

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
MARCH 5, 2024**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

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

- Contract Negotiations – PBA
- Personnel – DPW Hires
- Contractual Matters – Swim Club Lease
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Legal Advice – Dumont Recreation
- Potential Litigation – Palisades Emanuel Church

Mayor Russell called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, Morrell, Stewart – Present

Mayor John W. Russell - Present

Also in attendance: Municipal Clerk Jeanine Siek, CFO Christopher Rutch, and Borough Attorney Jared Geist.

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

Promotional Ceremony for Dumont Police Department Sergeant Lauren Morgan

Police Chief Brian Joyce read Sergeant Morgan's bio and Mayor Russell administered the oath of office.

Motion to approve the January 23, 2024 Closed Session Minutes: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilman Kourelakos

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

Motion to approve the February 13, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Stewart;

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Councilman Morrell: Abstain

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Russell reported he is still working on getting a borough newsletter on the website. He also will be meeting with business owners with the ABED Committee to discuss how things

could be done better in Dumont. There will also be the grand opening and ribbon cutting at QB's this coming weekend.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Aponte

- *Health Department* - There will be a free rabies clinic on Wednesday, March 27th at 3 pm at Gina's Field.

- *Personnel Committee* - The committee had its first meeting of 2024 on February 28th. The committee is comprised of Councilwoman Aponte, Councilwoman Stewart, Councilman Morrell, Borough Clerk Jeanine Siek and the Borough Administrator, Mike Kazimir. Open positions in the Borough were discussed along with any pending issues, including better communication with the Mayor and Council that will include weekly summary reports indicating what projects and grants that were worked that week. Those reports will be supplied to the Mayor and Council every Friday.

- *DPW* - Superintendent Anthony Schiraldi has asked that it be announced that if any homeowner has a sewer backup, he would like that the DPW be called first during business hours. After hours, the police can be called and they can contact the DPW. A pre-construction meeting will be held with Boswell to determine dates for the 2023 Road Projects for Sherwood, Berkley and Golfview. The Borough is awaiting plans and bid documents for the pickleball court. On March 12th, the DPW will be picking up grass, sticks, twigs and any fall debris.

Councilman Kelly

- *Finance* - Councilman Kelly reported that the Finance Committee met on February 28th. They have nearly completed meetings with all the departments and are starting to go through committee budgets and to look at the capital improvement programs.

- *Joint Land Use Board* - Councilman Kelly reported that Nico Attanasio was elected Chairman of the JLUB and Carl Manna, Vice-Chair. Marc Leibman was hired as JLUB attorney, Neglia is the Board Engineer and Acuity is the Board Planner.

Councilman Kourelakos

- *Recreation* - The next registration will be basketball sometime in late March or early April. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 27th at 6:30 pm in Memorial Park. Opening day for baseball and softball is April 13th with the parade starting at the high school at 9:00 am.

- *Library* - Councilman Kourelakos reported on upcoming activities: Pet adoption on March 18th with donations that can be dropped prior to the date; the summer reading program is scheduled for June 17th to August 19th; a concert series for May 27 through June 29th with 5 concerts; and a Library of Things where items, instead of books, may be borrowed. Please check out the library's website for a complete listing of all activities.

Councilman LaBarbera

- *Shade Tree* - The next Shade Tree meeting will be on March 18th.
- *ABEDC* - The next meeting will be on March 20th.

Councilman Morrell: No report

Councilman Stewart

- *Police* - Councilwoman Stewart reported for the month of February. There were 2,029 calls for service; 124 medical calls, 29 fire calls and 1 call for commitment. There were 263 traffic summonses issued, 44 for parking and 198 for overnight and 121 for moving violations; 24 motor vehicle accident investigations; 15 burglar alarms responded to; 2 warrants served; 9,162 miles traveled for patrol activities; 4 street lights and 3 decorative lights were non-

functioning and were identified to PSE&G for repair; 48 dark house slips were issued. In the detective bureau, there were 4 total arrests; 13 domestic violence incidents investigated; 8 expungements; 27 firearm investigations and 28 criminal cases investigated. Under community policing, LEAD officers continued visiting their assigned 5th grade classes, Adopt a Cop officers continued visiting their assigned 2nd grade classes, and Patrol Officer Foglio spoke to a family regarding their adult son and the blue envelope program.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Kazimir congratulated Sergeant Morgan on her promotion. He will be attending the Recreation Meeting on March 6th. The Ramadan Crescent lighting will be on Saturday, March 9th with a rain date of March 13th.

CFO REPORT

CFO Rutch reported that the budget meetings are 90% complete with only four committee meetings and the building department left. CFO Rutch will begin inputting the numbers into the Borough's worksheet to be submitted to the auditor. The only outstanding bill that he was unable to report on at the last meeting was the BCUA bill. There will be an increase of \$93,927 from the 2023 bill. The Borough's Annual Financial Statement process is almost complete with the auditors. Lastly, Mr. Rutch explained outstanding bills list issues from the last meeting regarding two purchases from Trane and Atlantic Salt.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Geist reported that he has been doing a lot of work with the Dumont Recreation Commission. He also reported that Hanna v. Borough of Dumont case has settled. More on this case will be given at the next meeting.

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

- #24-77 – Bills List *
- #24-78 – Authorize Advertisement for Disaster Recovery Administrative Services *
- #24-79 – Award of Quote to Mike Versace Landscaping, LLC for Lawn Maintenance of Abandoned and Bank-owned Properties *
- #24-80 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Shake the Can Drive *
- #24-81 – Accept Resignation from Police Department Dispatcher Briana Mompellier *
- #24-82 – Opposition to A4/S50 Bills Proposing Overhaul to Fair Housing Act *
- #24-83 – Appointment of Lynn Vietri to the Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee *
- #24-84 – Authorize Redemption & Disbursement of Tax Sale Certificate 20-00001 *
- #24-85 – Authorize Redemption & Disbursement of Tax Sale Certificate 21-00001 *
- #24-86 – Approval of Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle License Application for DHS Music Booster Association *
- #24-87 – Appoint the Law Offices of Irene Kim Asbury as Special OPRA Counsel for 2024 *

- #24-88 – Appoint Law Office of Jerry Elashmawy, LLC as Alternate Public Defender for 2024 *
- #24-89 – Authorize Execution of Contract with Affiliated Engineering Laboratories, Inc. *
- #24-90 – Participation in SAMI Community Awareness Program *

Council Comments:

Councilman Kelly asked to pull #24-86 for a conflict.

Public Comment – Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items only: Councilman Kourelakos

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor

1. Bruce DeLyon, had questions regarding #24-87, including why the Borough did not go out for competitive bid and what is Ms. Asbury's hourly rate. He also would like a projection of what her bills will be in 2024.
2. Maryann Russini, had questions regarding the process of referring an OPRA to special OPRA counsel, and her concern that both special OPRA counsel and regular counsel are charging. She also wanted an explanation regarding #24-89.
3. Michael Sullivan, asked for an explanation of resolutions #24-84 and #24-85.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman LaBarbera; All in favor.

Motion to Adopt Consent Agenda: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-86 – Approval of Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle License

Application for DHS Music Booster Association: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kourelakos

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

Councilman Kelly: Abstain

Resolution #24-91 – Approval of Municipal Vehicle Use Policy for Captain of the Police Department

Motion to open to public: Councilman Kourelakos;

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, questioned the process of the resolution, the change in wording, the policy that the resolution refers to, and transparency issues.
2. Maryanne Russini, expressed her concern about the expense for the vehicle and if other towns provide cars for their captains.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-91: Councilman LaBarbera; Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

Kelly – abstain

Resolution #24-92 – Approval of Permanent Police Status for Officer Hargrave

Motion to open to public: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-92: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman LaBarbera
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes;
Kelly – abstain

Resolution #24-93 – Approval of Permanent Police Status for Officer Cronin
Motion to open to public: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor
No one from the public wished to be heard.
Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-93: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes;
Kelly – abstain

Resolution #24-94 – Adoption of Light/Modified Duty Policy
Motion to open to public: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor
1. Maryanne Russini, asked for an explanation of the difference between the old and new
policy.
Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-94: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes;
Kelly – abstain

Resolution #24-95 – Appointment of Joanie Diore to Unexpired Term of Recreation
Commissioner
Motion to open to public: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor
No one from the public wished to be heard.
Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-95: Councilman Morrell; Second: Councilman Kourelakos
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes;

Resolution #24-96 – Appointment of Kristin Hayden to Unexpired Term of Alternate No. 1 on
Recreation Commission
Motion to open to public: Councilman Morrell
Second: Councilman LaBarbera; All in favor
No one from the public wished to be heard.
Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-96: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman LaBarbera
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes

Resolution #24-97 – Appointment of Frank Massella to Unexpired Term of Recreation
Commissioner
Motion to open to public: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor
No one from the public wished to be heard.
Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-97: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes

Councilman Kelly made a motion to direct the Borough Administrator to enter into a contract
with Northeast Staffing Solutions LLC for supplying temporary personnel to the DPW for
seasonal work at a proposed contract rate of \$16.00 per hour plus management fees. Councilman
Kelly also gave a brief explanation of the proposed action and the bids that came in for the
action.

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-98 – **Agreement for Supplying Temporary Personnel for Department of Public Works**: Councilman Kelly; Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes

Attorney Geist read and gave a brief explanation of a proposed added Resolution #24-99 to clean up and specify the conditions on field use for Dumont Recreation programs and non-Recreation programs.

Motion to open to public: Councilwoman Aponte; Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor

1. Maryanne Russini, asked for clarification of resolution.
2. Michael Sullivan, asked question regarding fees for Resolution #24-98

Motion to close to public: Councilwoman Aponte; Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor

Motion to Adopt Resolution #24-99 – **Conditions of Suspension for Field Use for Dumont Recreation Programs**: Councilwoman Stewart; Second: Councilman LaBarbera
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, LaBarbera, Morrell, Stewart – yes

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading

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

Attorney Geist gave a brief explanation of the ordinance.

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

Second: Councilman LaBarbera; All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to **ADOPT** on 2nd Reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kourelakos

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

1st Reading

#1632 – Ordinance Amending Chapters 6-35 through 6-37 of the Dumont Borough Code – Arts, Beautification and Economic Development Committee

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

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Attorney Geist and Councilwoman Stewart gave a brief explanation of ordinance.

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

Second: Councilman Morrell

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

Public Comment – General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

1. Avinash Melkote, asked for any updates on CSX, and spoke about a proposed quiet zone.

2. Maryanne Russini, asked about the Borough interns. She also asked the CFO for an explanation of the municipal tax rate.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman LaBarbera

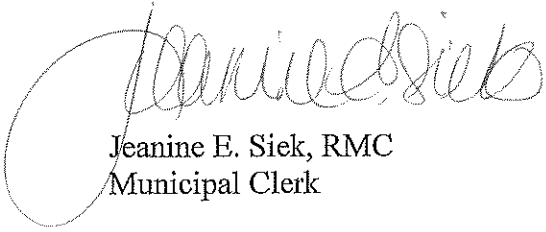
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanine E. Siek".

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk