BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
AUGUST 11, 2026

Mayor John Russell called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.
Flag Salute, Moment of Silence
Sunshine Law: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, Notification of this Meeting has been sent to our Official Newspapers, posted on the Borough website and Notice posted at Borough Hall and filed with the Borough of Dumont.

Roll Call:
Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry – Present
Mayor John W. Russell – Present

Also in attendance: Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Jeanine Siek, CFO Christopher Rutch, Borough Engineer Mateo Luzuriaga and Borough Attorney Deena Rosendahl

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Kelly; all in favor.

Motion to approve May 19, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilman Armellino
Second: Councilwoman Petry
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

Motion to approve June 9, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Rossillo
Second: Councilman Sciarrino
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry – yes

Motion to approve July 7, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Aponte
Second: Councilman Kelly
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino – yes
Councilwoman Petry - abstain

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Russell reported that on July 8th, the Declaration of Independence was read in the parking lot. On August 2nd, the Mayor attended the Senior Luncheon at the Senior Center. Thank you to Donna Faulborn and members of the Borough Hall staff for their work on the event.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Aponte –

- *Senior Citizens* – Thanks to Donna Faulborn for all her hard work. The Mayor's Luncheon was on August 2nd. It was well-attended. There will be a casino trip on 8/18 and a Latin Heritage celebration, also on 8/18.

- *Recreation* – The Recreation Committee has been formed and there have been 2 meetings. Fall program registration is complete. Summer camp was successful. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight to hire a part-time recreation director. He will start on 9/1 as long as resolution is passed.
- *Police* – For the month of July 2026, 2,018 calls for service; 98 calls for medical service; 35 calls for fire; 7 calls for commitment; and 3 cases of animal cruelty. Patrol issued 111 traffic summonses: 51 for parking; 96 moving violations; 23 motor vehicle crashes were investigated; 15 burglar alarms were responded to; 2 warrants were served or executed; 9.541 miles were traveled for patrol activities; 1 street lights and 6 decorative lights were reported as not functioning; 1 car seats were installed/checked. The Detective Bureau had 11 total arrests – 6 for simple assault, 1 contempt of restraining order, 1 for criminal mischief, 1 terroristic threat, 1 aggravated assault/strangulation, 1 false public alarm. There were 16 domestic violence incidents investigated; 3 expungements; 24 firearm investigations and carry applications; 29 criminal cases were investigated, and ongoing investigations with the BCPO. For community policing, Policy Academy Class #5 was completed from 6/29 to 7/2.
- *ABED* – Thank you to Maryann Russini for her work. Thank you to Ken Malamed for his tenure on ABED and welcome to new member Francesca Muffalleto. ABED held their 250th Birthday Contest. Thank you to all participating and for voting. There will be a Movie in the Park on 8/27 at Twin Boro Field. On 10/3, ABED will have their 2nd annual Trolly Pizza Crawl and History Tour. More details to follow.

Councilman Kelly –

- *Finance* – Chris Rutch will be speaking about the certification of the 2025 audit.
- *New Development* – Some progress has been made on the Dunkin Donuts on Washington Ave. There are ongoing negotiations in the Developers Agreement for the Wells Fargo property

Councilwoman Rossillo –

- *CAIDC* – The meeting scheduled on 8/6 was cancelled. The next meeting is on 9/3.
- *BOE* – The next meeting is on 8/20.

Councilman Armellino –

- *Library* – There will be an indoor concert on 9/16. Tai Chi will be starting in Memorial Park on Tuesdays from 9/15 to 10/20. There will be jig saw puzzle contest on 8/19.
- *JLUB* – The Board met on 7/28. There were no new applications and they approved the resolution for 219 Washington.

Councilman Sciarrino –

- *Shade Tree* – The last Shade Tree Commission meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for 8/17.

Councilwoman Petry –

- *DVAC* – Welcome to the 6 new members of DVAC.
- *Fire* – From 1/1 to 8/11, the department has responded to 336 emergency calls accounting for 6,457 incident man hours. These calls included 33 structure or mutual aide structural fires, 46 natural gas order or leak calls, 104 fire alarm activations, 33 electrical/water hazard/utility incidents, 26 carbon monoxide investigations, and 21 motor vehicle accidents involving a hazardous condition or airbag deployment. Firefighters have participated in 42 training events totaling approximately 391 additional hours. The department has completed 436 events, totaling over 7,267 hours of service through 8/11.

Additionally, 46 incidents were referred to fire prevention or the building department for follow up. Councilwoman Petry also welcomed the 5 new firefighters to the Dumont Fire Department. Finally, Councilman Petry spoke about the bond ordinance on the agenda for a new ladder truck.

ADMINISTATOR REPORT

BA Siek announced that David Roman will be hired as the new recreation director. He will be starting on 9/1. Preparations for Dumont Day are in full swing for 9/12. Special thanks to Recreation Assistant Stephanie Pizza for taking on the preparations for Dumont Day during this transitional phase in the Recreation Department. There was a bid opening for the NJDOT funded Depew Street Roadway Improvement Project on 7/28. This will include paving Depew from Washington to Druid. The award is on tonight's agenda and the total bid amount was $261,108.60. There was also a bid opening for the CDBG funded Sunnyside and Shadyside Resurfacing Project on 8/4. The award for this project is also on tonight's agenda and the bid amount was $216,305.20. The PSE&G road paving project with Tilcon is substantially complete. The 2026 PSE&G gas main replacement work in the area of Concord, Wyandotte and Oneida is finished. After a settlement period of 60-90 days, the work on the 2026 Riverside Coop Paving Program will begin. Roads include Wyandotte from Prospect to Lafayette, Oneida from Prospect to Lafayette, and Concord from Seminole to Ontario. She is hoping to add additional roads. BA Siek spoke about the capital purchases on tonight's agenda for the Building Department and the DPW. The Borough continues to look into health care options to help manage the increased costs to the NJ State Health Benefit Plan. For America's 250th Birthday, on 8/23 there will be a Liberty, Wheels, and Wellness Block Party on West Shore Ave. Also, on 10/18, there will be another event on Grant Ave. Ordinance #1673 on tonight's agenda has a revision that changed the chapter numbers.

CFO REPORT

CFO Rutch reviewed the 2025 audit. Overall, it was a good audit with 7 comments. All 7 findings have been identified, addressed, and rectified. BA Siek praised CFO Rutch for his work and dedication.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mateo Luzuriaga from Neglia reported on projects in the Borough. The Borough went out to bid for the Resurfacing of Sunnyside and Shadyside Avenue Project. The bid opening was on 8/4. The bids came in lower than anticipated. Neglia's recommendation is on tonight's agenda. Construction should begin in the fall of 2026. The PSE&G paving is substantially complete. A punch list of all items that that the contractor needs to address is being generated. There was a sewer emergency on 30 Dakota Ave. on 7/16. It was determined that sewer pipe needed to be replaced. A contractor has been authorized to begin the work.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Rosendahl reported that she worked on several of tonight's resolutions, some ordinances, and continues to work on ordinances that will be presented at the next meeting.

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 Council member or member of the public.

Any item may be removed for further discussion or 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

#26-258 – Bills List *
#26-259 – Amend Resolution #26-184 – Hire Full-time Construction Official *
#26-260 – Certification of 2025 Audit *
#26-261 – Approval of 2025 Audit Corrective Action Plan *
#26-262 – Approval of Summer Camp Registration Fees Refund *
#26-263 – Hire David Roman as Part-time Recreation Director *
#26-264 – Authorize Procurement of Proprietary Goods for Flag Football *
#26-265 – Approval of 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption – Block 820, Lot 2 *
#26-266 – Authorize Northwest BCUA Shared Services Agreement *
#26-267 – Approval of West Shore Avenue Block Party *
#26-268 – Approval of Cub Scout Pack #131 Soap Box Derby *
#26-269 – Award of Contract to La Forza Construction, LLC – Depew Street Roadway Improvements Project *
#26-270 – Approve RVE Engineer's Proposal – Depew Street Roadway Improvements Project *
#26-271 – Authorization of Autism Safety Warning Street Sign *
#26-272 – Emergency Contract for Sewer Pipe Repairs on Dakota Avenue – Conquest Construction, Inc. *
#26-273 – Authorize Emergency Appropriation for Sewer Pipe Repair on Dakota Avenue *
#26-274 – Hire Alfredo Granados as Dumont Police Dispatcher *
#26-275 – Refund of Concealed Carry Permit Fees *
#26-276 – Refund Building Department Escrow Fees *
#26-277 – Purchase of 1 2027 Chevrolet Equinox for the Dumont Building Department *
#26-278 – Approval of Teak Road Block Party *
#26-279 – Amend 2026 Municipal Budget – Chapter 159 – Recycling Tonnage Grant Money *
#26-280 – Authorization of MOA – Borough of Dumont & DPW UA Local 855 *
#26-281 – Accept Emanuel Guzman Calderon's Fire Department Application *
#26-282 – Award of Contract to 4 Clean Up, Inc. – Resurfacing of Sunnyside & Shadyside*
#26-283 – Accept Ken Melamed's Resignation from ABED Committee *
#26-284 – Appoint Francesca Muffoletto to ABED Committee *
#26-285 – Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate No. 25-00005 *
#26-286 – Authorization of LOSAP Contributions*
#26-287 – Accept Idania Algieri's Resignation from Recreation Committee *
#26-288 – Authorize Shared Service Agreement for Employee Assistance Program *
#26-289 – Amend Resolution #26-205 Purchase of 2 2027 Ford F-350 Super Duty Pickup Trucks for DPW *
#26-290 – Amend Resolution #26-206 Purchase of 1 2026 Ford F-350 Super Duty Rack Body Truck for DPW *
#26-291 – Purchase Hook Lift Chipper Box for DPW *
#26-292 – Purchase Electronic Scan Tool for DPW Garage *
#26-293 – Submit USDA Rural Housing Service Funding Application for Acquisition of New Ladder Truck *
#26-294 – Accept Marc Calello's Resignation as Municipal Court Prosecutor *

#26-295 – Appoint Acting Municipal Court Prosecutor & Alternate Acting Municipal Court Prosecutor *

Public Comment – Consent Agenda Only
Motion to open to the public on Consent Agenda items only: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; all in favor

1. Bruce DeLyon, had questions regarding the funding in #26-273, #26-289, #26-290. He questioned the spending of the Borough and the audit.
2. Louis Labetti, had questions on the purchasing of the Chevy Equinox and the scan tool.

Councilman Kelly defended the purchasing of the trucks.
Motion to close to the public: Councilman Armellino
Second: Councilwoman Petry; all in favor.

Motion to Adopt Consent Agenda: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Armellino
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry– yes

Ordinances

1st Reading
#1673 (revised) An Ordinance Amending Chapter 98-26 of the Dumont Borough Code – Development Fees
BA Siek explained the ordinance.
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo, all in favor.
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

#1674 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Acquisition of a New Ladder Fire Truck in, by and for the Borough of Dumont, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of $1,940,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Armellino; all in favor.
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Armellino
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

#1675 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21-34 Applicable Parking Lots and Parking Areas; Permit Fees & Chapter 21-35 Parking Regulations of the Dumont Borough Code
BA Siek gave an explanation of the ordinance.
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; all in favor.
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Rossillo

Second: Councilman Armellino
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

#1676 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 317-3 – Parking of Trailer – Amend to Include Registered Owner or Operator
BA Siek gave an explanation of the ordinance.
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Kelly; all in favor.
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

Councilwoman Aponte requested to add a resolution from the floor to increase the mayor and council annual stipends. This would include an increase for the mayor, from $2,500 to $3,500 and for each council member, from $2,000 to $3,000.

BA Siek noted that this resolution would be numbered #26-296, salary resolution amendment.

Motion to add Resolution #26-296: Councilwoman Aponte
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo

Discussion from the Council:
Councilman Armellino requested that this resolution not take effect until 1/2027.

Councilman Kelly commented on the proposed resolution and gave a history of the salaries of the mayor and council. He noted that Dumont stipends are well-below the ones of neighboring towns. BA Siek stated that based on a poll of Bergen County clerks, Councilman Kelly is correct. Councilman Armellino believes increases should be done in a phased approach. Councilwoman Petry does not believe it is the right time for increases.

Motion to open to the public regarding Resolution #26-296: Councilman Kelly
Second: Councilwoman Petry; all in favor.

1. Bruce DeLyon, believes that the mayor and council deserve a raise but does not agree with the way this resolution was introduced.
2. Avinash Melkote, asked when the last time the council asked for a raise. The mayor thinks it was in the 1980's.
3. Louis Labetti, advised for reelections before there are raises.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Armellino
Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

Motion to pass Resolution #26-296 with the amendment to make the raises effective 1/1/2027: Councilman Armellino
Second: Councilman Sciarrino
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino – yes
Councilwoman Petry - no

Public Comment – General Comments
Motion to open to the public: Councilman Armellino
Second: Councilman Sciarrino; all in favor.

1. Louis Labetti, had questions regarding the status of the swim club. He suggested some sort of concrete pad for recreational activities.
2. Bruce DeLyon, had questions regarding if the vehicles being purchases include snow plows. He continued to question the way the borough is bonding money, veteran tax exemptions, and rats and mice around certain properties.
3. Maryann Russini, had questions about permitted parking areas in Dumont.

Motion to close to the public: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Rossillo; all in favor.

Councilwoman Petry made a statement addressing backlash against her statements at the 6/9/26 meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Armellino; all in favor

The meeting ended at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk