

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
JANUARY 2, 2023**

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order at 5:55 PM.

Flag Salute, Moment of Silence

Sunshine Law: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, Notification of this Meeting has been sent to our Official Newspapers, posted on the Borough website and Notice posted at Borough Hall and filed with the Borough of Dumont

Roll Call: Council members Harvilla, Kelly, Russell, Stewart – Present
Mayor Andrew LaBruno - Present

The Municipal Clerk read the General Election Municipal Results.

The Official Results of the 2022 Election, dated November 21, 2022 was received by the Municipal Clerk:

Dumont Council:

Donald V. Morrell - 3,016

Doreen A. Aponte - 3,061

Lisa Rossillo - 2,810

Conor Gorman - 2,762

Dumont Council Unexpired Term:

Thomas Kelly - 3,203

Damon Englese - 2,663

The Honorable Senator Holly Schepisi administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Doreen Aponte and Councilman Donald Morrell.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion for a five-minute recess; Second: Councilman Harvilla; All in favor.

Roll Call: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart - Present
Mayor Andrew LaBruno - Present

Councilman Kelly asked the Borough Attorney if approving the agenda would limit their ability to add the professional positions left vacant to the agenda. Mr. Liebman stated the appointments need to be made within thirty days of becoming vacant. He said the positions are vacant on January 1st and the Mayor has 30 days to make appointments. If the Mayor does not appoint somebody to those positions, then thirty days thereafter, the Council has the power to make those appointments.

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

Mayor Andrew LaBruno administered the Oath of Office to Dumont Police Officer Christopher Hargrave.

Mayor LaBruno read a letter (*attached*) into the record that was emailed to the Council members on December 30, 2022.

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 Council member or member of the public. Any item may be removed for further discussion or 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

- #23-01 – Appointment of John W. Russell III as Council President for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-02 – Approval of Mayor and Council 2023 Meeting Dates - *Removed*
- #23-03 – Adopt Notice of Tort Claim Form *
- #23-04 – Reappointment of Frank Berardo as Borough’s Qualified Purchasing Agent*
- #23-05 – Participation in New Jersey State Cash Management Fund *
- #23-06 – Establishment of Delinquent Tax Rate/Penalties *
- #23-07 – Authorization of Investment of Idle Funds *
- #23-08 – Designation of Official Depositories *
- #23-09 – Adoption of 2023 Temporary Municipal Budget *
- #23-10 – Approval of Payroll Account *
- #23-11 – Approval of Bergen County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid *
- #23-12 – Fire Department Interborough Mutual Aid *
- #23-13 – Fire Department Mutual Aid with Oradell, New Milford and River Edge *
- #23-14 – Approval to Hire William Paige as Secretary to Joint Land Use Board *
- #23-15 – Appointment of Jeanine Siek as Affirmative Action, Public Agency Compliance Officer for the year 2023 *
- #23-16 – Designation of the Borough’s Official Newspapers *
- #23-17 – Approval of Volunteer Tuition Credit Program *
- #23-18 – Approval of Membership in the N.J. League of Municipalities *
- #23-19 – Approval of Membership in the Bergen County League of Municipalities *
- #23-20 – Approval of Block Party, Street Closing and Live Entertainment Applications - *Removed*
- #23-21 – Reappointment of John Pampaloni as Wastewater Consultant *
- #23-22 – Appointment of Chief Brian Joyce as OEM Coordinator *
- #23-23 – Appointment of Deputy OEM Coordinators *
- #23-24 – Authorization to Hire Christopher Hargrave as Dumont Police Officer *
- #23-25 – Approval of Officer Kevin Guy to Permanent Police Status *
- #23-26 – Approval of Officer Kevin Moscoso to Permanent Police Status *
- #23-27 – Approval of Officer Ryan Grady to Permanent Police Status *
- #23-28 – Approval of Officer Anthony Pasquinucci to Permanent Police Status *
- #23-29 – Approval of Shared Services for TV Inspections *
- #23-30 – Appointment of Lerch, Vinci and Bliss as the Borough’s Auditors for 2023 *
- #23-31 – Appointment of McNerney & Associates, Inc. as Borough Appraiser for 2023 *

- #23-32 – Appointment of Post Polak P.C. as Special OPRA Counsel for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-33 – Appointment of Dart Computer Services as the Borough’s IT Firm for 2023 *
- #23-34 – Appointment of Boggia & Boggia, LLC as the Borough’s Tax Appeal Attorney for 2023 *
- #23-35 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s Affordable Housing Administrator for 2023 *
- #23-36 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s COAH Planner for 2023 *
- #23-37 – Appointment of Breslin & Breslin as the Borough’s Prosecutor for 2023 *
- #23-38 – Appointment of Law Office of Christopher J. Kane, LLC as the Borough’s Alternate Prosecutor for 2023 *
- #23-39 – Appointment of the Law Offices of Louis G. DeAngelis as the Borough’s Public Defender for 2023 *
- #23-40 – Approval of Contract Extension - Sustainable Communities Associates - *Removed*
- #23-41 – Appointment of Connolly & Hickey Historic Architects as the Historic Architect for 2023 *
- #23-42 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Casino Night Raffle Application *
- #23-43 – Reappoint Dr. Eileen Quaglino to the Dixon Homestead Library Board of Trustees - *Removed*
- #23-44 – Appoint Tom Kelly as Class III Member of the Joint Land Use Board - *Removed*
- #23-45 – Appoint Cultural Affairs Council Liaisons for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-46 – Reappoint Kristin Norena to Cultural Affairs, Inclusivity, Diversity and Celebrations Committee - *Removed*
- #22-47 – Reappoint Kevin Grom to the Rent Leveling Board as Alternate Tenant Representative - *Removed*
- #23-48 – Appoint Joseph Trentacosta to Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee - *Removed*
- #23-49 – Appoint Erica Ball Winn to Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee - *Removed*
- #23-50 – Approval of 2023 Council Committees - *Removed*
- #23-51 – Appointment of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy as Borough Labor Attorney for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-52 – Appointment of Acacia Financial Group as the Borough’s Financial Advisors for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-53 – Appointment of Millennium Strategies, LLC as the Borough’s Grant Writers for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-54 – Appointment of Colliers Engineering and Design as the Borough’s Planner for 2023 - *Removed*
- #23-55 – Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough’s Risk Manager for 2023 - *Removed*

Councilman Russell made a motion to remove the following resolutions from the Consent Agenda: #23-01, 23-47, 23-48, 23-49, 23-50, 23-51, 23-52, 23-53, 23-54, 23-55
 Second: Councilman Morrell

Councilman Kelly amended the motion to also remove the following resolutions from the Consent Agenda: #23-02, 23-20, 23-32, 23-40, 23-43, 23-44, 23-45, 23-46

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilman Harvilla; Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Russell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk reread the resolution numbers remaining on the Consent Agenda.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-01 – Appointment of John W. Russell III as Council President for 2023: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman Morrell

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Stewart – yes;

Russell – abstain; Harvilla – no

Councilman Russell stated he removed this so he could abstain.

Councilman Harvilla said each election is a celebration of the democratic process, and each of them of the dais are there at the will of the roughly 17,000 constituents and bosses. They are ethically responsible on behalf of these constituents to make the best decisions using impartial judgment which includes making difficult choices sometimes where sometimes one of them votes against another on critical points. This is one of those times. He supports the right the Republican majority has to vote Mr. Russell the Council President, and he will work with him in that role for the positive good of the constituents. If Council President were purely an honorary or procedural role limited to presiding at meetings in the absence of the Mayor, he would vote yes on his behalf. The by-laws state that in the absence of the Mayor, or if the Mayor cannot perform their duties, the Council President shall act as Mayor. This causes the Councilman great concern. He believes two other Republican members of the Council would be more suitable for Council President based on their demonstrated willingness to articulate their understanding of policies, procedures, ordinances and resolutions, and how that willingness illuminates their viewpoints and subsequently lands greater transparency to their decisions. That willingness to articulate which the current nominee has rarely displayed during his first year on Council would be of paramount importance especially in a worst case scenario should any event or circumstance require the Council President to act on behalf of their 17,000 bosses as Mayor.

Councilwoman Stewart stated she has worked with Councilman Russell for a year now and had more conversations with him than the outgoing Council President. She supports him, and has had more contact with him than any member of the prior Council.

Councilman Morrell said he supports Councilman Russell, as he has been on Council for a year and knows what is going on with the town and has been very informative. He thinks he will do a fabulous job as Council President.

Councilman Kelly stated the name was not picked out of a hat, and it is the consensus among the Republican majority that Councilman Russell will be a good and humble servant of our Council. He supports the nomination.

Councilwoman Aponte stated that she supports Councilman Russell as Council President one-hundred percent. He is a very humble and knowledgeable person.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-02 - Revised – Approval of Mayor and Council 2023

Meeting Dates: Councilman Kelly; Second: Councilman Morrell

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes;

Stewart – abstain; Harvilla – no

Councilman Kelly requested an amendment to the labeling of the meeting dates on the resolution before adoption. The Council majority would like the Public meeting to be the first meeting of each month and the Executive/work session will be the second meeting of each month. On a month where there is only one meeting, it would be a Public meeting.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-20 – Approval of Block Party, Street Closing and Live Entertainment Applications: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Councilman Morrell made a motion to table this resolution until the Governing Body can receive more information. He wants to make sure the Mayor and Council are able to weigh in on the approval of these applications. Councilwoman Stewart read this as the Governing Body continues to approve resolutions on an item by item basis. Councilman Harvilla stated this is a check and balance. The Municipal Clerk explained the process and that individual requests go before the Governing Body for approval. She will provide the Council with more information prior to the next meeting for clarification.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-32 (DEFEATED) – Appointment of Post Polak P.C. as Special OPRA Counsel for 2023: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll call vote: Harvilla, Stewart – yes; Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – no

Councilman Kelly stated they will review whether this needs to be an individual position among professionals, or can be handled through the Borough Attorney or Special Counsel. Councilwoman Stewart stated that this is Special OPRA Counsel. Councilman Kelly clarified Special OPRA Counsel and Special Counsel were listed separately in the RFQ. Councilman Harvilla confirmed this firm did not put in under Special Counsel. Councilwoman Stewart stated that this Counsel has been very effective in that position with OPRA for the Borough and has protected the Borough in a number of situations. She likes that the Council is having conversations.

Borough Attorney Leibman clarified the law when the Mayor's selection is not approved by the majority. The Council has 30 days to make its own selection to fill that vacancy.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-40 – Approval of Contract Extension - Sustainable Communities Associates: Councilman Russell; Second: Councilman Kelly
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell – yes; Harvilla, Stewart
- no

Councilman Russell said they would like further discussion on what this firm does.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-43 – Reappoint Dr. Eileen Quaglino to the Dixon Homestead Library Board of Trustees: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilman Russell
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Councilman Morrell stated there is a young lady interested in the position who is a Librarian and has a Masters of Library degree. They would like to table this and speak to Dr. Ellen Quaglino. Mayor LaBruno stated the recommendation for reappointment of Dr. Quaglino came from the Library Board. Councilman Harvilla stated Dr. Quaglino is highly qualified and a member of BCCLS. She is very robust in her advocacy of expanding library programs, and was present during the COVID pandemic. He feels it would be a disservice to the library to not reappoint her. Councilwoman Stewart said the library under the new library head is amazing, and she is part of that.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-44 – Revised – Appoint John W. Russell III as Class III Member of the Joint Land Use Board: Councilman Morrell;
Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Stewart – yes;
Russell – abstain

Councilman Kelly stated the Council majority would like to amend the resolution from Tom Kelly to John Russell. Mayor LaBruno stated he received an email from the Council majority selecting Councilman Kelly. Councilman Kelly replied that originally, they discussed that as a possibility, but that was not the latest consensus.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-45 – Appoint Cultural Affairs Council Liaisons for 2023: Councilman Kelly; Second: Councilman Russell

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-46 – Reappoint Kristin Norena to Cultural Affairs, Inclusivity, Diversity and Celebrations Committee: Councilwoman Aponte;
Second: Councilman Morrell

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes
Harvilla – no

Councilwoman Stewart stated that Kristin has done a terrific job on that committee. Councilwoman Aponte suggested tabling this resolution, as some members would like to get to know her first.

Motion to Table Resolution #22-47 – Reappoint Kevin Grom to the Rent Leveling Board as Alternate Tenant Representative: Councilman Kelly;
Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-48 – Appoint Joseph Trentacosta to Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee: Councilwoman Stewart;
Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes
Mayor LaBruno stated this appointment is a recommendation from the Board.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-49 – Appoint Erica Ball Winn to Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee: Councilman Morrell
Second: Councilman Harvilla
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-50 – Approval of 2023 Council Committees:
Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Kelly
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-51 – Appointment of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy as Borough Labor Attorney for 2023: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Russell
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-52 – Appointment of Acacia Financial Group as the Borough’s Financial Advisors for 2023: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Russell
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-53 – Appointment of Millennium Strategies, LLC as the Borough’s Grant Writers for 2023: Councilman Russell
Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes
Councilman Harvilla stated Millennium Strategies has clawed back moving in excess of \$2 million for this Borough. If they want to be fiscally and financially responsible, he cannot see pushing them to a sideline and potentially putting someone in who will do nothing. He has a problem tabling it, but will vote on it. Councilwoman Stewart understands where the Councilman is coming from because Millennium has done a wonderful job for the Borough. However, in the spirit of things, there needs to be conversations, and she will reluctantly vote yes. Councilman Kelly said he would like more information and clarity on the fees associated with the two RFQ’s submitted, with the possibility of asking for additional RFQ’s. They are not necessarily looking to change but looking for more comparison. Mayor LaBruno stated there were three RFQ’s submitted.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-54 – Appointment of Colliers Engineering and Design as the Borough’s Planner for 2023: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Russell
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Motion to Table Resolution #23-55 – Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough’s Risk Manager for 2023: Councilman Russell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Mayor LaBruno asked the Attorney if tabling this would affect the Borough’s insurance. Mr. Leibman stated they are the Risk Manager and help the Borough select insurance, so the Borough would still be covered.

Public Comment - General Comments

Motion to open to the public for General Comments: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

All in favor.

1. Karen Valido, Overlook Drive, stated she was shocked at the comment made regarding 23-01 and felt it was inappropriate.
2. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked about alternate streaming methods and the start time of the meeting. She also commented on the number of constituents in the Borough.
3. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked questions about various payments on the bills list. She also asked if there’s a Licensed Tree Expert on staff. Is the nursery charge for the Christmas tree in front? Ms. Normoyle commented on Dart Computers being hired as the IT firm again this year.
4. Kai Chen, Teak Road, discussed the Borough’s streaming process for the meetings, and asked if they could be put on a public platform using a browser.
5. Robert Marini, Erie Street, congratulated the new Council and asked if the meeting time could be changed to 7:30pm. He also asked about the upcoming meeting dates and the Borough calendar.
6. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, questioned ponding on Summit and said the road is coming apart by Beacon Street. He commented about neighbors’ driveways that were put in without concrete. He contacted the Building Department to follow up.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

The Borough Administrator answered residents’ questions. The American Asphalt payment was the Colonial Parkway 2021 CDBG Grant, but the project was completed in 2022. The DCG payment was a correction to a check to reflect the \$7,400 for one project for drainage downstairs. There is no Licensed Tree Expert on staff and the nursery charge was for the tree out front.

Councilman Harvilla stated he does personally have an issue with individuals on Council not expressing their opinions on a regular basis. At almost every single Council meeting, whether he knows he will come under fire for it or not, or what he is saying will be popular or not, he speaks with a level of veracity. The Councilman does his research on everything he possibly can and tries to be as transparent in his fundamental beliefs in how he will vote. His statement was not condemning anybody or making a negative comment about any individual. His sole point was based on one single parameter of the Council Presidents position speaking on issues with detail is of paramount importance.

The Borough Administrator stated he will gladly explore other platforms or methods of streaming the meetings, if the Governing Body wishes to do so. The IT provider did answer the phone today on a holiday to help troubleshoot the streaming issues the Borough was having. The website that was referenced with the YouTube page is a beta version of the website. The Borough does not run or operate that YouTube page, nor have a password for it. It was created many years ago before any of us were here.

Councilman Kelly stated YouTube was explored at one point in the past, and there had to be a certain number of subscribers. There are also live TV options. The Councilman stated he was the council member that met with Mayor LaBruno, the Borough Administrator and Clerk in December. The goal of the meeting was to go over calendar dates and discuss some things that needed to be ironed out prior to the Reorganization meeting. The new Council majority was not aware of the Mayor's work conflict on the first Tuesday of the month. Councilman Kelly explained that a lot was considered when planning how the work sessions and public meetings would work out, including the process of setting the agenda. The change to the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month was made before they were aware of the Mayor's work conflict, and not done to exclude him from meetings. The Mayor did explain his conflict at their December meeting, and Councilman Kelly brought it back to the Council majority, who had already figured the new meetings dates into their schedules. Regarding RFQ's and committee appointments, the only communication the Councilman received was a response to an email regarding the Reorg meeting date. He explained the process of coming to an agreement of a Reorg date. Councilman Kelly stated the RFQ deadline was December 7th, and they received the list from the Borough Clerk and came to Borough Hall to review the RFQ's. They did their due diligence in selecting who would best serve Dumont regardless of outside influence. The Council received the Borough Attorney's RFQ review on 12/23/22. He met with some members again on 12/26/22 and spent hours reviewing the information provided. They also reached out to Councilwoman Stewart for suggestions and opinions on some positions. They are disappointed to see some important appointments held up, but respect what state code allows for. They don't wish to be obstructive but wish to take full advantage of the Council's authority to advise and consent committee picks and professional appointments. They welcome discussion that may ensue from the tabled resolutions, and hope to work together moving forward in a fashion for all to be heard.

The Mayor said he would like to talk with them over the next couple of weeks and have another meeting in January to hear why these picks were selected. He explained how he received the information two days before the weekend and did not have time to review it. His recommendations which were tabled tonight were based on being in the Borough for three years as the Mayor and two years as a Council person, and having a working relationship with these professionals. It's the Councils right to table them. Instead of going through the 30-day process, the Mayor would prefer to talk with them and figure out what is the best move forward. He stated he is very upset about the meeting dates.

Councilman Harvilla stated he has notes about the RFQ's and is happy to engage in a dialogue as well. He plans to pull the plow in the same direction as this team here so they can get the work done for the Borough as efficiently and transparently as possible. The

Councilman will gladly share his notes and observations, and his line by line analysis of each RFQ candidate.

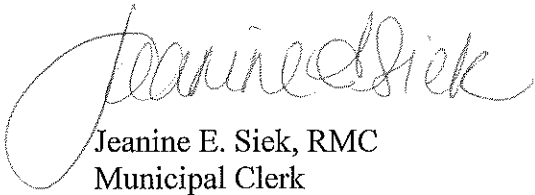
Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

All in favor.

The Reorganization meeting ended at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk



Borough of Dumont
From the Office of the Mayor

MAYOR
ANDREW LABRUNO
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR
CHRIS TULLY
MUNICIPAL CLERK
JEANINE SIEK

12/30/2022

Dumont Council and council-elect,

On November 30th, 2022, I met with a new council member representing the incoming Republican council majority. The goal of the meeting was to establish a good working relationship with the incoming council members. We addressed upcoming topics, including our professionals, for the new year. One of the key issues was scheduling our Mayor and Council meeting dates for 2023. I advised the council member that I have a work-related conflict with the new meeting dates requested. The council majority was aware of my work-related conflict but communicated they still wanted to move forward with these changes.

I attended this meeting in good faith with the best intentions of working with the majority council to ensure we continue delivering the best service for our Dumont residents. I am a Police Sergeant with the Jersey City Police Department. I am also the President of the Jersey City Superior Officers' Association, which hinders me from attending the dates of the 2023 meetings selected. My employment is my family's livelihood, and while I genuinely enjoy serving our residents as the Mayor, I cannot refrain from or abandon my work responsibilities as it will negatively impact my employment and, ultimately, my family. Despite this deliberate scheduling conflict, I will continue to proudly fulfill my duties as Mayor to the best of my ability and as set forth by NJSA Title 40A-60(1-8.1) and our administrative code.

Four weeks after the meeting on 11/30, despite various efforts, I did not receive any communication from the council majority until two days before a holiday weekend. On 12/28, I received an email from our clerk regarding the recommended appointments from the council majority. With minimal time to review, it would be irresponsible to accept any significant professional changes without rationale or proper dialogue.

Whether it was on election night reaching out my hand to congratulate the team or the meeting on 11/30, I am ready and willing to work with you. Elections are over, and it's time to work as a bi-partisan team to be successful in our shared goal of moving Dumont forward. These appointments are vital in the interests of our taxpayers and Borough operations and require necessary conversation. I hope to hear from you regarding your recommendations.

Best,

Mayor Andrew LaBruno