

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2008
7:00 PM**

Flag Salute; Silent Prayer

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 *News Leader*, posted on the Borough website and filed with the Borough of Dumont on January 3, 2008.

Roll Call:

Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-present
Mayor McHale- present

Motion to Accept Agenda as presented: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

Mayor McHale introduced United States Senator Robert Menendez

The Honorable Robert Menendez commended the members of the Council for their fiscal responsibility and improving quality of life for the residents of Dumont. He spoke of Mr. Riquelme's involvement in the town and dedication to his family.

Oath of Office was administered by Senator Menendez to Rafael Riquelme as member of the Borough of Dumont Council

The Honorable Tomas Padilla, Bergen County Freeholder Chairman, presented Councilman Riquelme with a certificate of commendation.

Councilman Riquelme thanked everyone for their support and commended Mr. Abrahamsen for the wonderful job he did while he was a councilman. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and Council for the positive direction in which they are moving the town and for their principles and commitment. He pledged to work hard for the residents of Dumont.

Roll Call:

Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-present
Mayor McHale-present

Motion to recess for five minutes: Councilman Stylianou
Second: Councilman Manna
All in favor.

Motion to go back into public: Councilman Manna
Second: Councilman Caspare
All in favor.

Certificates of Achievement were presented by Councilman Caspare to the seventeen Recreation Wrestling District Champions. He also recognized their coaches.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the February 12, 2008 Executive Session minutes: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the February 19, 2008 Executive Meeting minutes: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the February 19, 2008 Public Meeting minutes: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the February 19, 2008 Closed Session minutes: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman McQuade

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the March 4, 2008 Executive Session minutes: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Caspare

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the March 4, 2008 Closed Session minutes: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Caspare

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

Council Committee Reports

- Councilman Stylianou

Police

The dispatch center handled 6,290 telephone calls in February. Ninety-six of these calls were requests for medical aid requiring contact and cooperation between the Dumont police department, volunteer ambulance corps and volunteer fire department.

Members of the patrol division investigated forty motor vehicle accidents, twenty-six of which were serious, eight involving injuries and six involving leaving the scene.

The police department was honored by the Board of Education for their outstanding service to the children of Dumont. Those recognized were Officer DiGirolamo, Lt. McKeary, Lt. Conner, Captain Faulborn, Captain Coughlin and Chief Venezia.

The Citizens Police Academy has begun. Topics to be discussed are Homeland Security, Terrorism, Domestic Violence, Crime Prevention and CPR.

- Councilwoman Zamechansky

Senior Citizens

They held their St. Patrick's Day party yesterday with approximately 130 seniors in attendance.

Ambulance Corps

There were ninety-six calls in February.

Fire Department

They had thirty-three calls and 1001 man hours in February.

Celebrations

The Easter Egg hunt was held Saturday at Memorial Park

The Memorial Day parade will be held May 26th.

There will be no fireworks Dumont Day; however, there will be a concert performed by *Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge*.

- Councilman McQuade

Finance

The budget will be introduced tonight. The Governor has cut state aid and we probably will not receive extraordinary aid this year

PSE&G is redoing the electrical grid in Dumont. They are also trimming trees.

Health Department

The doctor and nurse will now be going to Aladdin Senior Housing to give screenings

- Councilman Manna

Shade Tree Commission

The Shade Tree now has a direct phone number: 201-244-3997. They are currently looking for volunteers to survey the trees in town

The Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for April 26th. A tree will be planted that day at Memorial Park.

Shared Services

There is a resolution on tonight's agenda which will enable Dumont to participate in a county-wide equipment rental program

Library

There are 19,566 books in circulation

There are currently 9,399 patrons.

Buildings and Grounds

Due to the recent wind and rain Borough Hall is missing roof tiles and suffered damage to the soffit and fascia. The masonry will be repaired on the side of the building.

DPW

There were ten sewer jobs in February

Twenty-seven signs were replaced

Chamber of Commerce

A meeting will be scheduled soon with the business owners of Dumont

- Councilman Caspare

Building Department

There were ninety-seven permits, nineteen CO's, and seven municipal permits were issued in February

Planning Board

There will be a joint meeting of the Zoning and Planning Board March 29th at 10:00 AM.

There will be a regularly scheduled meeting March 24th. At the last meeting the professionals were appointed.

Recreation

Finance Chair Councilman McQuade, Borough Auditor Gary Vinci and Borough Administrator Perkins, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Rafti and Councilman Caspare met and had a very productive meeting.

Little League opening day is scheduled for April 5th.

Coach's certification and fingerprinting will be held March 25th.

- Borough Administrator

The State has cut \$202,000 of state aid from the Borough. The result on the Borough side of the budget translates into \$38.00 per house.

The residents impacted by the NJEIT project will be invited to a meeting so that they know what to expect.

The DPW and Mr. Perkins have been conducting periodic checks on garbage trucks in town. The other day they found a garbage truck with desks, etc. in the hopper. Since then, Scuffy Carting has assured Mr. Perkins that it was an oversight on their part and it would never occur again. The inspections will continue.

Mr. Perkins sent a letter to the Governor regarding implementing Shared Services plan. We are attempting to do shared services in the Borough as much as possible in order to save money.

There have been several issues with the Borough Hall building. Asbestos was found in the police safe; stone and brick are falling from the building; sheet metal was dislodged from the wind. Therefore, there has been some discussion about looking into a new municipal complex.

Members of the Governing Body met at Englewood Hospital regarding the Community Outreach program. They will perform services for the Borough residents and employees.

There will be a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce pertaining to issues confronting the business community and to inform them of plans regarding parking problems, streetscapes, etc.

Nelson Commons in New Milford hooked up to Dumont's sewer lines. They will therefore be billed approximately \$1100 per year.

Community Development application we submitted requesting \$154,400 for improvements to Veterans Plaza was reduced to \$92,000 by the County.

The Borough will be receiving a Stormwater grant in the amount of \$12,029.

- Mayor's Report

Mayor McHale and Mr. Perkins attended several meetings in Trenton. They met with Senator Richard Cody's staff to discuss legislative options in terms of securing the return of the \$202,000 in state aid. They also met with the Deputy Treasurer Pat O'Connor to discuss the viability of restoring that line item and as well as with the DCA Commissioner Joe Doria on issues confronting Dumont.

The St. Mary's project has been filed with the Zoning Board.

There are vacancies on the Zoning Board and the Rent Leveling Board.

Seniors and disabled veterans may qualify for the \$600 rebate check but they must file the income tax form.

ORDINANCES

First Reading

#08-1360 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Manna

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman Riquelme abstained.

Motion carried.

#08-1361 An ordinance amending the code of the Borough of Dumont, by amending existing ordinance 1040, entitled zoning, to "chapter 22 zoning"

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2007, the Borough of Dumont Planning Board adopted the MASTER PLAN PERIODIC REEXAMINATION AND LAND USE ELEMENT UPDATE, inclusive of the recommendations contained therein, containing changes to the Zoning Map of the Borough of Dumont

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion carried.

#08-1362 Amendment to Ordinance #1351- “wireless telecommunications towers and facilities”, to chapter 22 zoning.”

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

All in favor.

There was no discussion from the Council.

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Stylianou

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion carried.

#08-1363 Bond ordinance providing for the resurfacing of Howard Street, providing an appropriation of \$850,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$665,000 bonds and/or notes of the borough for paying the cost thereof and making the down payment for said improvements, authorized to be undertaken in and by the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Councilman Manna explained that this project will include the street, the curbs, the apron the manholes, sidewalks and sewer grates.

The Mayor stated that part of the project will be funded by a Department of Transportation grant.

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Councilman McQuade abstained.

Motion carried.

#08-1364 Bond ordinance providing for various general improvements appropriating \$652,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$619,400 bonds and/or notes of the borough for paying the cost thereof and making the down payment for said improvements, authorized to be undertaken in and by the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

All in favor

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Stylianou

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion carried.

#08-1365 Bond ordinance amending and supplementing bond ordinance no. 1311, adopted June 20, 2006 as amended and supplemented by bond ordinance no. 1354, adopted December 4, 2007 and providing for various improvements to Memorial and Christopher Deangeles parks to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$325,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of an additional \$308,750 bonds and/or notes of the borough for paying the cost thereof and making the down payment for said improvements, authorized to be undertaken in and by the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey.

Motion to waive formal reading: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

All in favor.

Councilman Caspare asked the exact nature of this ordinance. The Mayor explained that this ties in with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is currently being conducted by Borough planner.

Motion to adopt on first reading: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman Stylianou

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion carried.

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

#08-77 Bills List *

#08-78 Approval of Knights of Columbus Fund Drive for Special Children's Fund
April 19, 2008 and April 20, 2008 *

#08-79 Authorization to forward LOSAP contributions to Lincoln Financial *

#08-80 Temporary Budget Appropriations *

#08-81 Budget Transfer Resolution *

#08-82 Appointment of James Hoffman as Electrical Sub-code Official *

#08-83 Appointment of Michael Sestanovich as Plumbing Sub-code Official *

#08-84 Appointment of Ray VanSader as Fire Official *

#08-85 Appointment of James Carney as Fire Sub-code Official *

#08-86 County-wide Equipment Rental Program *

#08-87 2008 Bergen County Animal Control Services Contract Agreement *

#08-88 2008 Dumont Day Concert *

#08-89 Selzer School Off-Premise Cash Raffle Application-RL-270, ID#109-5-37089;
drawing to be held June 2, 2008 *

- #08-90 Approval of Fire Department Applications-Aversano, Grubecki, Labetti, McDermott *
- #08-91 Accept Resignations from Fire Department members-MacDonald, Pepose, Russenberger *
- #08-92 Approval of Fire Department Transfer Request-Arthur Cavadias from Truck Co. 2 to Engine Co. 1 *
- #08-93 Authorization of PMK Group to do Asbestos Analysis and Removal at Borough Hall *
- #08-94 Approval of 2008 Temporary Capital Budget *

Motion to amend Resolution #85 to reflect the corrected spelling of James Carney:

Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Caspare

All in favor.

Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Caspare

All in favor

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion carried.

Mayor McHale introduced the Borough Auditor, Gary Vinci, to present the introduction of the 2008 budget.

The total budget will increase from last year's \$17.5 million to approximately \$18.1 million-a 3.4% increase. Some of the major items impacting this year's budget are the loss of state aid, increase in pension contributions, police salary increases, an additional \$50,000 required for garbage and trash, and debt service will increase approximately \$100,000. The Borough will submit an extraordinary aid application to the State.

The Mayor asked whether anticipated tax bills will be required to be sent out again this year. The auditor explained that this should be done so that the Borough has money to operate.

Councilman Stylianou asked the likelihood of Dumont receiving extraordinary aid. Mr. Vinci responded that because of the cuts in state aid there will be many more towns submitting extraordinary aid applications.

General Order of Business:

#08-95 Introduction of the 2008 Municipal Budget

Motion to open to the public on Resolution #08-95: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Caspare

All in favor.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

Motion to adopt: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman McQuade

Roll call vote: Council members Caspare, Manna, McQuade, Riquelme, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion carried.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman McQuade

Second: Councilman Manna

All in favor.

1. Paula Ruggiero of 12 Sunnyside Avenue expressed concern about garbage blowing from Stop & Shop to Sunnyside Avenue
2. Pat Conner of 19 Medford Road commended Mr. Abrahamsen for a job well done.
He asked about the issue with Nelson Commons Mr. Perkins spoke of earlier. Mr. Conner stated that garbage trucks should be checked because the Borough pays for tonnage.
3. Roy Giffin of 2 Cedar Road stated that the Citizens Police Academy is an excellent course.
4. Sara Reiss of 30 Marion Avenue asked if the Fire Department requires mandatory age limits and physicals.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Zamechansky

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

Motion carried

Motion to recess and reconvene in closed session to discuss a personnel matter:

Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss a personnel matter.

Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

Motion to adopt: Councilman Caspare

Second: Councilman McQuade

All in favor.

Motion to go back into public: Councilman Manna

Second: Councilman Riquelme
All in favor.
Motion to adjourn: Councilman Stylianou
Second: Councilman Manna
All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Susan Connelly, RMC
Borough Clerk