

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

Mayor-Elect Russell called the meeting to order at 7:17 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 – Present

Borough Clerk Jeanine Siek read the General Election Municipal Results:  
The Official Results of the Election, dated November 27, 2023 were as follows:

Dumont Mayor:

John W. Russell - 2,298

Nicola E. Attanasio - 1,862

Dumont Council:

Daniel L. LaBarbera - 2,200

Christopher Kourelakos - 2,261

Michael E. Francavilla - 1,848

Andrew Warta - 1,917

The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor John W. Russell III by the Honorable Senator Holly Schepisi.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Christopher Kourelakos by the Honorable Senator Holly Schepisi.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Daniel LaBarbera by the Honorable Senator Holly Schepisi.

**Roll Call:** Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell – Present  
Mayor John W. Russell III – present

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

The Oath of Office was administered to Chief of Department Terrance Baierwalter by Mayor Russell.

The Oath of Office was administered to Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Medina by Mayor Russell.

The Oath of Office was administered to Battalion Fire Chief John Arlin by Mayor Russell.

Motion to go into Closed Session: Councilman LaBarbera  
Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor

Borough Clerk Jeanine Siek read Closed Session Resolution:  
\* Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice – Council Vacancy

Motion to Adopt Closed Session Resolution: Councilman LaBarbera;  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell – yes

Motion to Re-Open to the Public: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor

Attorney Geist gave the public a brief recap of the closed session explaining that a vacancy was formed when former Council President Russell was sworn in as mayor with one year left in his term. According to NJSA 40A:16-11, the political party of the incumbent is to submit 3 names to the governing body for consideration to fill the vacancy, and then the governing body appoints one of the 3 names. Borough Clerk Siek read the 3 names submitted by the chairman of the Dumont Republican County Committee: Andrew Lyons, Dominick Panfile and Carole Stewart.

Motion to nominate Carol Stewart to the vacant Council seat: Councilwoman Aponte  
Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor

Motion to adopt **Resolution #23-45** – Appointment of Carole Stewart to Fill Council Vacancy:  
Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilman Kelly  
Roll Call: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell – yes

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilwoman Carole Stewart by Assemblyman Robert Auth.

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**

#24-01 – Appointment of Tom Kelly as Council President for 2024 (*Pulled from consent*)

#24-02 – Approval of Mayor and Council 2024 Meeting Dates \*

#24-03 – Reappoint Harry Stylianou, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge \*

#24-04 – Reappointment of Frank Berardo as Borough's Qualified Purchasing Agent \*

#24-05 – Approval of Contract Extension - Sustainable Communities Associates \*

#24-06 – Establishment of Delinquent Tax Rate/Penalties \*

#24-07 – Authorization of Investment of Idle Funds \*

#24-08 – Designation of Official Depositories \*

#24-09 – Adoption of 2024 Temporary Municipal Budget \*

#24-10 – Approval of Payroll Account \*

- #24-11 – Approval of Bergen County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid \*
- #24-12 – Appointment of Deputy OEM Coordinator \*
- #24-13 – Authorization to Participate in LESO 1033 Program \*
- #24-14 – Appointment of Michael Kazimir as Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and Cathy Romeo and Jodie Delehanty as Alternate JIF Commissioners for 2024 \*
- #24-15 – Appointment of Michael Kazimir as Affirmative Action, Public Agency Compliance Officer for the year 2024 \*
- #24-16 – Designation of the Borough’s Official Newspapers \*
- #24-17 – Approval of Volunteer Tuition Credit Program \*
- #24-18 – Approval of Membership in the N.J. League of Municipalities \*
- #24-19 – Approval of Membership in the Bergen County League of Municipalities \*
- #24-20 – Participation in New Jersey State Cash Management Fund \*
- #24-21 – Approval of Block Party, Street Closing and Live Entertainment Applications \*
- #24-22 – Reappointment of John Pampaloni as Wastewater Consultant \*
- #24-23 – Adoption of Notice of Tort Claim Form \*
- #24-24 – Appointment of Karen Sadock to Library Board of Trustees \*
- #24-25 – Appointment of Beth Synott to Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee \*
- #24-26 – Appointment of Geist Law, LLC as Borough Attorney for 2024 \*
- #24-27 – Appointment of Lerch, Vinci & Bliss as Borough Auditors for 2024 \*
- #24-28 – Appointment of McNerney & Associates, Inc. as Borough Appraiser for 2024 \*
- #24-29 – Appointment of Rogut McCarthy, LLC as Borough Bond Counsel for 2024 \*
- #24-30 – Appointment of Boswell Engineering as Borough Engineer for 2024 (*Pulled from consent*)
- #24-31 – Appointment of Acacia Financial Group as Financial Advisors for 2024 \*
- #24-32 – Appointment of Bruno Associates, LLC as Borough Grant Writers for 2024 \*
- #24-33 – Appointment of Dart Computer Services as the Borough’s IT Firm for 2024 \*
- #24-34 – Appointment of Acuity Consulting Services as Borough Planner for 2024 \*
- #24-35 – Appointment of Brown & Brown Metro as the Borough’s Risk Manager for 2024 \*
- #24-36 – Appointment of Boggia & Boggia, LLC as the Borough’s Tax Appeal Attorney for 2024 \*
- #24-37 – Appointment of Breslin & Breslin as the Borough’s Prosecutor for 2024 \*
- #24-38 – Appointment of Christopher J. Kane as the Borough’s Alternate Prosecutor for 2024 \*
- #24-39 – Appointment of Louis G. DeAngelis as the Borough’s Public Defender for 2024 \*
- #24-40 – Appointment of Acuity Consulting Services as the Borough’s Affordable Housing Administrator for 2024 \*
- #24-41 – Appointment of Acuity Consulting Services as the Borough’s COAH Planner for 2024 \*
- #24-42 – Appoint Councilman Tom Kelly as Class III Member of the Joint Land Use Board (*Pulled from consent*)
- #24-43 – Appointment of Borough’s Special Counsel for 2024: O’Toole Scrivo, LLC \*
- #24-44 – Appointment of Borough’s Special Projects Engineers for 2024: Remington & Vernick Engineers and Neglia Engineering \*

**Council Comment – Consent Agenda Only**

Councilwoman Stewart requested to pull #24-30 for separate vote.

Councilman Kelly requested to pull #24-01 and #24-42 for separate vote.

**Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only**

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

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

1. Maryanne Russini, asked how many RFQ’s were submitted for grant writer and a status summary of all grants handled by Millennium. She also wanted to know the cost of the proposed grant writing firm, Bruno Associates.
2. Mary Normoyle, had questions regarding Acuity Consulting Services.

Motion to close to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilman LaBarbera;

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart - yes

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-01 – Appointment of Tom Kelly as Council President for 2024:

Councilman LaBarbera; Second: Councilwoman Stewart

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart - yes

Kelly – abstain

**Council Discussion on Resolution #24-30**

Councilwoman Stewart stated that Neglia Engineering has been the best engineering firm she has ever worked with.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-30 Appointment of Boswell Engineering as Borough Engineer

for 2024: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell – yes

Stewart – no

Motion to adopt Resolution #24-42 Appoint Councilman Tom Kelly as Class III Member of the Joint Land Use Board: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman LaBarbera

Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart - yes

Kelly – abstain

Mayor Russell read the Mayor’s Board and Commission Appointments:

**Recreation Commission**

Brian Harris	Commissioner	5-year term	expires 12/31/2028
Joanie Diore	Commissioner	unexpired term	expires 12/31/2024
Kristin Hayden	Alternate #1	unexpired term	expires 12/31/2027

**Shade Tree Commission**

Tom Fisichella	Commissioner	5-year term	expires 12/31/2028
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**Joint Land Use Board**

Kai Chen	Class I Member	4-year term	expires 12/31/2027
David Gluckman	Class II Member	1-year term	expires 12/31/2024
Tom Kelly	Class III Member	1-year term	expires 12/31/2024
Ken Armellino	Class IV Member	4-year term	expires 12/31/2027
Chris Sheridan	Class IV Member	4-year term	expires 12/31/2027
Michael Sullivan, Jr.	Alternate 3	2-year term	expires 12/31/2025
Michael Affrunti	Alternate 4	2-year term	expires 12/31/2025

**Public Comment - General Comments**

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

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, requested an earlier posting of the agenda and resolutions. He also had questions about the Borough's peddler's license. Finally, he requested comment from Councilwoman Stewart about her change in political party. Borough Clerk Siek stated the agenda is always posted the Friday before the meeting. Packets are delivered to the Mayor and Council on the same day. Resolutions are posted on Monday unless Monday is a holiday and then they are posted on Tuesday. The governing body needs a chance to review the resolutions before making them public.
2. Lynn Vietri, had questions on Resolution #23-322 regarding clothing bins that will be installed around town and the company that maintains the bins.
3. Maryanne Russini, spoke about the need for holiday lights and trying to find lights that are on sale. Councilwoman Aponte stated the Borough will start to look. Councilwoman Stewart noted that it is unknown how much the Borough will have for lights. Councilman Kelly stated it will be a challenging year. She also spoke about the Hometown Hero Banner Program and looking for grants that would help fund the program.
4. Mary Normoyle, had questions regarding the last bills list.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

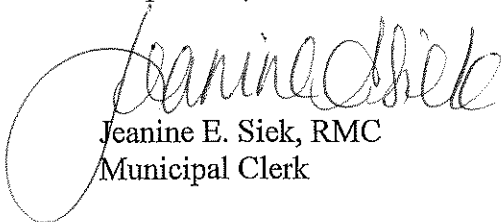
Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilman LaBarbera

All in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC  
Municipal Clerk