

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:32 PM

The Deputy Municipal Clerk read the resolution for the Closed Session Meeting to discuss:

- Pending Litigation – Building Department Lawsuit
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice regarding Borough Website
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice regarding Girls Softball

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order at 7:13 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: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – Present; Harvilla - Absent
Mayor: Andrew LaBruno – Present

Also in attendance: Borough Administrator Chris Tully, Deputy Borough Clerk Karen Glass, CFO Issa Abbasi, Borough Attorney Jared Geist

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

PRESENTATION of Police Department Valor Awards

By Mayor LaBruno and Councilman Morrell, Police Department Chairperson

Motion to Pull Resolution #23-89 from the Consent Agenda and Adopt Resolution #23-89 – Authorization to Hire Police Officer Tyler Cronin: Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilman Russell

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

OATH OF OFFICE administered to Dumont Police Officer Tyler Cronin

By Mayor Andrew LaBruno

Motion to take a 5-minute recess by Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno was excused from the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Motion to go back into Session: Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

WORK SESSION - Memorial Park Improvement Program Open Space Grant

The Borough Administrator reviewed where the Borough stands with the grants. Right now, the Borough has received the 2022 Bergen County Open Space (BCOS) municipal award in the amount of \$87,000, which is a matching grant. The expiration is December 14, 2024. However, the Borough has 90 days to accept the award, and the notice was provided January 11th. Last year, the Borough did accept the 2021 BCOS municipal award of \$96,442, also a matching award. Memorial Park has been a priority for the Borough, and they did a new basketball court and playground last year. The idea was to combine these two awards (2021 and 2022) into a full upgrade to Memorial Park, including a new water feature, walkway around the park and upgrading the bathrooms. Mr. Tully reached out to the County and the size and scope, as well as the location can be changed. The Borough would have to take the money from Capital this year for the full amount of the project and work with the engineer to move forward.

Councilwoman Stewart commented that we already accepted the 2021 award and discussed the Borough's obligation to the matching funds and how it could affect future consideration of funding if the Borough now rejected the grant.

Councilman Kelly clarified changing the size and scope of the 2021 grant. Mr. Tully contacted the County and there are forms to be completed in order to do so. The Councilman stated the project included the amphitheater, walkway and handicap accessible tables, and asked if the \$96,000 was allocated based on this. Mr. Tully answered that was the amount awarded. The Borough decided to wait until the 2022 award was received in order to combine the two awards, and then work with the engineer on the best way to move forward with the monies allocated. Councilman Kelly asked about the process of submitting the forms to change the scope of the project to the County. Mr. Tully stated the amount has been awarded and cannot be changed. The Councilman clarified that the Borough would have to bond for the full amount of the project and then get reimbursed by the County. He also asked where the reimbursement gets applied, and if it pays down the debt. The CFO answered that when funds come back, it does reimburse the ordinance but it's a pool of funds in the general fund. In theory it does offset it. The Councilman discussed debt service and how the money coming back from the County would be applied to pay back the impact of the additional borrowing. He commented on summer recreation needing a water feature at the park for days over 90 degrees.

Councilman Morrell asked if the water line is still along the basketball court. Mr. Tully stated there is still water along that area. He said the decision on how to proceed lies with the Governing Body. He suggested the Recreation Committee and Engineer meet with him at the park to do a walk through. The Engineer can provide a report and estimate for the March 7th meeting.

The Deputy 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

#23-89 – Authorization to Hire Police Officer Tyler Cronin - *Removed*

#23-90 – Approval of Lincoln School PTO On-premise 50/50 Cash Raffle Application *

#23-91 – Authorization of 2022 Budget Account Transfers *

- #23-92 – Adopt 2023 Emergency Temporary Appropriations *
- #23-93 – Appointment of BFJ Planning as the Borough’s Planner for 2023 *
- #23-94 – Approval of Previous Directive to Participate in 2023 Riverside Cooperative Paving Program - *Removed*
- #23-95 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Bingo License Application *
- #23-96 – Adopt and Revise Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual – January 2023 *
- #23-97 – Amend Date of Dumont High School Athletic Booster Association Raffles Licenses *

Councilman Kelly requested to **Remove Resolution #23-94** – Approval of Previous Directive to Participate in 2023 Riverside Cooperative Paving Program from the Consent Agenda.

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

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

1. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, discussed the grant process, reimbursement and when the money is applied to the bond. The CFO replied that the payments are made when the note comes due at the advice of the Financial Advisors.
2. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, discussed the Riverside Coop streets which are being paved and asked if it is better to add more streets now to get a better price. Councilman Kelly answered the Council is taking a conservative approach and streets cannot be removed once they are included. The chosen roads had to be mill and pave only. The CFO added it is easier to add streets rather than subtract streets. The engineer stated this is a cost estimate using an estimate of quantities.
3. Michael Sullivan, Andover Avenue, asked about the previous directive in place for the Riverside Cooperative. Council President Russell answered that it was previously discussed and the Governing Body wanted to have the streets and locations in the resolution.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Morrell
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes;
Harvilla – absent

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-94 – Approval of Previous Directive to Participate in 2023 Riverside Cooperative Paving Program from the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilman Morrell
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes;
Harvilla – absent

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading

#1618 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 75 of the Borough Code – Provisions Regarding Police Department Structure and Borough Council Committee Structure

Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell

All in favor.

Attorney Geist explained the changes presented in the ordinance. There are two purposes. One is reformatting the structure of the Police Committee, adding an additional Council member. The other is changing the structure of the Police Department as recommended by the Police Chief.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell

All in favor.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

All in favor.

Motion to **ADOPT** on 2nd reading: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll Call Vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes;

Harvilla - absent

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Kelly

All in favor.

1. Avinash Melkote, Brookfield Place, discussed the CSX freight line and increase in rail traffic, as well as the federal regulation for sounding horns when approaching the crossings. He explained that Norwood and Harrington Park residents are advocating a quiet zone. He is looking for Dumont to join, which would require some engineering improvements to all crossings so it would not be necessary to sound the horns every time, and noted the cost associated with doing a study. He also discussed noise pollution, and what is being transported along the railway.
2. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, commented on the process of repaying the grant money and the interest being accrued.
3. Maryanne Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, discussed reimbursement of grant funds from the county and applying it directly to the principal of the bond. She also asked if the town will ever be debt free.

Councilwoman Stewart stated that the Borough cannot spend the grant money on whatever they want. Municipal finance is very different from day to day finance.

The CFO discussed the total annual budget and the adoption of same, affording the Governing Body to tax and spend residents' funds. He also discussed the Borough's statutory payment obligations to the county, Board of Education, sewer authority and pension obligations.

Mr. Abbasi also explained the current mechanism by which matching grant funds are funded either in the budget or through the issuance of a bond anticipation note. He also stated the Borough's annual debt statement is posted on the website.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

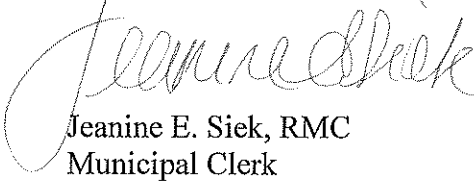
Second Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to continue Closed Session at 8:37 p.m.: Councilwoman Stewart
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Morrell
Second: Councilman Kelly
All in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk