

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
MARCH 19, 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 – Tax Assessor Report – Revaluation Order
- Potential Litigation – Palisades Emanuel Church
- Personnel Matters – DPW
- Contractual Matters – Swim Club Lease
- Attorney Client Privilege – Legal Advice – Dumont Recreation
- Pending Litigation – Building Department Lawsuit
- Potential Litigation – Municipal Complex
- Personnel Matters – Police Department

Mayor Russell called the meeting to order at 7:28 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, Morrell, Stewart – Present  
Councilman LaBarbera - Absent  
Mayor John W. Russell - Present

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

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

**WORK SESSION**

**Historic Preservation Grant** – Councilman Kelly reported that there is a grant opportunity available through the Bergen County Historic Trust. The proposed project is to establish a historic preservation element to the municipal land use master plan. The funds would be used to establish a historic preservation commission, ordinance, and a survey of all historic structures in Dumont. Included funds could cover costs associated with planners, historic architects, attorney fees for writing the ordinance. As of right now, there is no protection for any historic structures in Dumont, particularly no protection from demolition. The historic structures in town include some pre-revolutionary Dutch-Colonial homes, some post-revolutionary sandstone Dutch-Colonial homes, some 1800 structures and a historic diner. Councilman Kelly stated that the costs in applying for the grant would have to include the services of our Planner. An estimate of the cost of the Planner’s services would be \$600 to \$1500. The grant is due on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor

Russell, Councilwoman Stewart and Councilwoman Aponte indicated that they were very much in favor of applying for this grant.

**Traffic Issues – Pearl Street & Vicinity** – Councilman Kelly reported that the governing body was contacted by several residents on Pearl Street regarding an ongoing traffic situation. The main complaint was speeding cars that are using Pearl Street as a cut through from Washington Ave. to DeLong. The residents indicated that they reached out to the previous mayor and council and aside from having some extra patrol by the police, the problem has continued. The residents are asking for relief by way of speed bumps or no left/right turn type signs to limit traffic, at least, during rush hour. There were also other residents that have concerns regarding anticipated traffic flow from the Haworth affordable housing development and senior development in the Massachusetts Avenue woods. Regarding the Massachusetts Avenue issues, Councilman Kourelakos added that there is additional concern regarding construction vehicles that may be utilizing the side streets in the area in the middle of the day. Regarding Pearl Street, the Mayor indicated that the DPW has put up speed limit signs because there were none present. The Mayor would like to see if there are any positive results from this step. A next step could be the no right/left hand turn signs. Councilman Kelly indicated that he believes the installation of speed bumps would be effective as opposed to the no left/right turn signs. Councilman Morrell suggested research regarding companies that install speed bumps and the cost associated with the installation. Councilwoman Aponte suggested getting information on speeding on all streets within the vicinity before installing speed bumps. Borough Administrator Kazimir will reach out to Bergenfield to find out who they contracted with to install speed bumps. Regarding the construction around the Massachusetts Avenue area, particularly Garfield, which will be directly across from the exit of development in the Massachusetts Ave. woods, it has been indicated that Haworth will extend paving from Juniper west past Garfield. There will still be a portion of Massachusetts Ave. that will still be unpaved. Residents in this area were interested in creating a dead end. There is a fire safety regulation that any street that is longer than 150 feet cannot be a dead end without means for a fire apparatus to turn around. Councilman Kelly suggested that research to be done to see if barricades/gates can be placed at the end of the streets.

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

1. Maryanne Russini, discussed concerns of the sound of the cars going over the speed bumps.
2. Joan Struble, discussed speed bumps and rumble strips by Bedford Avenue.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

**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**

**#24-100** – Authorization of 100% Veteran Tax Deduction – Block 712, Lot 22.01 \*

- #24-101 – Approval of On-premise Raffle License Application for Closter Animal Welfare Society \*
- #24-102 – Hire Jeanine Ulshoefer as Police Dispatcher \*
- #24-103 – Authorization Boiler & Water Heater Maintenance Agreement Renewal \*
- #24-104 – Authorization of Tenure Status of Municipal Court Administrator
- #24-105 – Approval of Boot Drive for Independent Hose Company \*
- #24-106 – Approval of Harwich Road Block Party \*
- #24-107 – Accept Application from Aidan Flannery as Probationary Firefighter \*
- #24-108 – Authorize Execution of Repurposed BCOS Grant Contract for Memorial Park Phase II & Berkley Pickleball Courts Project \*
- #24-109 – Request Approval from State for Dedicated Trust by Rider for UCC Enforcement Penalties & Fines \*
- #24-110 – Authorization of MunicPay Credit Card & Payment Processing Contract for the Building Department \*
- #24-111 – DPW Superintendent Contract Extension \*
- #24-112 – Establishment of Outdoor Dining Process \*
- #24-113 – Authorization to Enter into Contract for Borough Website \*

**Public Comment – Consent Agenda Only**

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

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor

1. Maryanne Russini, had questions about MunicPay and if the Borough is charged a fee. Mr. Kazimir stated the user is charged a fee and it's zero cost to the Borough. She also had questions regarding outdoor dining and if there were any changes from last year. Attorney Geist explained the differences. She had questions regarding the website and the work referenced in resolution #24-108.
2. Avinash Melkote, had questions regarding resolution #24-113 and if the website will include a portal to submit OPRA requests and overnight parking.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

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

**ORDINANCES**

***2<sup>nd</sup> 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: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Morrell

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

1. Noreen Best, thanked the Council addressing the needs of ABED with this ordinance.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to **ADOPT** on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilwoman Aponte  
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Kourelakos, Morrell, Stewart – yes;  
LaBarbera – absent

**Public Comment – General Comments**

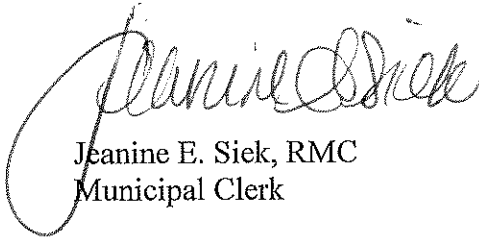
Motion to open to the public for General Comments: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.  
No one from the public wished to be heard.  
Motion to close to the public: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilwoman Stewart; All in favor.

Motion to go back into closed session at 8:16 p.m.: Councilwoman Stewart  
Second: Councilman Morrell; All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Morrell  
Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

The meeting ended at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC  
Municipal Clerk