

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

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

- Potential Litigation – Palisades Emanuel Church
- Pending Litigation – CSX
- Pending Litigation – Building Department Lawsuit
- Potential Litigation – Municipal Complex Litigation
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice – Dumont Recreation

Mayor Russell called the meeting to order at 7:25 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, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Stewart – Present

Morrell - Absent

Mayor John W. Russell - Present

Also in attendance: Municipal Clerk Jeanine Siek, Borough Attorney Jared Geist and Borough Engineer Peter TenKate

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

Motion to adopt Resolution #24-57 – Approval of Promotion of Officer Lauren Morgan to Sergeant with the Dumont Police Department: Councilman Kourelakos

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Morrell - absent

Motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Sine Die Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Aponte

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes: Councilman Kourelakos; Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Motion to approve the January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Councilman LaBarbera;
Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Stewart – yes

Motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: Councilman
Kourelakos; Second: Councilman LaBarbera
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Stewart – yes

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Russell reported he is still working on a borough newsletter. He will be reaching out to mayors of surrounding towns regarding shared service projects.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Aponte

- *DPW*

Councilwoman Aponte thanked DPW Superintendent Anthony Schiraldi, the DPW, Police Chief Brian Joyce, and all the staff for their hard work cleaning up after today's snow storm. The councilwoman also thanked DPW Road Clerk Rebecca Vazquez for all her help with Clean Communities. Through grants the Borough has received 2 storage containers for the DPW to hold their Clean Community safety equipment and supplies; tick keys that can be picked up from Cathy Romeo and at the Rabies Clinic on March 27th; 48 waste cans that will be placed throughout town; recycling tote bags that will be given away at Dumont Day. A shredding event will take place on 4/6 from 9am-1pm at Borough Hall. Earth Day is on 4/22. A volunteer clean-up will be organized by Ms. Vazquez.

Councilman Kelly

- *Finance*

Councilman Kelly shared that the Finance Committee is about half way through budget meetings with the Department Heads and committees.

Councilman Kourelakos

- *Recreation*

Tony Como is back after an extended absence. Men's Softball registration will be opening up.

- *Library*

The Library's Centennial will be celebrated this year and events will be scheduled. Additionally, the Library is working on putting together "A Library of Things."

Councilman LaBarbera

- *ABED*

The Councilman welcomed the newest committee member, Cesare Papetti.

Councilman Stewart

- *Police*

Councilwoman Stewart reported for the month of January. There were 2,077 calls for service; 126 medical calls, 29 fire calls and 4 commitments. There were 411 traffic summonses issued, 62 for parking and 258 for overnight and 91 for moving violations; 18 motor vehicle accident investigations; 17 burglar alarms responded to; 4 warrants served; 5,637 miles traveled for patrol activities; 6 street lights; 2 car seats were installed or checked; 110 dark house slips were issued; and 3 case of animal cruelty. There were 8 total arrests by detectives; 1 service of warrant; 1 terroristic threat; 1 operation of motor vehicle while suspended for DWI; 11 domestic violence

incidents; 11 expungements; 27 firearm investigations and 40 criminal cases investigated. Compared with last January, calls for service were up 17.2%; medical calls were up 2.4%; fire calls were up 38.1%; commitments were down 42%. Parking summonses were up 129.6%; moving summonses declined by 18.8%; motor vehicle accident investigations went from 12 to 18; dark house slips up 120%; DV incidents down to 11 from 22; expungements up 11 from 8; fire arm investigations up 27 from 17 and criminal cases investigated up 21%.

- *Board of Education*

Councilwoman Stewart attended the January 25th meeting. She encouraged parents of children in the school system to read the BOE reports every month. The Councilwoman highlighted that there has been virtually no change in enrollment for the past 2 years. Total elementary school enrollment was 1,790 (December 31st) last year and 1,769 this year. Total school district enrollment last year was 2,556 and this year, 2,538.

- *Social Services*

Councilwoman Stewart thanked the Old North Church for their Super Bowl event and their repeated food drives.

- *Senior Services*

Two functions have been added for each week – Canasta on Wednesdays and Ping Pong on Thursdays.

CFO REPORT

CFO Rutch reiterated that the Finance Committee is half way through budget meetings with Department Heads. Budget meetings should be wrapped up in the next two weeks. As per a recent Local Finance Notice from the Division of Local Government Services, there have been some changes in statutory deadlines with regard to report submissions. The Annual Financial Statement is due on 3/8. The deadline to introduce the budget is now 3/29 or the next regularly scheduled meeting, which is 4/9, and the budget will be adopted on 5/7. Mr. Rutch explained Resolution #24-68, a dedicated trust for the Uniform Construction Code Enforcement of Penalties and Fees. This is for the Building Department.

ENGINEER REPORT

Peter TenKate of Boswell Engineering reported on the projects that Boswell is involved with. Regarding the Municipal Building Sewer Investigation, a proposal is being prepared for bid plans and specs to remediate the ground floor sewer problems. The 2023 Riverside Coop Paving Program is complete. The original bid came in at \$390,243.46 and the final cost was \$372,388.61. Bid plans and specs are being prepared for the Municipal Park Improvements at Memorial Park and the Pickleball Courts. They should be ready for advertising in March with spring construction. There was a CDBG grant in the amount of \$134,165 for the paving of Dulles Drive, and the project is complete. The bid was \$127,006 and completed project cost was \$113,815.53. The 2023 Road Resurfacing Project received bids on 11/10, and the award went to DLS Contracting at \$536,850. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled shortly for spring construction start. Boswell assisted Millennium Strategies in preparing a CDBG grant application for the paving of Brook St., Dumont Ave., Thompson St., and Magnolia Ave. The Borough has received 3 grants from NJDOT for the improvements to Prospect Ave. and Boswell is preparing those bid plans and specs. Boswell prepared cost estimates for the 2024 Riverside Coop Resurfacing Program containing the following streets – Juniper St. from Delong to Massachusetts Ave.; Harrison St., from Delong to Massachusetts Ave.; Brookfield Rd. from

Andover Ave. to Massachusetts Ave.; Medford Rd. from Andover to Massachusetts Ave.; Roxbury Rd. from Andover Ave. to Massachusetts Ave. and Andover Ave from Brookfield Rd. to Washington Ave.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

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

#24-58 – Bills List *

#24-59 – Authorization to Advertise for DPW Seasonal Labor Service Proposals *

#24-60 – Contract with RER Supply, LLC for Vegetative Waste Disposal *

#24-61 – Appoint Municipal Representatives to CDBG Regional Committee *

#24-62 – BC Department of Health Shared Services Employee Assistance Program *

#24-63 – Agreement with BCUA for Certified Recycling Professional *

#24-64 – Approval of Selzer School PTO Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle License Application *

#24-65 – Approval of Selzer School PTO On-Premise Merchandise Raffle License Application *

#24-66 – Approval of Fee Waiver for St. Mary's Church Raffle *

#24-67 – Refund of Trust Developer Money *

#24-68 – Request Approval from State for Dedicated Trust by Rider for UCC Enforcement Penalties & Fees *

#24-69 – Approval of Change Order No. 1 for Dulles Drive Project *

#24-70 – Accept Officer Jonathon Decen Rogers Resignation from Dumont Police Department *

#24-71 – Authorization of Disposal of Surplus Property at GovDeals Auction *

#24-72 – Declare Vacancy on Library Board of Trustees *

#24-73 – Appoint Cesare Papetti to Arts, Beautification & Economic Development Committee *

#24-74 – Submit Application for NJDCA FY24 Local Recreation Improvement Grant *

#24-75 – Approval to Participate in 2024 Riverside Cooperative Paving Program *

Council Comments – Consent Agenda Only

None

Public Comment – Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items only: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor

1. Maryann Russini, had questions regarding Bills List, specifically a Remington bill for Gina's Field, the recreation trust grant, the sprinkler bills, a Mercury Environmental bill, Servpro bill and Trans US bills.
2. Lynn Vietri, had questions regarding the Bills List, specifically the Atlantic Salt bill, advertising for DPW seasonal labor, copy machine bill, Dulles Drive change order, and Chase Bank and NJ Infrastructure Bank.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Morrell – absent

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-76 – Appoint George Harvilla to Library Board of Trustees:

Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman LaBarbera

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

Morrell – absent

Ordinances

#1631 - Ordinance Amending Chapter 306-28 of the Dumont Borough Code – Vacant and Abandoned Residences – Fee Schedule

Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

Attorney Geist explained the ordinance.

Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kelly

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

Morrell – absent

Public Comment – General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

1. Thorsten Buescher, gave a presentation regarding the roller hockey program and his request for resurfacing of the roller hockey rink, a new score board and the repair of the shed. Mr. Buescher gave details on what roller hockey is, the advantages of the program, the timing of the season and practices. Members of the council expressed support of the program. Borough Clerk Siek explained that a recreational grant will be applied for to assist in funding and the timing of a potential award.
2. Lynn Vietri, expressed her support of the roller hockey program. Ms. Vietri had a question about the disposal of surplus property.

3. Maryanne Russini, had questions regarding Green Acres grants and the fee arrangement with the grant writer.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

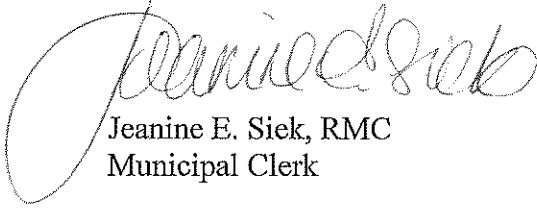
Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeanine E. Siek". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk