

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
APRIL 9, 2024**

Meeting to Authorize Closed Session at 6:00 PM

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

- Pending Litigation – Building Department Lawsuit
- Contractual Matters – Swim Club Lease
- Contract Negotiations – DPW

Mayor Russell called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 – Present

Council members Morrell and Stewart - Absent

Mayor John W. Russell - Present

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

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

Motion to approve the February 13, 2024 Closed Session Minutes: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilman Kelly

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

Motion to approve the March 5, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Motion to approve the March 19, 2024 Executive Meeting Minutes: Councilman Kourelakos

Second: Councilman LaBarbera

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Russell reported that on March 27th, he and the Arts, Beautification & Economic Development Committee met with several Dumont business owners. The meeting went very well and was productive. Another meeting with a larger group of business owners will be upcoming. Thank you also to the DPW and Police for their response to last week's storm.

building sewer issues. A bid date was set for the municipal park improvements for Memorial Park and Berkley Park. The hope is to award at the 5/7/24 meeting. He is also working with the DPW on their Tier A municipal stormwater permit. The road resurfacing project is well underway. Boswell also assisted on other grants such as the CDBG, Riverside Coop resurfacing program, and they are preparing the specs for the Prospect Ave. DOT grant.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Geist reported on April 22nd will be the start date for the building department lawsuit trial. Lately, Attorney Geist also has been working with and giving guidance to the Recreation Department on various matters.

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

#24-114 – Bills List *

#24-115 – Refund Overpayment of Taxes due to Veteran Tax-Exempt Status – Guardian Title Services, LLC *

#24-116 – Authorization of 100% Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 313, Lot 1 *

#24-117 – Approval of Soap Box Car Race for Cub Pack #131 *

#24-118 – Authorization to Apply to & Acquire Funding from NJHT Preserve NJ Fund *

#24-119 – Shared Service Agreement for Bergen County Right of Way Tree Removal *

#24-120 – Approval of Escrow Refund *

#24-121 – Approval of Trust Developer Money Refund *

#24-122 – Authorization of Agreement with Insite Street Media *

#24-123 – Approval of PTO Grant School Merchandise Raffle License Application *

#24-124 – Authorization of Generator Maintenance Agreement *

#24-125 – Appoint Michael Cervantes as Member of Arts, Beautification & Economic Development Committee *

#24-126 – Appoint Joseph Trentacosta as Member of Arts, Beautification & Economic Development Committee *

#24-127 – Replacement of Flagpole at Cadet Corporal Matthew J. La Porte Memorial Park *

#24-128 – Authorize Advertisement for Bids for Memorial Park Phase II & Berkley Park Pickleball Courts Improvements *

Council Comments:

Attorney Geist advised that item 14060 on page 23 on the Bills List be pulled.

Motion to pull Purchase Order 24-00393 from the Bills List: Councilman Kourelakos
Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

Public Comment – Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items only: Councilman Kelly
Second: Councilman LaBarbera; All in favor

1. Lynne Vietri, had questions on our tree specialist in relation to #24-119; the escrow refund in #24-120; and the refund in #24-121.
2. Maryanne Russini, asked for an explanation on #24-122 and if the town will require that the winning bid in #24-128 have experience building a pickleball court. She also asked for a breakdown on an \$11,242.25 engineer charge on the bills list.
3. Joan Struebel, had questions regarding the location of pickleball courts in #24-128; the cost of the flagpole; and the generator maintenance in #24-124.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilwoman Aponte; All in favor.

Motion to Adopt Consent Agenda: Councilman Kelly

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Borough Administrator Kazimir reported that over the past couple of weeks, the Borough has been conducting interviews with potential labor council candidates.

#24-129 - Motion to hire Matthew J. Giacobbe as Dumont Labor Attorney: Councilman Kourelakos; Second: Councilwoman Aponte

Attorney Geist clarified that even if Mr. Giacobbe is hired, there will still be some ongoing legal issues that will be assigned to the current labor attorney, Eric Bernstein.

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

Borough Administrator reported that over the last month, there has been a search for additional DPW staff.

#24-130 – Motion to Hire Aidan McKenna as a Full-Time DPW Truck Driver/Laborer: Councilman Kourelakos; Second: Councilman LaBarbera

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

#24-131 – Motion to Hire Nicholas Sinanian as DPW Truck Driver/Laborer: Councilman Kourelakos; Second: Councilman Kelly

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

ORDINANCES - 1st Reading

#1633 – Calendar Year 2024 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

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

Second: Councilman Kourelakos; All in favor.

CFO Rutch gave a brief explanation of the Ordinance.

Motion to **PASS** on 1nd Reading: Councilman LaBarbera

Second: Councilwoman Aponte

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

Public Comment – General Comments

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

Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

1. Joan Struebel, had questions regarding the recycling of the water for the splash pad.
2. Lynne Vietri, had questions regarding percentage of income from the advertising on bus stop and how to prevent suicides on the train tracks. Councilman Kelly discussed the posting of suicide hotline signs by the tracks.
3. Maryanne Russini, thanked the governing body for the approval of Resolutions #24-125 and #24-126. She also thanked Mayor Russell and Councilman LaBarbera for meeting with the local businesses.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman LaBarbera

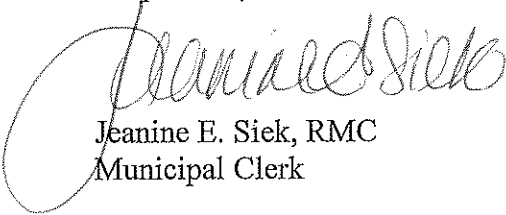
Second: Councilman Kelly; All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Kourelakos

Second: Councilman LaBarbera; All in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk