BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
DUMONT MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
October 20, 2026

Mayor John Russell called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.
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 September 1, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Kelly
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Petry – yes
Councilman Sciarrino - abstain

Motion to approve September 22, 2026 Executive Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Kelly
Roll call vote: Council members Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Petry – yes
Councilman Sciarrino - abstain

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Russell reported that on the previous Sunday, Dumont celebrated America's 250 birthday with a street festival on Grant Ave. It was a big success. Thank you to all costume participants, Grant Avenue businesses, the DPW, the Dumont Police, The Exits, Party Boss, the 250th Committee, all volunteers, the Borough Hall Staff, and BA Siek. Mayor Russell also announced the passing of Rachel Bunin, long time Shade Tree Commissioner. There was a moment of silence for Rachel Bunin.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Aponte –

- *Recreation* – Dumont Recreation will be holding their annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 30th. Dumont Cheer will host a Shake the Can fundraiser on Sunday, November 1st.

- *ABED* – The committee held their 2nd annual Trolly Pizza Crawl and History Tour on 10/2. On 10/24, Frech Mcknight Funeral Home will be hosting Scary Movie Night. ABED has also set up a Dumont Community Sign Up for all residents. This is a fun way to remember how our community has grown across the generations. The sign-up sheet is located at Borough Hall. ABED will be holding their 3rd annual Holiday Show on 12/12 at St. Mary's Celeste Hall. The next meeting will be on 10/21.
- *Police* – For the month of September, 2026, 2,002 calls for service; 83 calls for medical service; 37 calls for fire; 7 calls for commitment; and 0 cases of animal cruelty. Patrol issued 208 traffic summonses: 30 for parking and 178 moving violations; 18 motor vehicle crashes were investigated; 6 burglar alarms were responded to; 1 warrant was served or executed; 9,930 miles were traveled for patrol activities; 7 street lights and 6 decorative lights were reported as not functioning; 3 car seats were installed/checked. The Detective Bureau had 9 total arrests – 1 for simple assault, 4 for home invasion/aggravated assault, 1 for distribution of narcotics, 3 for DWI. There were 13 domestic violence incidents investigated; 7 expungements; 11 firearm investigations and carry applications; 28 criminal cases were investigated, and ongoing investigations with the BCPO.

Councilman Kelly –

- *New Development* – The Dunkin Donuts construction continues. Construction on the condominiums, location of the former preschool on Washington Ave. across from St. Mary's is set to begin. The Wells Fargo property is still in negotiations on the redevelopment agreement and there is no start date for construction.
- *Finance* – The Finance Department and CFO has begun reviewing the budget status for the departments and committees, in order to start preparing for year end.

Councilwoman Rossillo –

- *CAIDC* – The CAIDC celebrated Spanish Heritage Month at the Senior Center. It was a very successful event.

Councilman Armellino –

- *DPW* – Pick up of leaf and grass clippings have begun. Potholes were filled in and there were calls for sewer blockages.
- *Library* – There is a full calendar of library activities. Of note, on the 4th Tuesday of every month, there is an adult movie in the auditorium at the library.
- *JLUB* – Last month there was 1 application. The next meeting on 10/27.

Councilman Sciarrino –

- *Building* – Councilman Sciarrino spoke about permits that are required for storage containers, dumpsters, and garage sales. Short-term Airbnb's are not allowed. Any apartment rentals must be registered and inspected. Parking on lawns, sidewalks, and curbs are not allowed.

Councilwoman Petry –

- *Fire* – Year to date statistics: daytime emergency runs – 264 representing 4,133 hours. nighttime emergency runs – 151 representing 3,445 hours. Drills and training – 62 events representing 683 hours. Special event – 81 representing 523 hours. The department's totals, including meetings reached 562 events and 8,795 hours of service. Of the 415 emergency responses, 59 were fire related incidents, including structure fires, mutual aid responses, appliance and cooking fires, brush and vegetation fires, and vehicle fires. Ten department members successfully completed the swift water awareness and operations course. The department has responded to 336 emergency calls accounting for 6,457 incident man hours.

Councilwoman Petry recognized the 6 members who successfully completed the 7-month Firefighter One program and are now NJ certified firefighters. The ladder truck has been officially ordered and is in production. The estimated delivery date is April of 2028. Independent Hose Company will be holding a boot drive 11/27 and 11/28 at the intersection of Washington and West Madison Avenues.

ADMINISTATOR REPORT

BA Siek announced the NJDOT Depew Street Roadway Improvement project started yesterday. This project includes the paving of Depew Street from Washington Ave. to Druid Ave. Today the pre-construction meeting was held for the Riverside Co-op Road Paving Program. This project was put on hold due to PSE&G work. The paving will not be complete until spring. Roads will include Wyandotte, from Prospect to Lafayette; Oneida, from Prospect to Lafayette; Concord, from Seminole to Ontario and East Linden, from Hillcrest to Howard. Veolia is in town paving sections of roadway as part of their restoration agreement through their lead pipe replacement project. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to complete that agreement. The Borough is in the process of changing from the NJ State Health Benefit Plan to the Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund. The Madison and Washington Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project has been authorized to go out to bid. There was an ordinance committee meeting on 9/29 and there are 3 ordinances on tonight's agenda for first reading as a result of that meeting. The general election is in 2 weeks and there is a non-binding referenda question on the ballot regarding the Borough's ordinance on overnight parking.

CFO REPORT

CFO Rutch reported on reviewing the 2026 operating budget. A more detailed budget report will be given at the December meeting. The annual budget freeze will take place on 10/30/26. Preliminary budget meetings to plan out 2027 will be beginning in mid to late November. CFO explained the Chapter 159 resolution on the consent agenda. He also stated that he will be reviewing the annual best practices at the November meeting.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mateo Luzuriaga from Neglia reported on projects in the Borough. A preconstruction meeting was held regarding the 2026 Riverside Coop Roadway Program. The project will commence in spring of 2027. The Resurfacing of Sunnyside and Shadyside Avenues commenced in September. Neglia performed onsite inspections. Documents have been submitted to the Borough regarding Municipal Stormwater Management Plans. There was a sewer emergency at 30 Dakota Ave. Work for that project was completed. Mr. Luzuriaga spoke about the emergency sanitary sewer repair at 30 Brookfield and the steps taken to remedy the issue.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Rosendahl reported that she reviewed the indemnity and trust agreement with Metropolitan Health Insurance that is on tonight's agenda. She also helped draft Ordinance #1677 and #1678. She has also reviewed all other ordinance and resolutions on tonight's agenda.

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
#26-321 – Bills List *
#26-322 – Approval of Dumont Cheer Shake the Can Event *
#26-323 – Approval of Independent Hose Co. Boot Drive *
#26-324 – Approval of Officer Brandon Neno Permanent Police Status *
#26-325 – Approval of Officer Dylan Laffont Permanent Police Status *
#26-326 – Impose Liens & Collect Delinquent Taxes for Property Maintenance *
#26-327 – Authorization of Surviving Spouse 100% Veteran Tax Exemption - Block 1223, Lot 11 *
#26-328 – Amend 2026 Municipal Budget – Chapter 159 – 2027 Pedestrian Safety Program *
#26-329 – Authorize to Advertise for Bids – Washington & Madison Avenues Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project *
#26-330 – Refund Concealed Carry Permit Fees *
#26-331 – Award of Contract to Atlantic Salt for Bulk Rock Salt*
#26-332 – Authorization of Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund Indemnity and Trust Agreement*
#26-333 – Authorization for Tilcon New York, Inc. to Perform Road Work *
#26-334 – Emergency Contract with Conquest Construction for Sanitary Sewer Collapse on Brookfield Road *
#26-336 – Approval of Berkley Place Road Closure Request *

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

1. Bruce DeLyon, had questions on #26-334 and how the cost will be funded. He also asked about the funding of the repairs on Dakota Ave.

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

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

Non-Consent Agenda Items
#26-335 – Accept Retirement of Officer Kelly from Dumont Police Department
Motion to pass Resolution #26-335: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll call vote: Council members: Aponte, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry– yes
Councilman Kelly - abstain

Councilwoman Rossillo made a motion from the floor to suspend overnight parking until after the election to see the outcome of the referendum.
Councilwoman Petry seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosendahl stated that that the motion would have to be put on the agenda because the public would want to have a say in that and it has not been noticed.
Councilwoman Rossillo stated she believes a motion from the floor has been made before.
Mayor Russell stated that because this question will be a referendum in two weeks it is not appropriate, and that the governing body should wait for the results of the referendum.
Councilman Armellino stated that a resolution from the floor was made prior with regard to council member salaries.
Mayor Russell made the distinction that the salary question was not on a referendum.
Councilman Kelly made a point of order that he does not believe that it is legal or appropriate for the council to pass a resolution to cancel, suspend, or override an ordinance.
Attorney Rosendahl agreed with Councilman Kelly and stated that a resolution cannot be made suspend an ordinance.
Councilwoman Petry questioned how this has occurred in the past.
BA Siek stated that historically, the mayor would announce that the Borough would not be enforcing the ordinance at certain times during the year in order to provide relief to residents.
Councilwoman Aponte stated her concerns about the proposed resolution is the impact on leaf pickup.
Attorney Rosendahl advised to not have a discussion on an item that is not on the agenda.
Discussion continued amongst the council members.
Mayor Russell stated they are not moving forward with the resolution and he is moving on to ordinances.

Ordinances
1st Reading
#1677 An Ordinance Adding Chapter 343 to the Dumont Borough Code for Private Property Tree Removal and Replanting
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilman Kelly
Second: Councilwoman Aponte; all in favor.
Councilman Armellino believes the ordinance is poorly written and not ready to be put up for 1st reading.
Attorney Rosendahl stated a 1st reading is not the time for a discussion on the ordinance. That happens at the 2nd reading.
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilman Kelly
Second: None. Motion failed.

#1678 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21-4 of the Dumont Borough Code to Prohibit Parking on a Portion of Bedford Road
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilman Armellino
Second: Councilwoman Petry; all in favor.
BA Siek gave an explanation of the ordinance.
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilwoman Aponte
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

#1679 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 295-12 of the Dumont Borough Code; Fees for Peddling, Hawking, Soliciting and Canvassing
Mayor Russell gave a brief explanation of the ordinance.
Motion to **WAIVE** Formal Reading: Councilman Kelly
Second: Councilwoman Petry
Motion to **PASS** on 1st Reading: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Kelly
Roll Call Vote: Council members: Aponte, Kelly, Rossillo, Armellino, Sciarrino, Petry - yes

Public Comment – General Comments
Motion to open to the public: Councilwoman Petry
Second: Councilman Kelly; all in favor.

1. Cary Stopsky, had questions regarding overnight parking and the impact on leaf pickup. He also spoke about the need for resident stickers on Quackenbush.
2. Ms. Bryant, had questions about the construction at 34 and 38 Grant St.
3. Margaret Rodolphi, spoke about the destruction of trees on Concord Ave.
4. Michael Rodolphi, also spoke about the destruction of trees on Concord Ave.
5. Ray Slaman, spoke about some of the activity of the Dumont Shade Tree Commission, permits needed for the removal of trees, and replacement of removed trees.
6. Maryann Russini, thanked particular people with regard to ABED events and the rating of roads in Dumont through AI. She also wanted to know if the website was up to date for public notices.
7. Bruce DeLyon, asked for status of any bulk utility contracts.
8. Joan Struble, had questions regarding the Halloween road closure on Berkeley Street and Ordinance #1679.
9. Avinash Melkote, had questions about tree removal and replacement.

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

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

The meeting ended at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanine E. Siek, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk