

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
DUMONT SENIOR CENTER  
OCTOBER 3, 2017  
6:30 PM**

Council President Manna called the meeting to order

**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 date, time and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings is posted at Borough Hall, was sent to *The Record* and the *Ridgewood News*, posted on the Borough website and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

**Roll Call:**

Council members Correa, Di Paolo, Geist, Manna, Riquelme-present  
Councilman Morrell-absent  
Mayor Kelly-absent

Motion to Accept Agenda as presented: Councilman Riquelme  
Second: Councilman Di Paolo  
All in favor

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Riquelme  
Second: Councilman Di Paolo  
All in favor.

1. Lili Binney, 32 Roxbury, asked about the items for discussion. Councilman Manna explained that the sanitary sewer project pertains to Northwest Utilities videotaping the sanitary sewers in town. He said that he had called a meeting with the Construction Code Official, the JLUB Chairman, Police Chief, Councilwoman Correa and the Municipal Clerk to review some of the issues, coordinate efforts and review ordinances, which need to be addressed.

2. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, said that tonight is the first executive session he can remember. The bylaws state they're supposed to be held once a month and asked when the vote was taken to eliminate the executive session meetings. He blamed the Borough Attorney for not advising the Mayor and Council.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Riquelme  
Second: Councilman Di Paolo  
All in favor.

Councilwoman Correa said that she got flack at the last meeting for a motion to remove Mr. Paster as Borough Attorney. She also received calls from residents who

wanted to go to the fair share housing hearing but they didn't hear anything mentioned during the August meeting. Mr. Paster said that it was brought up. She wasn't at the meeting but requested a recording of the meeting. She listened to the recording but did not hear any announcement of the date. She doesn't understand how the Council still think they are being led down the correct road. Councilman Geist read the OPRA emails Mr. deLyon had given him the last meeting. He did not find anything unethical. However, it's the communication and policy problems. He feels the town needs a fresh start. He made a privileged motion to remove the Borough Attorney. Councilwoman Correa seconded it. President Manna stated that this is a work session-it's not appropriate to have resolutions. The Councilwoman read that according to Robert's Rules of Order the motion is to bring up urgent items unrelated to pending business. Councilman Di Paolo asked how it is urgent. Ms. Connelly had sent out an email to the Governing Body asking for items for discussion-why didn't she respond then? There is no respect for the process. The Councilwoman responded that she doesn't trust anyone on the Council. Councilman Riquelme stated he is not in favor of removing the attorney. President Manna asked that it be known that the process is being overruled. Roll call vote to remove Mr. Paster as Borough Attorney: Councilwoman Correa, Councilman Geist-yes  
Council members Di Paolo, Manna and Riquelme-no  
Motion failed.

President Manna asked for a volunteer from the Council to volunteer to follow up on all we have to do relating to land acquisition; working with the Mayor and the attorney. This would involve the bidding process, negotiations and closing process. Councilman Geist volunteered.

President Manna asked that council members review the construction management RFQ's. Councilman Riquelme has reviewed them and would like to focus on the feasibility study, the design phase, pre-construction, budget, scheduling, engineering, construction itself and make sure there are not a lot of change orders. He saw three companies he would like to interview. President Manna feels that Cummings, Mast and Epic are strong candidates. Councilmembers Riquelme, Di Paolo and Manna will be on the committee to interview.

President Manna asked Councilwoman Correa, since she visited the Wanaque borough hall, to head up the committee with communication between the architect and management company as far as the space needed for the Borough Hall Complex. President Manna and Councilman Riquelme will also be on the committee.

President Manna stated that about a month ago he, Councilwoman Correa and Municipal Clerk Connelly met with the Police Chief, the Construction Code Official and Joint Land Use Board Chairman regarding ordinance issues. We will be meeting again on Thursday.

Councilman Riquelme was asked to stay on top of the Engineer with the Sanitary Sewer project.

The CFO was asked to work up a cost analysis for police promotions requested by the Police Chief. The Finance Committee will be meeting Friday. The Committee will also be discussing whether there are funds available for laptop computers for meetings. Records privacy concerns were brought up by Councilman Di Paolo.

Councilman Riquelme said that the DPW has a new striping machine.

Councilman Geist would like to explore the County Dispatch. There would be a cost savings and shared service. The Police Chief would have to weigh in on this.

Councilman Di Paolo stated that on September 21<sup>st</sup> the Shade Tree Commission celebrated “World Peace Day”. Policies for trees that may pose a risk need to be clarified. President Manna suggested a meeting be held with the Police Chief, Code Official and Shade Tree Chairman.

Councilwoman Correa said the Fire Chief spoke about increasing the rent for next year.

President Manna explained that there were first, second and third round interviews for the position of Borough Administrator. Tom Richards will be starting October 16<sup>th</sup> for an interim period of three months. He has taken a leave of absence from his job at the County. He has previously been the Borough Administrator in Woodcliff Lake and Maywood, as well as Mayor in Maywood. The Mayor, Councilwoman Correa and he met with Mr. Richards and explained their concerns. He will be working with the CFO on the budget.

Chief Conner has requested to participate in a program which allows the Borough to acquire governmental equipment for law enforcement at no cost. Cost of upkeep has to be considered.

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

Purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds

Personnel Matters, Ongoing Litigation

Personnel-Police

Motion: Councilman Geist

Second: Councilman Riquelme

Roll call vote: Council members Correa, Di Paolo, Geist, Riquelme, President Manna-yes

Following closed session, Motion to go back into public: Councilman Riquelme

Second: Councilman Geist

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Riquelme

Second: Councilman Geist

All in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC  
Municipal Clerk