

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

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

- Potential Litigation - Dumont Football
- Attorney Client Privilege - Legal Advice - Dumont Recreation
- Potential Litigation - Municipal Complex
- Attorney-Client Privilege - Legal Advice Regarding Public Real Estate – 2nd Street

Mayor Andrew LaBruno called the meeting to order at 7:19 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 (via telephone), Russell, Stewart – Present
Mayor Andrew LaBruno - Present

Also in attendance: Borough Administrator Michael Kazimir, Municipal Clerk Jeanine Siek, Borough Engineer Peter Ten Kate and Borough Attorney Jared Geist

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to approve the October 17, 2023 Public Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Motion to approve the October 17, 2023 Closed Session Meeting minutes: Councilwoman

Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Motion to approve the November 20, 2023 Public Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Motion to approve the November 20, 2023 Closed Session Meeting minutes: Councilwoman

Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor LaBruno thanked all who helped with Dumont's Winter Festival and Menorah Lighting. Mayor LaBruno noted that he has valued the volunteers that have helped with all the community events that have transpired during his tenure.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Aponte

Councilwoman Aponte thanked Councilwoman Stewart, Mayor LaBruno and Councilman Harvilla for their years of service.

- *Fire*

The Fire Department had its annual parade with Santa through the streets of Dumont. It was a very well-received event. On December 6th, Dumont held its Winter Festival and the Councilwoman thanked all who volunteered.

- *Recreation*

Roller Hockey season started on November 28th. Boys Basketball sign-ups closed on December 13th. Girls Basketball registration has closed and the season begins at the end of the month. Wrestling has 76 participants, and matches start in January. Little League and Senior Baseball registration is open and closing on February 2nd. Opening Day will be April 13th.

Councilman Harvilla

- *Library*

The last meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was held on December 13th. Council will be voting on Resolution 23-323, awarding of the contract for the installation of French drains at the library. This drain will remediate a drainage issue in its downstairs and will reduce the possibility of water intrusion. On December 26th, there will be a drop off activities for Pre-K through 5th grade. Books and Craft Storytime for ages 2-5 and winter drop-in activities for Pre-K through 5th grade will be on December 27th. On December 28th, there will be Lap-Sit Storytime for ages 0-2 and a drop-in activity for ages Pre-K through 5th grade. New registrations are up 58% for the year; ESL attendance is up 65.5%; program attendance is up 34%. Councilman Harvilla stated that it has been his honor and pleasure to serve as library liaison for the past 3 years. The next meeting will be on January 24, 2024.

- *DPW*

Union contract negotiations continue. Resolution 23-324 is on the agenda, which awards the contract for the installation of heating units at the DPW garage. These units will replace and remediate the condition of the current heating units, which are insufficient to provide adequate heat for the building. Funds come from remaining operating funds available within the 2023 budget.

- *Board of Education*

Councilman Harvilla stated it has been his honor to service as the BOE liaison this past year. Current enrollment at Dumont public schools is as follows: elementary schools 1,769; high school 771; total in district students 2,540 plus 95 out of district students, for a total of 2,635 students. The next meeting of the BOE will be on January 4, 2024.

Councilman Harvilla spoke about the honor it has been to represent the constituents of Dumont. He thanked all the employees, the volunteers and the public officials of Dumont.

Councilman Kelly

- *Finance*

The Finance Committee is in the process of scheduling budget meetings with the departments and committees. Councilman Kelly explained the budget transfer resolution that is on the agenda that covers overages. He thanked the DPW for the holiday decorations on the lampposts and for the leaf cleanup. He also thanked all employees and volunteers that helped with the Winter Festival.

Councilman Russell

- *DPW*

Councilman Russell thanked the DPW, Police Department, staff and volunteers that helped with the Winter Festival. The DPW is still performing storm clean up. Please put branches and leaves in the street. If there is an after-hour emergency, call the police department and they will dispatch the stand-by crew.

- *Shade Tree*

On December 2, 2023, the Shade Tree Commission participated in the Bergen County Christmas Decorating Contest in Van Saun Park. A tree was entered and decorated by Tom and Anna Fisichella. The tree won 3rd place. There was a successful wreath making event at the Elks Club. The last meeting of the Shade Tree Commission was December 18, 2023. The next meeting will be on January 8, 2024.

Councilwoman Stewart

Councilman Stewart wished everyone Happy Holidays and reflected on her past 6 years serving on the Council.

Councilman Morrell (arrived in person at 7:41pm)

Councilman Morrell wished everyone Happy Holidays. He thanked Councilman Harvilla, Mayor LaBruno and Councilwoman Stewart for their service.

- *Police*

Councilman Morrell reported for the month of November. There were 1,529 calls for service; 102 medical calls, 32 fire calls and 8 commitments. There were 250 traffic summonses issued, 9 for parking and 176 for overnight and 65 for moving violations; 29 motor vehicle accident investigations; 7 burglar alarms responded to; 2 warrants served; 11,023 miles traveled for patrol activities; 9 street lights and 2 decorative lights; 2 car seats installed; 52 dark house slips issued; 4 cases of animal cruelty. There were 7 total arrests by detectives; 2 domestic violence; 1 domestic criminal mischief; 1 domestic violence with simple assault; 1 endangerment of a minor; and 11 expungements; 32 firearm investigations and 39 criminal cases investigated. For community policing activity, LEAD officers continue to visit their assigned 5th grade classes. Adopt a Cop officers continue to visit their 2nd grade classrooms.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Borough Administrator Kazimir gave a brief explanation of Resolution 23-317. He wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Peter Ten Kate reported that the 2023 Riverside Paving Program has been completed and punch list items are being addressed. The Dulles Drive Improvement Project was completed last month and he is closing the project out. The Borough has received 3 grants from NJDOT for improvements to Prospect Ave. totaling \$1,057,449. Bid plans and specs are beginning to be

prepared. Bid plans and specs are being prepared for an Open Space grant for improvements to pickle ball courts at Berkeley Park totaling \$192,884. On November 10th, bids were taken for the 2023 Road Resurfacing project. DLS Contracting was awarded the low bid price of \$536,850. A pre-construction meeting will happen in early January. Boswell, along with our grant writer, applied for a Bergen County Community Development block grant for the paving of 4 streets.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Geist thanked the outgoing council members and the mayor for their service. Most issues he is dealing with are for closed session so he is unable to speak about them at this time.

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

#23-313 – Bills List *

#23-314 – Refund for Overpayment of Taxes *

#23-315 – Authorization of 2023 Budget Transfers *

#23-316 – Hillsdale Child Health Conference Agreement *

#23-317 – Cancellation of Grant Receivable Balances from Bergen County *

#23-318 – Accept Resignation of Zachary Blake from Fire Department *

#23-319 – Accept Application as Probationary Firefighter from Sean Yates *

#23-320 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Casino Night Raffle License Application *

#23-321 – Approval of DHS Project Graduation Cash Calendar Raffle License Application *

#23-322 – Approval of Clothing Donation Bins Program *

#23-323 – Award of Contract for Installation of French Drain at Dixon Homestead Library *

#23-324 – Award of Contract for Installation of Heating Units at DPW Garage *

#23-325 – Approval of Borough Vehicle Use Policy for Captain of Dumont Police Department
(pulled from consent)

Council Comment – Consent Agenda Only

Councilman Kelly requested to pull #23-325 for separate discussion

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

1. Maryanne Russini, had questions regarding the Bills List and #23-322.

Motion to close to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor

Motion to adopt Resolutions #23-213 to #23-324 on the Consent Agenda: Councilman Kelly;

Second: Councilman Morrell

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

Motion to Table Resolution #23-325 – Approval of Borough Vehicle Use Policy for Captain of Dumont Police Department: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilman Russell

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

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading

#1628 - Ordinance Amending Chapter 374 of the Dumont Borough Code – Stormwater Control Ordinance

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

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: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

Motion to Adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Kelly

Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

#1629 – Ordinance Establishing Chapter 339-12 of the Dumont Borough Code – Privately Owned Salt Storage

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Russell

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor

1. Jane Struebel wanted an explanation as to the ordinance. Councilman Harvilla gave a brief explanation and stressed that the ordinance is geared toward commercial storage.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

Motion to Adopt on 2nd reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell

Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

#1630 – Ordinance Amending Chapter 283-4 of the Dumont Borough Code – Recreation; Use of Vehicles

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

Attorney Geist gave a brief explanation of ordinance.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Aponte

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to Adopt on 2nd reading: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Council members Aponte, Harvilla, Kelly, Morrell, Russell, Stewart – yes

Public Comment - General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

1. Avinash Melkote, spoke regarding a quiet zone from train noise.
2. Maryanne Russini, asked to see a picture of the Christmas tree at Van Saun and asked for it to be posted on the website. She asked if resolutions could be posted with the agenda and for the JLUB meetings to be streamed.
3. Lynn Vietri, spoke about the train quiet zone.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Russell; All in favor.

Motion to go back into Closed Session: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

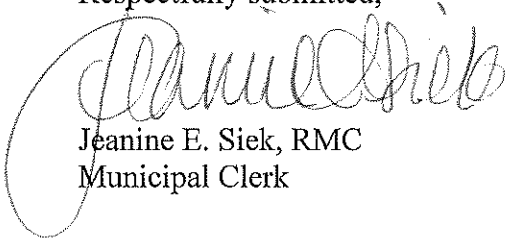
Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

All in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk