

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2022
6:30 PM**

Council President Rossillo called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

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: Absent

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gorman

- *Police*

There were 1,810 calls for service, 127 for medical service calls, 50 for fire calls and 13 for commitments. There were 115 traffic summonses issued, 71 parking and 44 moving; 1 DUI arrest; 26 motor vehicle accident investigations; 10 burglar alarms were responded to; 2 warrants served; 2 street lights reported to be non-functioning; 2 car seats were installed and checked; 47 dark house slips were issued; and 1 case of animal cruelty was reported.

- *Recreation*

The Councilman congratulated the new Recreation Commissioners, Euris Rivas, Bill Hanley, Jennifer Grom, and Joe Algieri. Also, Commission assignments were released. Commissioner Devito will have football and boys' basketball. Joanie Diore will have cheering and social media. Brian Joyce will have summer recreation and lawn care. Paul Shoyinka has girls' basketball and summer basketball. Kyle Lezette has track and field, park security and personnel. Euris Rivas has men's softball and roller hockey. Bill Hanley has wrestling and soccer. Jennifer Grom has girls' softball and flag football. Joe Algieri has little league, baseball, senior baseball and middle school baseball.

Councilman Harvilla

- *Library*

The first meeting of Dixon Homestead Library Board of Trustees took place on Wednesday, January 26th where there was discussion regarding the receipt of confirmation that the library's Barrier Free Improvements application for grant funding was approved by the NJ State Legislature in the amount of \$98,725 with a requirement that the Borough provide matching funds. The grant application was made to enhance and upgrade the library's ADA compliance.

- *Economic Development Committee*

The first meeting of 2022 took place January 26th. At the meeting the EDC was introduced to Debbie Lawlor, from Colliers Engineering and Design, the new Borough Planner. The Councilman wanted to reiterate that at the January 6th Mayor and Council meeting, constituent Tom Kelly asked about the EDC minutes and the survey sent out to residents last year and the planner's presentation about downtown plans in 2020. It is still the Councilman's intent to provide a comprehensive response at an upcoming Mayor and Council meeting.

- *Finance Committee*

The Committee is moving through meetings with Department Heads in its analysis, drafting and adoption of the 2022 budget.

- *Ordinance and Resolution Committee*

The Committee has had multiple meetings and calls regarding the initial reading of Ordinance 1593, the 2022, 2023 and 2024 salary ranges for certain officers and employees of the Borough. The ordinance is critical to the budgetary process and meeting the introduction and approval deadline by March 31st with the municipal adoption deadline of April 29th.

Councilwoman Novoa

- No reports

Councilman Russell

- No reports

Councilwoman Stewart

- *Senior Citizens*

The Senior Center will be re-opening on February 14th. There will be a Valentine's Day party on the same day. The seniors have been gracious sharing their space with the Food Pantry and the Food Pantry is in the midst of relocating to Borough Hall.

Council President Rossillo

- *Board of Education*

The Council President attended the last meeting on January 27th. At the last Mayor & Council meeting, a resident expressed concern regarding school lunches, specifically, the quality and portions of school lunches, milk being served at near expiration date and the lack of water being served. The Council President brought these issues to Dr. Gronda. It is believed that Dr. Gronda would contact the resident directly regarding these concerns.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Leibman reported that things are moving ahead with exploring shared services with Bergenfield. Data to be collected has been identified in order to get a grant to do a study to see how much money can be saved by sharing trash and recycling services with Bergenfield. This will be a lengthy process. Attorney Leibman met with the Borough Administrator and the Borough Clerk to go over a number of ordinances where revisions have been drafted and will be put in front of the Ordinance Committee. Attorney Leibman has also received instructions to draft additional ordinances and he is hoping to have that prepared for either a special meeting or maybe for the March 8th meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Bob Klein, the Engineer for Gina's Field, will discuss progress on the project. Also, for Bob Klein to report on, are two items on the agenda. One is accepting the award for Phase 1 of Memorial Field and the other is accepting the grant on Phase 2 of Memorial Field. An

emergency project with Columbia Avenue was performed last Monday. An emergency letter was provided to Council today. The Senior Center is re-opening on February 14th, and he has spoken with the Senior Services Director and Bergen County regarding ways to help the Food Pantry operations locally and move some areas over to Borough Hall. Administrator Tully would like to thank the Cultural Affairs Committee for the wonderful video they did for Martin Luther King Day. Budget meetings will commence with the Finance Committee on February 14th.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

John Dunlea, Neglia Engineering

An engineering report dated February 3, 2022 was issued in advance this meeting. Regarding the Columbia Avenue sewer project, on Friday, January 21, 2022, Neglia was notified of an issue with a backed-up sewer lateral that was connected to an abandoned sewer main. On Thursday, January 26, 2022, the Borough utilized the Riverside Coop to authorize emergency repairs to the lateral. The repairs were made and the issue is now determined to be rectified. After a settlement period, a repair would need to be made to the trench. Paving work would also be needed when the weather is conducive to proper paving. Regarding the NJ Storm Water Management Ordinance, on the agenda for first reading, the Borough initially adopted a revised storm water management ordinance in September of 2021 as required by the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection. Bergen County had comments on the approved ordinance. Revisions based on those comments were made and Bergen County has given notification that the ordinance is approved as written. Mr. Dunlea is looking forward to working in Dumont and getting to know everyone.

Councilwoman Stewart had a question regarding asphalt and the Riverside Coop. Borough Administrator Tully explained that while Dumont is part of the Riverside Coop, we have never actually taken advantage of the program. Mr. Tully believes it should be an option that the Borough should explore. Mr. Dunlea reported that he met with DPW Superintendent, Anthony Schiraldi, to discuss some roadways that should be considered for milling and paving under the Riverside Coop road paving program. It's regional program whereby the Borough of Dumont could join with other municipalities to pave roadways. Mr. Dunlea believes the Riverside Coop is a good program and Dumont would save money by buying asphalt in quantity. The more towns that join in to buy asphalt, the better price on asphalt tonnage. The milling and paving are also done under the program and goes out to bid like any other road project. Mr. Dunlea gave the example that right now, the cost of asphalt is about \$90-\$100/ton. Last year, the Riverside Coop got about \$71/ton. He advised that the roads we potentially choose for the program need to be simple mill and pave. If there are any special drainage for flooding issues, this is not appropriate for the Riverside Coop. Mr. Schiraldi reported that New Milford participated in the Riverside Coop and has had a lot of luck with it. Mr. Schiraldi stated that his department has been filling potholes on Chestnut and Highwood, which he took the engineer out on, as well other priority streets, such as Garden, Seminole, Berkley, Maple, Sherwood, Elm, Charles. Filling potholes is putting a band aid on it. However, paving is very costly. Also, it is weather dependent because they cannot get hot asphalt when it is very cold. The Engineer distributed a list of high priority roads for paving through the Riverside Cooperative. Mr. Schiraldi stated there are other roads on the list to be paved using grants and other funding. The Borough Administrator clarified that the list of roads to be paved for the Riverside Cooperative are only for a milling and paving project. They do not involve any roads with any type of drainage issues

that require survey and design. They will meet with DPW Committee for the 2022 road program and with the Finance Committee to determine bonding for the 2022 budget. Council President Rossillo asked what the criteria for choosing streets was. The Engineer stated that potholes, alligator cracking and the need for milling and paving only. The DPW Superintendent stated that the Borough Administrator requested a list of streets throughout the town, and his department created a list on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being those in the most need of paving. Most of the streets on this list are fours and fives.

The Borough Engineer stated that quantities and the list of the roads need to be submitted by February 18th to the Riverside Cooperative so they can go out to bid. The money can be bonded afterwards. The intent is to pave in July or August. If the prices come in too high, you can remove one of the roads. Mr. Tully asked if we can do a resolution at the next meeting codifying permission to the Engineer and Administrator to provide recommendations and move forward on certain roads. The Borough Attorney stated this is time sensitive and the Council needs to decide tonight whether or not to move forward. He advised that if they'd like to move forward, then a motion should be made to authorize a resolution to proceed with the pricing of the Riverside Cooperative.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to proceed with the Riverside Cooperative Road Paving Program opportunity due on February 18, 2022.

Second: Councilman Russell

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

The Administrator informed the Governing Body that it seems we are having issues with Facebook live. It was working earlier when we tested it, but the audio seems to be not working now. He will follow up with the Borough's IT professionals tomorrow.

Robert Klein, RVE

Mr. Klein discussed the Memorial Park Phase I playground equipment award of bid, which is adjacent to the basketball court. They are replacing the play equipment and safety surface, and putting in an underdrain system. The colors were chosen for the equipment. The second part is the grant award for Phase II. It is just a concept plan and it replaces the mulch with safety surface. It also includes building pathways and a picnic grove. The amphitheater was removed from the concept plan since only \$96,000 funding was received through the grant.

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

#22-66 – Bills List *

#22-67 – Appoint OEM Deputy Coordinators Captain Lezette, Sergeant Molinaro & Police Officer Villone *

#22-68 – Accept Warren Dolan's Resignation from the Fire Department *

- #22-69 – Accept Application of Firefighter James Grob to Company 1 *
- #22-70 – Authorize Transfer of Firefighter Vincent Mazzilli to Company 3 *
- #22-71 – Approval of Amendment to Recreation Commission By-Laws *
- #22-72 – Authorization of Participation in U.S. Department of Defense Supplies & Equipment Program *
- #22-73 – Approval to Amend Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Funds for Body-Worn Camera Grant Program *
- #22-74 – Approval of Release of Performance Bond & Accept Maintenance Bond for Washington Promenade Urban Renewal *
- #22-75 – Authorization of RER Contract Renewal for Disposal of Vegetative Waste *
- #22-76 – Approval to Amend Liquor License for Valgest LLC *
- #22-77 – Award of Bid for Veterans Memorial Park Field Improvements Phase I *
- #22-78 – Authorization of Execution of Contract for Open Space Grant for Veterans Memorial Park Improvements Phase II *
- #22-79 – Establishment of Unpaid Internship Program *
- #22-80 – Appointment of Members to the Stigma-free Committee *
- #22-81 – Appointment of Amanda Karpinski to Library Board of Trustees *
- #22-82 – Approval of 50/50 Cash Raffle Application for DHS Music Booster *
- #22-83 – Authorization to Advertise for Proposals for DPW Seasonal Labor Services *

Councilwoman Stewart requested to pull resolution #22-80 – Appointment of Members to the Stigma-free Committee for discussion.

Councilman Gorman requested to pull resolution #22-81 – Appointment of Amanda Karpinski to Library Board of Trustees for roll call vote.

Chief Brian Joyce explained the OEM Deputy Coordinators resolution is to assist the Chief with Borough management and assisting with any paperwork to capture expenses, such as with Tropical Storm Ida reimbursement. The Attorney Generals Office requested the award number be added to the resolution for the body worn cameras. For the LESO program, the Borough can obtain excess military supplies, many times at zero cost.

DPW Superintendent Schiraldi discussed the disposal of vegetative waste which is the grass removal in the summer from the DPW site. They also remove the brush and logs. The temporary help was something that the DPW tried out last year, and it made it much easier to run the department pick up the grass. They work from about 7 a.m. until 12 noon, Tuesday through Friday. There has been a manpower issue and we have a lot of grass to cut. The temporary workers help make it more manageable. They also assisted with the leaf pick up. He thanked the Mayor and Council for adding this service to his department.

Public Comment - Consent Agenda Only

Motion to open to the public for Comments on Consent Agenda Only: Councilwoman Stewart
 Second: Councilman Gorman
 All in favor.

1. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked about the Washington Promenade bonds and PILOT payment, and various bills list questions. She also asked about the Municipal Stormwater Control ordinance.
2. John Sansone, Beacon Street, stated he likes all of the discussion at the meeting tonight. He asked questions regarding bills for Faulborn Plumbing and Palisades Sales, and also about the Columbia Avenue sewer repair.
3. Lynn Vietri, Wilkens Drive, stated she also likes all the conversation at the meeting tonight. She asked about the award of bid for Memorial and Resolution #78; where will the matching funds come from and is it the total cost? She thinks the unpaid internship is a great idea and asked various questions about the program.
4. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, discussed resolution #77 awarding the bid and use of old bond ordinances for projects. He asked about open bonds and how much unused money is sitting in bond accounts.
5. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, stated she enjoys hearing the discussion, and had various bills list questions, such payments to RSC and Judy Parker. What is the cost of the building? Is CSX going to reimburse the Borough for Columbia? She asked what changes were made to the Recreation by-laws?

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Harvilla

Second: Councilwoman Novoa

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

Councilwoman Stewart requested to discuss Resolution #22-80 – Appointment of Members to the Stigma-free Committee. She stated the committee was launched in 2018 and there was no activity in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, the focus was on food insecurity and stigma free has gone by the way side at a time when we truly need mental health support. The Councilwoman expressed disappointment that we are reappointing someone who resigned three months ago. She is concerned and feels it may go by the wayside again if we continue with the same players who did nothing in 2019 pre-Covid.

Motion to adopt **#22-80** – Appointment of Members to the Stigma-free Committee: Councilman Harvilla; Second: Councilman Russell

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

Stewart – abstain

Motion to adopt **#22-81** – Appointment of Amanda Karpinski to Library Board of Trustees: Councilman Harvilla; Second: Councilwoman Novoa

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

Gorman – abstain

Mr. Liebman responded to various residents' questions. The PILOT payment was north of \$400,000. Regarding the sewer issue, it is our belief it is connected to the CSX issue, and it was an unknown ancient lateral connected to the sewer main. It will be included in the claim. The

Governing Body inherited a lease with Judy Parker and she was notified it is coming to an end. Recreation by-laws were amended because the Chairman and Vice-Chair provision stated they had to be on the Commission for two years. The only people who qualified did not want the positions. As for the question about the maintenance bond, there are requirements under state law that the engineers inspect and approve the project. They recommend that the performance bond be released and a maintenance bond is then provided for 2 years.

Mr. Dunlea stated that all municipalities are required to have a stormwater control ordinance. The DEP required that the ordinance be updated. The Borough of Dumont is doing the minimum requirement, which is very standard. The biggest change really impacts only major developments requiring green infrastructure. Most of the changes from the September 2021 version were clerical to meet what Bergen County wants on their end.

The CFO stated that the payment to Millennium Strategies was for Tropical Storm Isaias. The previous bond ordinances are able to be used for current projects as per the Auditor and Bond Counsel. These bonds precede his tenure with the Borough, so he does not know how we have this extra money. If the Borough can cancel the bond and return it to surplus, we will certainly do that. However, if there is an open project to utilize that old bonded money for, then why not. The Borough has received \$426,414 in PILOT money payments so far, and anticipate another payment of \$15,285 shortly.

Chief Joyce stated any FEMA applications processed is a joint effort between the Police, Fire Department, DPW and Borough with the assistance of Millennium Strategies, along with Susan Scavone, to make sure we get every dollar owed back to the Borough.

ORDINANCES

1st Reading

#1593 2022-2024 Salary Ordinance to Amend, Revise and Supplement Ordinance No. 1588 and its progenies as to the establishment of certain compensation ranges and related items for certain officers and employees

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to pass on 1st reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

Roll Call Vote: Council members: Gorman, Harvilla, Rossillo, Stewart – yes

Novoa, Russell – abstain

Councilwoman Stewart commented that the salary ordinance sets the guidelines with a salary range going forward if the Borough needs to hire someone. It does not mean there is someone in each of these roles or a body to fill each of these spots. The CFO added that the ordinance gives the Borough the flexibility to add an individual swiftly since an ordinance takes time to adopt. When there is not a mechanism in place to hire someone, services get delayed. This gives the Borough the flexibility to hire employees in a timely manner.

1st Reading

#1594 Municipal Stormwater Control Ordinance for the Borough of Dumont, New Jersey

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Novoa

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to pass on 1st reading: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilwoman Novoa

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 Stewart

Second: Councilman Harvilla

All in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, Beacon Street, would like to know the description of the positions on the salary ordinance. He stated that public websites cannot ban individuals from commenting on their page.
2. Mary Normoyle, Randolph Avenue, asked if the Building Department suit been settled and if the Borough has been in contact with the resident about the vintage phone booth.
3. Maryann Russini, Roosevelt Avenue, is glad to see the Borough livestreaming and asked how to get the public more involved in the meetings. She commented on the book thing and the salary ordinance; she would like to see job descriptions.
4. John Sansone, Beacon Street, asked if the Engineer could give an estimate for what an average road would cost to pave. He also discussed a letter from the DEP regarding a survey or site inspection for work being done in Haworth on the water shed property, and he is concerned about flooding.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Stewart

Second: Councilman Gorman

All in favor.

The Administrator responded to residents' questions. This is the first year doing an unpaid internship program and will identify which departments need help. The Borough is looking to advertise to the public in the Spring. The email migration came at the recommendation of the JIF. The livestreaming is working but he will be contacting the IT professionals regarding the audio issues experienced tonight. Mr. Tully was in touch with the resident about the phone booth donation, and the Borough intends to move forward in the spring or summer.

Mr. Dunlea discussed the cost to pave a road which depends on the length of the road. He used Chestnut Street as an example, stating it is approximately 1,500 linear feet and would cost about \$280,000-\$300,000 that includes a 20% contingency. That's using tonnage pricing that's conservative from a bonding perspective using the Riverside Cooperative.

The Administrator stated that he and the DPW Superintendent will provide the recommendations to the Governing Body for the February 18th deadline with the Riverside Cooperative. Mr. Tully asked Mr. Sansone to follow up with an email regarding the notice he received from the DEP.

Councilman Harvilla commented on the livestreaming and individuals who cannot attend the meetings having the opportunity to comment. There used to be a requirement for constituents to submit any questions to the Administrator ahead of the meeting. He vetted out seven surrounding municipalities, and none of them have a question and answer period. Some have two public comment periods of 5 minutes each, many have one public comment of 5 minutes and one has a public comment period of 3 minutes. There are a number of Boroughs that limit organizations to one representative speaking on behalf of the organization with all comments and questions being funneled through that one individual. The Borough has never broached that, and he is not in favor of that. The Councilman feels that the two public comment periods of five minutes each is in keeping in the maximum of other Boroughs allow.

Councilman Russell stated that Cresskill and River Edge have question and answer. He would like to look back to how it was done in 2017, when it was invitation for discussion by the public. This would be his recommendation since the Borough has not yet adopted by-laws. The Councilman stated that he believes this is what the residents want.

Councilman Gorman thanked the Chief of Police, DPW Superintendent and all of the professionals that attended the meeting to update the Council. He also thanked the DPW and Anthony Schiraldi for the snow removal and keeping the streets safe. They do a great job.

Council President Rossillo thanked Mr. Schiraldi and the DPW for all they did during the storms, keeping the streets clean. And thanks to the professionals for coming this evening and answering all of the questions from the residents.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilwoman Stewart
All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Municipal Clerk