The walkway and parking lot is graded and the asphalt surfacing may begin next week. The striping will happen at the end. The field is sodded. The project is on schedule. If materials come in on time, it should be complete by the end of May, beginning of June. Mr. Tully added the DPW has removed the fencing and will remove the storage garage. Mr. Klein stated there will be additional handicap spots added in that area. Mr. Klein also discussed the Memorial Field project replacing the main piece of playground equipment. It has been ordered and is scheduled to arrive mid-May. The existing equipment will get demoed mid to late April. The safety surface will be replaced. Without any delays in materials arriving, it should be done before the start of the summer. Mr. Tully stated the project should take about four weeks, and the goal is to make sure the playground equipment is installed for summer camp. The Borough has a lot of big projects going on between the basketball court and playground equipment, Gina's Field and Twin Boro, all within a timeline that works for the community once the summer starts.

The Municipal Clerk read the 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

#22-77 – Award of Bid for Veterans Memorial Field Improvements Phase I (revised) *

#22-122 – Bills List *

#22-123 – Approval of Block Party on Seneca Avenue *

#22-124 – (*pulled from Consent*) Approval of Annual Car Show on West Shore Avenue *

#22-125 – Endorsement of CDBG Vantage Health Preparation, Prevention & Response to COVID 19 Project *

#22-126 – Appointment of Kevin Grom to Rent Leveling Board as Alternate Tenant Representative *

#22-127 – Re-appointment of James Armstrong to Board of Health *

#22-128 – Appointment of Shewa Bayat to Board of Health *

#22-129 – Appointment of Members to the Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee *

#22-130 – Adopt 2022 Emergency Temporary Appropriations (revised) *

#22-131 – Approval to Hire Shannon English as Police Records Clerk/Dispatcher *

#22-132 – Approval of Mileage Reimbursement Plan *

#22-133 – Appointment of Gillian Menezes to Unexpired Term on Board of Health *

Councilwoman Stewart requested to pull resolution **#22-124** – Approval of Annual Car Show on West Shore Avenue for discussion.

Councilman Russell commented he is surprised Mr. John Sansone, who was a longtime member, is not on the Beautification Committee.

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Novoa

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

All in favor.

1. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked about John also and if there was a form to fill out to get on a committee. She questioned when the Arts, Beautification and Economic Development combined?
2. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked what the revision of Resolution #77 is and if the businesses are notified for the car show. She is disappointed that John Sansone is not appointed to the Beautification committee, and asked how someone volunteers for a committee?
3. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, understands Resolution #130 is borrowing money against the budget but asked when will the 2022 budget be presented to the public? Is the Police Records Clerk a new position and who previously handled the records?

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

All in favor.

Councilwoman Stewart commented on Resolution #22-124, and wanted to confirm the businesses are informed of the car show. She would like to find a solution to help the businesses, by perhaps opening one side of the road. Mr. Tully stated Chief Joyce would be able to offer some answers.

The CFO stated Resolution #77 is being revised to include an additional Ordinance #1349 to allow flexibility with funds. Resolution #130 is to pay the April 1st pension bill from the NJ Division of Pension and Benefits which has a grace period until April 30th. It is the Borough's contribution for current employees. The temporary budget has to be amended because there is not enough money for the entire bill. There is also additional money for streets and roads, as well as buildings and grounds. The finance committee is finalizing the budget and it will be to the full Council in 7-10 days. They anticipate introducing the budget on April 26th, with an adoption date of May 24th.

The Borough Administrator stated the appointments are per recommendation of the Mayor, and the Council ratifies. Changes were made at previous meetings in order to improve the functionality and vision of the committees. They noticed EDC and Beautification had a lot of similar goals, and Arts was added to broaden the vision of the Borough. The Police Records Clerk was added to the salary ordinance this year. It was previously completed by a Police Captain, when the Borough had two Captains. This work will now be done by the Police Records Clerk, rather than at a Captain's salary.

Councilman Harvilla noted there have been multiple budget meetings with department heads, in some cases on an item by item basis. With the availability of ARPA funds, but a very strict delineation how they can be utilized, there was a substantial amount of time and effort employed in determining where they would be used. He thanked the CFO and the Borough Administrator, as well as Councilwoman Novoa, in the review of the unused historic bond ordinances and the process to ensure these funds are being used within the balance of the law. They made sure any changes to budgetary items and dollar amounts were not made in a vacuum. It has been a long, granular process. The Councilman believes it will be a significantly beneficial budget.

Motion to adopt on the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to adopt #22-124 – Approval of Annual Car Show on West Shore Avenue:

Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart – yes

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading

#1600 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements by the Borough of Dumont, Appropriating the Aggregate Amount of \$2,606,500 therefor, including the Aggregate Amount of \$737,541.85 in Grant Funds Expected to be Received from the State of New Jersey and the

County of Bergen and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,537,500 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Harvilla

Second: Councilwoman Novoa

All in favor.

1. DeLyon, Beacon Street, asked if the aggregate amount of the grant funds is in addition to \$2,537,500 and if grant money is included, will the amount bonded for be reduced? What is the projected cost to the taxpayers?
2. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked the percentage of the bond and is there is an estimate.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Novoa

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on 2nd reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart – yes

The Administrator commented that the Borough bonds for the full amount and the grant monies are a reimbursement over time, once the project is complete. The CFO stated the Council has adopted the bond ordinance and it will be advertised in the official newspaper. The Borough has to wait for the 20-day estoppel period to end, and can then go out to the bond market when advised to do so by the financial advisors, bond counsel and auditor. He does not know what the current rate is, and it changes on a monthly basis.

1st Reading

#1606 Calendar Year 2022 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Motion to waive Formal Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The CFO explained that the CAP Bank ordinance allows the Borough to increase by one percent over the 2.5% appropriations CAP bank or bring the maximum appropriation CAP to 3.5%, based on cost of living adjustment. Inflation is at seven percent, but this law is from 2007. This CAP can be utilized for up to two succeeding years budgets. If the bank is not utilized, then it is forfeited. It should be a pro forma matter of the budget every year and be adopted.

Councilwoman Stewart added that this question is fielded every year regarding the CAP bank.

Motion to pass on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart – yes

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilwoman Novoa

All in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, thanked them for the clarification on the flow through money that comes back as grants, and asked if that money goes back to the capital account to pay down debt or is used other places? He also commented on his wife's access to the Mayor's website.
2. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, commented on the pool ordinance, and asked if it costs money to go for a variance? She also discussed the limiting ordinance and floor ratio changes, and asked if there's a new floor ratio for new buildings going up in town?
3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, congratulated the newly appointed members of the committee and questioned the rezoning. How much did the building cost to build? Can money from old bonds be used to pay down other grants or bonds?

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

All in favor.

Councilman Harvilla feels it is a good thing that this Council and group of individuals has vetted out on a granular level the entire history of bonds and ordinances within this Borough to discover these funds. These funds will be utilized to offset the budget and reduce the budgetary impact to the Borough. The Councilman reiterated his earlier comment about utilizing funds from outstanding ordinances and that the ordinances had a level of specificity in them when codified that limited the way they can be utilized. The funds are being used in the most responsible way within the letter of the law.

Councilwoman Novoa provided an update regarding the Stigma Free Committee. The committee met on March 24th and welcomed Stacey Vassallo, who will lead the Task Force, who met on March 29th. If anyone is interested in joining the Task Force, please reach out through the Dumont Stigma Free Facebook page. The next meeting is April 28th. The Board of Health meeting was cancelled, and is rescheduled for June 8th.

Councilwoman Stewart gave a report on the Dumont Fire Department. From January through March, there were a total of 2 structure fires, 1 additional non-structure fire, 7 mutual aid calls including a major fire in Passaic, 15 vehicle accidents, 70 fire alarms, 8 carbon monoxide incidents, 9 natural gas emergencies, 2 odor burnings, 1 appliance malfunction, 1 brush fire, 2 utility pole/power lines, 1 hazardous material incident, 1 utility water call and 1 standby for another municipality. A total of 1,546 man hours during those three months.

Councilman Harvilla stated that the goal for the Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee is to accomplish a cohesive streetscape in the center of the Borough. This was discussed at previous meetings. The Beautification Committee dovetailed in many cases with some of the Economic Development Committee activities. As for Arts, this refers to everything such as visual, performing, concerts, etc. and how it relates to some of the activities going on in town including Dumont Day and Rock the Block events used in the realm of fostering economic development.

Borough Attorney Leibman answered a question regarding the land use process stating anytime somebody needs a variance they make an application to the Joint Land Use Board. There is an application procedure, including application fees. The board attorney prepares documents and has to be paid to do that. Taxpayers do not pay for that, the applicant does. So, it costs money to get a variance since the applicant is seeking an exception from the law of the town. There are also notices and sometimes the Borough Engineer has to get involved. That's why there are fees associated with the process. The limiting schedule ordinance sets forth the setbacks and how tall a building can be. Floor area ratio is important, so a reference to the FAR ordinance was placed in the bulk table. The Borough does have FAR, and it typically varies in different zones.

The Borough Administrator stated it was a pleasure working with Councilman Harvilla and Councilwoman Novoa crafting this year's budget. They have canceled outstanding capital ordinances and they are also considering a bond sale to capture long term interest rates notes on outstanding debts. While looking through previous ordinances, they are deciding whether to reapply those funds to projects like Memorial Park or where to cancel.

Councilman Russell commented that the Shade Tree Commission will hold a clean-up at the Arboretum on April 23rd to prepare for the Arbor Day celebration. They are looking for volunteers to help out.

Councilman Gorman reported that the Recreation Commission met last night to discuss the parks plan. The highlight of the meeting was everything is going well with girls' softball. They had a very successful fundraiser on March 11th, and are planning an opening day ceremony. Once a date has been decided, he will report back. The Councilman further stated the President is Brian Harris and the Liaison is Jennifer Grom.

Council President Rossillo offered sympathy and condolences on behalf of the Mayor and Council for the loss of Board of Education member, Sandra Fernandez. She was a very positive and influential contributor to their team and will be missed.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Gorman
All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk