

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2022
6:30 PM**

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

Flag Salute, Moment of Silence

Sunshine Law: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the time, date and location of this public meeting of the Governing Body by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b) on the Borough website, Borough Hall, The Record and Ridgewood News and Facebook.

Roll Call:

Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart: Present

Mayor: Andrew LaBruno: Present

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 11, 2021 Closed Session minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart - yes

Motion to approve the June 22, 2021 Closed Session minutes - Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart - yes; Novoa, Russell - abstain

Motion to approve the August 10, 2021 Closed Session minutes: Councilman Gorman

Second: Councilman Russell

Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart - yes; Novoa, Russell - abstain

Motion to approve the September 14, 2021 Closed Session minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart - yes; Novoa, Russell - abstain

Motion to approve the October 26, 2021 Closed Session minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart - yes; Novoa, Russell - abstain

Motion to approve the November 23, 2021 Closed Session minutes: Councilman Harvilla

Second - Councilwoman Rossillo

Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart - yes; Novoa, Russell - abstain

Motion to approve the January 6, 2022 Sine Die Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart - yes

Motion to approve the January 6, 2022 Reorg Meeting minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Gorman
Roll call vote: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell – yes; Stewart – abstain

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gorman

- *Police*

There were 1,540 calls for service, 125 for medical service calls, 35 for fire calls and 6 for commitments. There were 42 traffic summonses issued, 7 parking and 35 moving; 0 DWI arrests; 26 motor vehicle accident investigations; 9 burglar alarms; 4 street lights reported to be non-functioning and 6,836 miles traveled by patrol.

- *Recreation*

The first meeting of the year will be Wednesday, February 2nd. They had to cancel the January meeting.

- *Shade Tree*

The Councilman thanked the Shade Tree Commission for everything they did over the past two years. He also thanked Councilman Russell for allowing him to attend and wishes him luck.

Councilman Harvilla

- *Library*

The first meeting of Dixon Homestead Library Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, January 26th. On January 14th, the Library received confirmation that under the NJ Library Construction Bond Act Grant Award program, the Barrier Free Improvements application has been approved in the amount of \$98,725 to enhance the library's ADA compliance.

- *Economic Development Committee*

The first meeting is January 26th. He and Councilman Gorman will share Liaison positions this year. A constituent asked about the EDC survey sent out to residents and the planner's presentation about downtown plans in 2020. The Councilman will follow up and provide a response in an upcoming meeting.

Councilwoman Novoa

- No reports

Councilwoman Rossillo

- *Board of Education*

The Board of Education meeting is this Thursday night, so she will have a report for the next meeting.

Councilman Russell

- *Shared Services*

The Borough Administrator provided him with a lot of information and he is reviewing it.

- *Shade Tree Commission*

He had his first meeting with them and they are doing a great job. They have some events coming up, such as the Monarch Seed Planting.

Councilwoman Stewart

- *Ambulance Corps*

In January, there was a total of 105 calls. They've asked that anyone who dials 9-1-1, please alert the dispatcher whether there's anyone there who has Covid, or recovering from Covid in the household.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Bergenfield responded regarding setting up a shared service for trash removal. They are waiting for the trucks to get delivered, which will be about 12 months lead time. Once they know when they will be delivered, they will get in touch with us. He will work with the Council people on the shared services committee. He is working on the professional service agreements.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The contractor has removed the majority of existing site features at Gina's Field and constructed a portion of additional parking spaces on Aladdin, modified the irrigation system for the new layout, performed site prep for new pathways and replacement of infield and playground area. They will continue site prep for playground and spray park and installation of utilities. For the Twin Boro Field project, the back stop fencing, cut and clay of new field and sprinkler renovation are complete. Before the spring season, the 4 open air dugouts and new scoreboard installation needs to be completed, and need to level off the field. The basketball court at Memorial Field has been paved and remainder of project will be scheduled when weather breaks. The Senior Center was closed for the month of June due to the uptick in Covid-19 cases. He is discussing next steps with the Senior Coordinator, Bergen County Health and Risk Manager. Verizon is performing a diagnostic review of the issues with the phone lines. The DPW committee will meet regarding the road program, as well as going down to the DPW. The Borough received eight sewer calls, six blockages were cleared. They salted, shoveled and plowed roads during the storms, and approximately 50 tons of salt was used. About 23,000 pounds of metal was picked up. The Borough is looking to update food bank operations and working with the County to move more of the operations to Borough Hall. He commended Donna Faulborn, Councilwoman Stewart and all of the volunteers who have made it successful. He met with the Ordinance committee, and the Salary ordinance is being introduced tonight. Meetings will begin in early February to go over the 2022 budget. The Borough is meeting with the website provider in hopes to update the Borough website within the next few weeks.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor thanked the Cultural Affairs, Inclusivity, Diversity and Celebrations Committee for preparing the video of the residents in town speaking all different native languages in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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 member of the public or a Council member. 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

#22-54 – Authorization of Agreement with BCUA for a Certified Recycling Professional *

#22-55 – Approval of Selzer School PTO Calendar Raffle RL#573 *

- #22-56 – Approval of Knights of Columbus Casino Raffle RL#574 *
- #22-57 – Authorization of Hillsdale Child Health Conference 2022 Agreement *
- #22-58 – Approval to Submit Grant Application & Execute Contract for Bedford Enhancement Project *
- #22-59 – Authorization of Terminal Leave Payment to Police Department Captain Vincent Tamburro *
- #22-60 – Authorization of Terminal Leave Payment to Police Department Captain Michael Foti *
- #22-61 – Authorization of Terminal Leave Payment to Police Department Lieutenant John Centrello *
- #22-62 – Authorization of Terminal Leave Payment to Police Department Lieutenant John DiGirolamo *
- #22-63 – Authorization of Terminal Leave Payment to Police Department Sergeant James Kaine *
- #22-64 – Authorization of 2021 Budget Transfers *
- #22-65 – Approval of Revised Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual Dated January 2022 *

Councilman Harvilla commended the Borough Administrator, the Attorneys and everyone who participated in the refurbishment of this policies and procedures manual. The advancement that was made in the level of clarity and organizational integrity is astounding in the most positive ways. The cover alone is a banner of equity that we can be very proud of.

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, asked the projected cost of Bedford Road enhancement and the total of grant. He congratulated all of the police officers who retired and stated these gentlemen have always been very professional.
2. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked when the personnel policy was previously revised and were there any significant changes. She also inquired about an organizational chart.
3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, questioned when the last personnel policy was adopted and what has changed. She asked about the hourly rate for the professionals. She also thanked the police officers and congratulated them on their retirements.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The Borough Administrator stated the changes to the Personnel Policies and Procedures manual included some organizational clarifications, including the sick time policy and a number of other areas. Our Borough Attorney did an exceptional job making sure that all of our policies and procedures were updated and in accordance with the laws in the State of New Jersey and that we're addressing personnel needs here in the Borough. It is required to be updated annually by our insurance. As for Bedford Road, we were awarded Phase I with our annual DOT grant, and this is an extra rolling grant provided by the State. The Borough will see what amount is awarded and then decide whether or not to move forward this year or wait until Phase II.

The Borough Attorney is preparing contracts with fee information in each agreement, or attaching the professionals rate sheets to their agreement. Mr. Leibman's rate remained the same for two years at \$125 per hour, and this year will go up to \$150 per hour with his new firm, which is far below market rate.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

Roll call vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart – yes

ORDINANCES

1st Reading

#1593 Salary Ordinance to Amend, Revise and Supplement Ordinance No. 1587 and its progenies as to the establishment of certain compensation ranges and related items for certain officers and employees

Councilwoman Novoa made a motion to table Ordinance #1593 for further discussion, as she is awaiting further information from the CFO.

Second: Councilman Russell

Roll call vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Novoa, Rossillo, Russell, Stewart – yes

Public Comment - General Comments

Motion to open to the public for general comments: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

1. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, asked about the closed session minutes and whether they would be posted to the website. He discussed the budget and the percentage used for debt service. He also commented on agenda and resolutions being posted to website.
2. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, thanked the Administrator for answering her previous questions regarding the professionals, and commented about the pending litigation in the building department. She also asked about the by-laws and how residents can volunteer for committees and commissions.
3. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, commented on the number of Mayor and Council meetings and on the affordable housing legislation resolution, and asked about the Council members stance on development. She also mentioned the by-laws.
4. Kristin Hayden, Cypress Road, commented on the reimbursement process to vendors, requested grass be cut at the fields two times per week during softball season and defibrillators at the new softball fields.
5. Joe Deninzon, Gordon Avenue, commented on the quality of the school lunches deteriorating over past year and the milk is sour.
6. Karen Valido, Overlook Drive, thanked the grant writer for applying for the AARP grant and asked about the vintage phone booth that was donated to the town.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

Mayor LaBruno responded to residents' questions. He stated that the resident should bring up the issue with the school lunches at the next Board of Education meeting. Councilwoman Rossillo stated the next meeting is 7pm Thursday evening at the Honiss School Gymnasium on Depew Street. The Mayor stated some commissions do not need Council approval, so they will not be on the agenda, such as Shade Tree, JLUB, Recreation, etc. There is an application at Borough Hall or some residents just reach out. As for the amount of Mayor and Council meetings this year, it is more cost effective and we can always add a special meeting if need be.

The Borough Attorney commented on a letter received by a resident regarding the by-laws. He stated the Borough allows twice the amount of public comment as required by law, and there has never been a question and answer period during a Mayor and Council meetings. There is no requirement for a question and answer period. The way it is currently being conducted is highly efficient. He recommends amending it to have one public comment.

Mayor LaBruno reiterated that the by-laws were not amended to take away a question and answer period. Questions are answered at the end of the meeting.

The Borough Administrator stated the bills list is done once per month due to procedural matters. He will follow up with the CFO and Recreation Director. The Borough has a third-party firm to assist the DPW with the grass cutting at the fields. The Borough will meet any state standards for defibrillators at the fields. The booth is at DPW and the Borough plans to move forward this spring with plans for it to be placed at one of the parks. The funds were collected by a resident, not by the Borough.

The Borough Clerk stated that closed session minutes are prepared and reviewed periodically for release. The minutes cannot be released until all matters involving confidentiality in the closed session have been resolved.

Councilman Harvilla responded to the question regarding the resolution for the affordable housing legislation and asked that the resident provide the document they referred to so he could look into it further. He stated he will not discuss theoretical plans for development.

Councilman Gorman reminded everyone there is a storm this upcoming weekend, and wanted to thank the DPW for everything they do for the town.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk