

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT  
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2020  
6:30 PM**

Administrator Chris Tully announced that he is hosting the meeting from Borough Hall, 80 W. Madison Avenue. He announced that the meeting is being held electronically as per the Governor's Executive Orders 107 and 108. We will have our 2020 budget presentation, which is available for review on our website. After the public hearing, there will be a public comment portion followed by responses to address concerns or questions from the public.

Council President Stewart called the meeting to order.

Flag Salute

Moment of Silence to acknowledge those suffering in these extraordinary times and remember those we have lost in the pandemic, those who are suffering injustices and those who protect us every day.

**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-absent

Also on the call: CFO Ibbasi and Borough Auditor Vinci

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

**Public Hearing** on the 2020 Municipal Budget Introduced May 5, 2020

CFO Ibbasi thanked the Finance Subcommittee comprised of Council President Stewart, Councilman Manna, Councilman Chae, Mayor LaBruno, Administrator Tully and our auditor Mr. Vinci for their roles in completing the 2020 Municipal Budget. Mr. Abbasi presented the Budget PowerPoint Presentation. In his presentation, he reviewed the Borough's proposed expenditures, anticipated revenues, and spoke about the Finance Committee's diligence, particularly Councilwoman Stewart's initiative, for under-utilizing surplus in prior years' budgets. Thanks to this approach, he noted, the Borough was able to utilize additional surplus to cover unanticipated expenditures in the budget that occurred earlier this year due to the COVID-19 epidemic, unlike smaller municipalities who were asking their residents to donate funds to their borough's COVID-19 response fund. The raise in taxes will be \$96 on the average \$307,000 home. Mr. Vinci spoke of the extremely low interest rates the Borough took advantage of recently.

Motion to open to the public for Budget items only: Councilman Englese  
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo  
All in favor.

1. Laura Goodman, 99 E. Linden, feels the median salary for police officers is too high.
2. Bruce deLyon, 67 Beacon Street, feels we are overbudgeting, causing taxpayers cost to continue to rise. Last year we spent \$400,000 for gas, telephones and street lights. This year \$600,000 was budgeted. Last year \$50,000 was spent for Celebrations from a \$70,000 budget. Special Counsel fees was increased. Unemployment was budgeted at \$10,000. He spoke of capital projects. The total tax increase for the average home, including the Board of Education, is \$230. He feels the budget should be as lean as possible.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese  
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo  
All in favor.

Mr. Abbasi explained that police salaries are contractual. It is not uncommon to have a high percentage devoted to police. There was a cut in the Celebrations budget due to the pandemic. At this point the Borough is at 1.6% of the 3.5% max of your three years of average assessed valuation. We cannot keep ignoring our infrastructure projects.

Mr. Vinci addressed the utilities question. The savings does eventually go to surplus. The fact that the Borough is using the surplus as a revenue reinforces the fact that they are returning the money to the taxpayers. Tax collection rate is over 99%. That is one of the driving forces behind the replenishment of surplus. The key for any budget stabilization is being able to replenish the surplus that is applied in the following year. COVID-19 was considered during the budget process. That is why \$1,400,000 was left in surplus so that if there was a potential shortfall, there was surplus in 2021 to absorb any potential revenue reduction. The Borough is permitted to have a separate trust fund for unemployment in addition to what is being budgeted. What is important now with the unemployment claims is whether the Federal Government is covering it and not charging local entities. The budget provides a plan for capital projects that have been discussed. Any time a project moves forward, the Council needs to introduce and adopt an ordinance and at that time there will be discussion as well as a public hearing.

#### **#20-119** Self-examination of the 2020 Budget

Motion to adopt: Councilman Englese  
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

#### **#20-120** Budget Adoption

Motion to adopt: Councilman Englese  
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

**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**

**#20-121** Ryan Hanley-Accept Application to Fire Patrol Assigned to Independent Hose Company \*

**#20-122** Katie Sullivan-Accept Application as Probationary Firefighter Assigned to Independent Hose Company \*

**#20-123** Approval of Road Closures to Permit Restaurant Outdoor Dining \*

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items only: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Hearing no one from the public, motion to close to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

## **ORDINANCE**

### *Second Reading*

**#1576** Ordinance Amending Borough Drug and Alcohol Policies for all Non-police Employees

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion to adopt Ordinance #1576: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

### *First Reading*

**#1577** Ordinance Amending Chapter #392 of the Borough of Dumont Code-Pools

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

Motion to pass Ordinance #1577 on first reading: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

Motion to open to the public for general comments: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

All in favor.

1. deLyon, 67 Beacon Street. asked if the State puts out a certain amount for surplus. Surplus is money that's already been paid for. How was the one-minute speaking time arrived at? He is not getting answers to his questions.

Councilman Manna reported that although the Library has been closed, they have been conducting programs online. The Director, Catherine Dodwell is retiring. She will be missed. Council president Stewart echoed his sentiments.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution to enter Closed Session to discuss:

Building Department-Litigation

Motion: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

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

Following closed session, motion to adjourn: Councilman Englese

Second: Councilwoman Stewart

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Municipal Clerk