

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
MAY 16, 2023**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:17 PM

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

- Personnel – Police Department
- Contractual Matters – PBA

Council President Russell called the meeting to order at 7:20 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, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart - Present

Mayor Andrew LaBruno - Absent

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

WORK SESSION

Veterans Memorial Park – Sand Pit – Councilman Russell stated the DPW recommended the sand pit be removed, which the DPW can do themselves, and then make the area half grass and half asphalt. Tony Como requested that tables be put on the asphalt section for summer recreation camp. Councilman Morrell added that the sand is ending up in the bathrooms. No permits are needed to remove the sand but there is an electric wire under the sand pit that runs from Gail's Place to the Pavilion. The DPW does not think the wire is a problem. Councilman Kelly spoke about the idea of a multi-use net in the tennis court area that could be adjusted for volleyball. Councilman Morrell had sent prices for the net to Tony Como. A pickleball court built by Selzer was looked at but it was determined to be too costly. Councilman Harvilla suggested to make the sand pit area all grass until a definite plan is put in place for the area. The DPW was concerned how a grass area would be watered.

Borough Right of Way – Randolph Avenue & Grant Avenue – As per Council President Russell, there is a large heritage town tree on the Randolph side of a right of way that people use as a cut through from Randolph to Grant Ave. A resident on Randolph would like to change their fence but the heritage tree and other trees in the vicinity pose a problem. The resident met with the Borough Administrator, DPW and Shade Tree Commission. They came up with a solution to close down the path, leave the tree and remove some of the smaller trees that are not in good shape further toward Grant Ave. so the resident can replace her fence. The right of way would be closed off. Councilman Morrell stated he would be in favor of closing the right of way and placing "No Trespassing" signs. Councilman Harvilla asked why the right of way was created.

Councilman Kelly responded that it was created to repair a culvert. Councilman Harvilla stated he would be in favor of closing the right of way if that was the only reason and it had nothing to do with transportation or walking reasons. Councilman Stewart has used the right of way and stated there are safety hazards with the tree roots.

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. 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

#23-159 – Approval to Change June Mayor & Council Meeting Date *

#23-160 – Authorization to Prepare Estimated Tax Bills *

#23-161 – Authorization to Advertise Electrical Sub-Code Official *

#23-162 – Authorize Award of Bid for Dixon Homestead Library Barrier-Free Improvements*

#23-163 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Shake the Can *

#23-164 – Accept Matt O’Brien’s Application as Probationary Firefighter *

#23-165 – Accept Daniel Drew’s Application as Probationary Firefighter *

#23-166 – Grant Permission & Set Forth Conditions for Table Turn TV Inc. Filming Permit –

Pulled from Consent Agenda

#23-167 – Approval of Borough Hall Summer Hours *

#23-168 – Supporting S3739/A5402 Delaying Implementation of Fourth Round of Affordable Housing Obligations – *Pulled from Consent Agenda*

#23-169 – Accept Resignation from CFO Issa Abbasi *

#23-170 – Authorization to Advertise for Chief Financial Officer *

Councilman Morrell requested to **Pull Resolution #23-166** – Grant Permission & Set Forth Conditions for Table Turn TV Inc. Filming Permit from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Councilman Harvilla requested to **Pull Resolution #23-168** – Supporting S3739/A5402 Delaying Implementation of Fourth Round of Affordable Housing Obligations from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

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. Mary Normoyle, asked for an explanation of summer hours. The Borough Clerk explained that prior to Covid, the Borough Hall had summer hours.
2. Lynne Vietri, received clarification that Borough Hall will be closed early on Friday and no business will take place after that time. Ms. Vietri stated she was sad to see Mr. Abbasi leave.
3. Bruce DeLyon, questioned the tax rate going up \$57 from the 2022 to 2023 tax year. Mr. DeLyon also wishes Mr. Abbasi well in his future endeavors.
4. Maryanne Russini, stated she was sorry to see Mr. Abbasi leave but was disappointed that he was not staying until the budget is approved. The Borough Clerk clarified the summer

hours. Ms. Russini expressed concerns about the building department hours. Summer hours will be properly advertised by posting on the website and Facebook.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Council Comments – Resolution #23-166

Roodly St. Eloi, Production Manager and Nick Van Meter, Line Producer from Table Turn TV Inc. were present at the meeting. Councilman Morrell stated an establishment on Veterans Plaza wants to shoot a TV show from June 3rd to June 7th. Attorney Geist stated there is a borough ordinance regarding procedures that are to be followed but that the council must also approve or deny the filming application. Mr. St. Eloi stated shooting is planned at Da Mimmos restaurant at 132 Veterans Plaza and they are seeking parking for vehicles in the CVS parking lot. He is awaiting permission from CVS to use their parking lot. Filming will only be in the interior of the restaurant except for an exterior shot of the restaurant. About 16 vehicles will be used with the goal of only parking in the CVS parking lot. Hours will be from about 9:00 am to 9:00 pm with one night where there will overnight interior renovations. There will be no disruptions to surrounding businesses. Councilman Morrell stated he had concerns for the surrounding businesses on Veterans Plaza and wanted to clarify that there will be no vehicles in the street. Councilman Harvilla sought confirmation there would not be any bright lights that would be illuminating homes in the area. Councilman Morrell also had concerns regarding foot traffic passing Da Mimmos. Councilwoman Stewart initially had concerns but now, all her issues of concern had been addressed. Cable will be run across the street but will be covered by cable ramps. Borough Clerk Siek asked if any additional overflow parking on West Shore Ave. would be needed. Mr. Van Meter stated that he may need the West Shore parking for overflow. Councilman Harvilla stated he supports a business, like Da Mimmos, who is proactively trying to build their brand through this filming endeavor and also believes would be good for the borough. Councilwoman Stewart agreed with Councilman Harvilla. Mr. St. Eloi gave a description of the size of all the vehicles involved. Mr. Van Meter stated, if CVS would not give their permission to use their parking lot, the only vehicle that would need to be closer to Da Mimmos would be the van with the generator and the control room vehicle. The production company would bring their own security for overnight. If additional security is needed, Mr. Van Meter would be open to a discussion with the Brough to utilize overtime police presence.

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Resolution #23-166: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

1. Michael Sullivan, wanted clarification if additional police presence is needed, it would be in writing. Attorney Geist stated a discussion will be had with Chief Joyce.
2. Gerry Speciale, owner of Uncle Frank's, wanted to know where his customers who park in the CVS parking lot, will now park. Councilman Harvilla stated there were representations made by the filming company that they will not be utilizing the entire parking lot. Councilman Harvilla did not think there would be any insurmountable

problems. Attorney Geist added that police coordination will be utilized. Councilman Kelly suggested all non-essential vehicles for the shoot park on West Shore so only a minimal amount of CVS parking spaces be used by the production company.

3. Maryanne Russini, asked about the covering of the windows of Da Mimmos during the shoot. Her concern is for the high school kids potentially being filmed. Councilman Morrell explained the filming process and said this will not happen.
4. Ivan Corbani, asked what they are shooting. Mr. Geist stated the production company completed the application and the borough is only obligated to share what is in the application. Mr. Van Meter stated the company is shooting a restaurant makeover show.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Aponte

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #23-166 – Grant Permission & Set Forth Conditions for Table Turn TV Inc. Filming Permit: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Council Comments – Resolution #23-168

Councilman Harvilla had concerns over verbiage in the resolution and wanted to table the resolution. He believed the resolution has language that is exaggerated and divisive. The Councilman also stated he objects to the reference to the community as “fully developed” because it implies there is no opportunity for future evolution and growth. The Councilman requested that the current resolution (23-168) be reworked to focus on the verbiage in the Statement Section of S3739, particularly lines 11-33, which makes its case by focusing on the impact to municipalities without utilizing incendiary or divisive language. Councilwoman Stewart stated she was supportive of this resolution in spirit but is now supportive of Councilman Harvilla’s position in tabling the resolution, as she believed the language was a little bit hostile. Councilman Kelly was open to having a discussion regarding the language however, he believed that passing this type of bill is more symbolic to get a conversation started.

Motion to Table Resolution #23-168 – Supporting S3739/A5402 Delaying Implementation of Fourth Round of Affordable Housing Obligations: Councilman Harvilla

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Motion to Add and Adopt Resolution #23-171 - Authorizing Interim Borough Administrator to Publish an Advertisement for an Additional Police Dispatcher: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Harvilla

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

Attorney Geist stated the police department was already short on dispatchers and that an additional dispatcher just resigned. Upon recommendation from Chief Joyce, and discussions with labor counsel, it was recommended that an additional dispatcher be added.

ORDINANCES

1st Reading

#1621 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Making of Various Capital Public Improvements, In, By and For the Borough of Dumont to Appropriate the Sum of \$2,654,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds

Motion to WAIVE Formal Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

No discussion from the Council.

Motion to PASS on 1st reading: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll Call Vote: Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – Yes

Public Comment - General Comments

Motion to open to the public for General Comments: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

1. Cary Stopsky, asked about the status of the handicap doors along with the curb-cut. The Borough Clerk stated the mechanisms above the doors were installed and now the electric has to be run and the buttons will be installed. The doors should be ready for use shortly. The doors for the police department were still a work in progress. The accessible curb is by the handicap parking space. Mr. Stopsky also inquired whether the jail and sally port had been approved by the state. Chief Joyce stated that both were operational.
2. Bruce DeLyon, clarified when he spoke earlier in the evening, he meant to say .57 as opposed to \$57.
3. Lynne Vietri, inquired if the borough will have a mobile DMV unit again. Chief Joyce stated that one was requested but no response had been received.
4. Maryanne Russini, commented on the verbal resolution to advertise for a dispatcher, and that the resolution was voted on before the public had a chance to comment. Councilman Kelly stated that the verbal resolution was atypical and was just an oversight.
5. Michael Sullivan, stated he had not heard anything further about overnight parking ending on October 15th. It was stated that notice will be on the website and will also go out in the tax bills. Councilman Morrell inquired if the mobile sign could be put by the park with notice of the October 15 end of overnight parking.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

Council Comments – General Comments

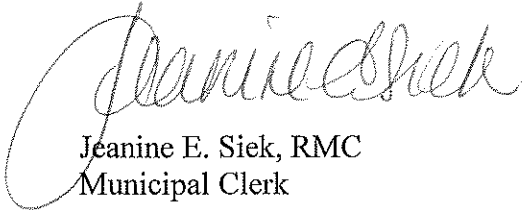
Councilman Harvilla thanked Mr. Abbasi for his incredible work for the borough. Mr. Abbasi thanked the council and stated that he has appreciated all of his time working for the borough.

Mr. Abbasi confirmed the tax rate will be going up .057. He explained the reason for estimated bills. Regarding the bond ordinance, Mr. Abbasi stated, as per advice from bond counsel, it should be as broad as possible to allow for flexibility and fungibility with funds. Section 12 was included to allow for his successor to pay down authorized debt through grant funds. He added that it was a tough year for municipalities and he hopes the governor will give relief funds for health insurance. He ended by saying it had been an honor to serve the borough.

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

The meeting ended at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk