

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020  
6:30 PM**

Chris Tully, Borough Administrator, stated that due to the Governor's mandate on social distancing, this meeting is being conducted by electronic means.

Mayor LaBruno called the meeting to order at 6:37.

Flag Salute, Moment of Silence for all those affected by COVID-19 and for New Jersey Staff Sergeant Vincent Marquetta, who lost his life during a training accident in August.

**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 and Facebook.

**Roll Call:**

Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-present

Mayor Andrew LaBruno-present

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Work Session:

Councilman Gorman stated that the Recreation Commission is working on their bylaws. He also congratulated Dorothy Sperone on her retirement after working as a crossing guard for 34 years.

Councilman Manna is waiting for a report from Remington Vernick concerning the handicap ramp and Knickerbocker and Delong.

Councilwoman Rossillo stated that due to the lack of PPE's necessary for schools to open, the Board of Education has pushed back the hybrid method to September 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will open virtually Tuesday. Mayor LaBruno added that the Superintendent had reached out to the Councilwoman and him. They told him they would help the Board of Ed. in any way that they could.

Councilwoman Stewart commended the food pantry for all they do. They have now incorporated Cresskill Cares on Saturdays only. It's been a rough year for many and she thanked the volunteers.

Mayor LaBruno reported that his administration has been working diligently to establish policies for our road to reopening. While we reopen Borough Hall, the safety of our employees and residents remain our top priority. The Borough provided COVID-19 tests to all employees, plexiglass was retrofitted at all public stations and installed no-touch thermal scanners for all who enter Borough Hall. Our Municipality was the first in Bergen County to install the go-safe thermal scanners. Those costs connected to COVID-19 will be covered under the Cares Funding Act. As of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Borough Hall will be open by appointment only. The public health crisis still remains and all visitors are expected to adhere to the current safety guidelines. Appointments can be made Monday

through Friday between 9:30-11:30AM. All residents are encouraged to conduct as much Borough business remotely as possible. All Borough business will be conducted on the first floor. All visitors must sign in, wear a face mask and have a body temperature under 100.4 to enter borough hall. The Library has reopened with hybrid service.

Mr. Tully said that Dumont was one of the first municipalities to take action during the public health crisis by closing and limiting access to Borough properties and instituting modified work hours. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda addressing Phase 3 reopening of Borough Hall. We expect the majority of added expenses will be covered under the Cares Act, including the thermal scanners. There is a pre-bid meeting with trash vendors tomorrow. The Joint Land Use Board had raised some concerns regarding the sign ordinance, which will be addressed. Mr. Tully received some phone calls regarding Druid Bridge. That bridge was deemed unsafe by our engineers and therefore closed. It is very expensive to fix. He thanked Council President Stewart and the Social Services Director and volunteers for their work on the food pantry. He thanked the DPW for their response to the recent storm. There were a lot of downed trees and branches. The Shade Tree Commission has answered a lot of requests. Unfortunately, fall sports have been cancelled. The safety of our residents is our top priority. There will be a 9/11 ceremony.

Jeff Schlecht from RSC Architects stated that the Department of Corrections and Juvenile Services are responsible for the detainee processing portions of the Police Department. This project was planned and designed in 2018. He contacted the DOC. They have a construction review group. We met with them on multiple occasions throughout the design process. We shared with them our plans and listened to their input. One of the details we reviewed with them was the ceiling construction. The two options the DOC gave was a concrete ceiling or a steel ceiling. Both are costly. We had proposed an alternate to them, which was a more conventional assembly of ceiling construction. We shared the details with them at multiple meetings. There were no objections. In December 2019, the DOC requested product data from the project manager. At that time, they said the ceiling was not compliant. They said they have a formal submission and review process that required written approval from them. We met with them again in January, 2020. We sent the plans to them to review and give a written response. In March they gave written approval on a third ceiling we proposed. It requires a specific type of contractor to install and requires some lead time. We, therefore, have to go out to bid.

Joe Cascio, Cumming project manager, said that the safety of our police officers is a priority.

Mr. Tully pointed out that the cost of the ceiling is included in our building bond.

Councilman Manna asked what the lead time is and whether it will delay any other aspect of the police station. The installation time should be 1-2 weeks. Lead time is most critical-12-16 weeks. The contractor can continue to work. The new contractor will just have to install the light fixtures.

Mr. Tully said that a resident asked whether W. Quackenbush or 50 Washington Avenue had any contamination and if so, was it remedied. Is there an LSRP still on the project? Mr. Schlecht said the project had historic fill and an LSRP has oversight. Testing is done during removal. Mr. Cascio said that T&M took samples of the historic

fill prior to any construction or removal of any soil. During the investigation, an underground storage tank was identified. It was properly registered and removed. The historic fill has been removed and sent to an approved facility.

Mr. Tully said that another question was the reason for the seismic design category change order. Mr. Schlecht responded that this includes the location, the construction type and use of the facility. During the course of the design it was determined that we had to go a different way from what was previously established.

Mr. Leibman was asked if there had been any response on the Grant Avenue letter. Mr. Leibman replied that he has not received any response.

**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**

**#20-165** Approval of the Purchase of a Police Car through State Contract-\$57,858.84 \*

**#20-166** Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the New Police Department Ceiling \*

**#20-167** Approval of the Purchase of New Motorola Radios for the Fire Department - \$249,986.60\*

**#20-168** Approval of the Bylaws of the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund \*

**#20-169** Approval of Modern Office Systems-Evidence Storage Locker-\$27,260.76 \*

**#20-170** Endorsement of Vantage Health's Request for a CDBG Grant \*

**#20-171** Approval of the Addition of North Star Towing to the Police Towing List \*

**#20-172** Approval of Liquor License Renewals \*

**#20-173** Approval of Limousine Permits \*

**#20-174** Delta Dental of New Jersey-Two Year Renewal Rate will be the Same as the Current Rate \*

**#20-175** Captain Vincent Tamburro and Acting Sergeant Daniel Molinaro-Appoint as Emergency Management Deputy Coordinators \*

**#20-177** Modifying Furlough for Part-time Crossing Guards \*

**#20-178** Approval of Phase 3 Reopening of Borough Hall \*

Councilman Manna questioned a phrase on page 2. Mr. Botelho, labor counsel, explained that that portion of the resolution only deals with the Board of Education's original reopening plan. The crossing guards will come back when there is in-person instruction.

Councilman Gorman requested that #164 be moved to non-consent. Motion:

Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Mayor LaBruno had a comment on #167. The firefighters were at a fire scene recently and the radios malfunctioned. The radios are extremely outdated.

Communication is very important to first responders.

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

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked why we're advertising for the bid. If the new contractor will be hanging the lights, should we get a credit from the contractor to pay the new company?

2. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, asked about the ceiling cost. She said that although the cost of the thermal scanners comes out of the Cares Act, it's still taxpayer money. She said she doesn't believe if one teacher is ill, the whole school has to shut down. The architect had said that the seismic change order was caught during the design phase so why is it a change order?

3. Tom Kelly, Beacon Street, said he saw the specifications for the radios, which was included in the bonding for the Borough Hall project. Why was it bonded separately? Will there be a credit for the ceiling? Would the ceiling type we are going with now incur more cost than had we gone with the concrete or metal in the first place?

4. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, said there should be a credit from Bennett for the ceiling. What might the cost of the job be? He again asked how the bonding will affect each taxpayer.

5. Michael Sullivan, Andover Avenue, asked if the Council meeting dates have changed. Are we doing anything about the traffic on Washington Avenue?

6. Lili Binney, State College, Pa., asked if the historic fill and underground storage tank were on 50 Washington Avenue or the Quackenbush properties or all of them. What was the cost of the original ceiling? What is the approximate cost of the new ceiling? How many police departments has the architect designed before Dumont? She said that either our professionals didn't know there was a formal approval process or they neglected to submit it.

Mr. Cascio stated that Bennett Company was asked for a credit for the ceiling installation. The underground storage tank was about the size of a propane tank and it was underneath 50 Washington Avenue.

Mr. Schlecht explained that the new ceiling will be above the bid threshold so we have to go out for bid. The cost of the concrete or plate metal ceiling was going to be over \$150,000 initially. He said he thinks we can get this ceiling for less than \$70,000. The seismic revision occurred post-bid. He said he has worked with the DOC on four projects within the last several years in Bergen County and dealing with the same people at the DOC and has never had this issue until now.

The Mayor asked if the ceiling the architect is talking about using now was used in any of the other projects to which Mr. Schlecht responded yes.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

### **Non-consent Agenda**

**#20-164** Approval of Dumont Elks #2593 Pull Tab Raffle Application 7/29/20 through 7/28/21; ID#109-6-33628; RL#559

**#20-176** Approval of Dumont Elks Lodge #2593 "Conflict" Liquor License Renewal \*

Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Non-consent Agenda: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Englese, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Council members Chae and Gorman abstained.

Motion to open to the public for General Comment: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. John Sansone, Beacon Street, feels the architect should have done more research on the ceiling to make sure things haven't changed. He doesn't understand why there are so many problems since we have Cumming, a project manager. We should have live meetings. People are not getting answers. What bond is the furniture is in?

2. Lili Binney, State College, Pa., said it seems that the DOC didn't act the way the professionals expected. Why is this the taxpayers' burden? She said that Mr. Tully states that we are not having in-person meetings due to the Governor's rulings but others are holding in-person meetings.

3. Bruce deLyon, Beacon Street, said that minutes haven't been posted on the website since June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There should be in-person meetings because this isn't working. We haven't seen the 2019 audit yet. He found the comments by Mayor LaBruno in the August article of the Record inaccurate. He said he pays more in taxes than we'll get from the PILOT program for the affordable housing.

4. Lynne Vietri, Wilkens Drive, doesn't understand why we can't do in-person meetings. She feels they are using it as an excuse to not meet in person. There are gyms which can be used.

5. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, asked if our grant writer applied for safety gear, radios and Cares Act. She asked about furniture pickup. What time should she call back in after closed session.

Mr. Schlecht was asked to respond to questions. He said that the Department of Corrections was at many meetings with the entire project team reviewing details during the design phase.

Councilman Manna said that we brought the DOC in from the beginning. They knew the specifications. They recommended changes for the nuts and bolts used for the holding cell, the direction a juvenile can be seen while being processed and how the corridor coming out of the sally port should be set up. We followed all the recommendations made. The DOC, JJC and Courts were involved from the beginning.

The Councilman added that we invested in the backbone of the communications system. This way if we wanted to expand in the future, we would have the bandwidth to add to our communications system. What we discovered as we went along was that the radios used by the Police, Fire and DPW were antiquated. Those were not included in the bond. The backbone was included.

Mr. Tully said that due to the pandemic, the audit was delayed and should be in by the end of the month. The Borough has applied for FEMA grants. The Cares Act is a rolling application. The deadline is the end of the year.

Mayor LaBruno spoke to Acting Chief McKeary about the Cares Act and he is working with Finance to be sure every dollar spent on COVID-19 is being tracked and reimbursed.

Councilman Gorman said he and Councilwoman Stewart look forward to in-person meetings. We don't have a Borough Hall as other towns have. Councilwoman Stewart added that she also is frustrated. However, some people have restrictions. We are looking into it. The Mayor said that there are some people over the age of 65 who may be compromised and people's families who are compromised. We are discussing this with our attorney and risk manager. Our schools have gone virtual so he doesn't feel comfortable asking to use the schools and we have been denied access to the schools in the past by the Board. The Senior Center is being used for distribution of food. There are Fortune 500 companies that have closed their doors until after 2021. The Mayor reminded everyone that even when we go to in-person there will not be a question and answer back and forth. We will research your questions and ensure the answers are correct. We are looking into Webex. The Mayor ensured everyone that the Governing Body, Administrator and Borough Clerk are working extremely hard behind the scenes during this public health crisis to mitigate all these problems as we move forward. This will be a conversation with our attorneys and risk manager to ensure we keep everyone safe.

Council president Stewart confirmed with Mr. Leibman that there will be no formal action following this closed session so we will not open to the public again.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to enter closed session to discuss:

Litigation-Asplint

Litigation-Cavadias

Motion: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Chae, Englese, Gorman, Manna, Rossillo, Stewart-yes

Following closed session

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Susan Connelly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk