

December 21, 2020

Note: This meeting was held by teleconference for the public with all Council members in person.

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on December 21, 2020.

Mayor Jason F. Cilento called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Municipal Clerk William Robins read the Sunshine Statement and called the Roll.

Present: Jason Cilento, Kenneth Bayer, April Burke, Jessica Dunne, Stacy Narvesen, Trina Rios and Daniel Sigmon

On the motion of Mrs. Burke and seconded by Mr. Bayer it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of December 7, 2020.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Burke was moved to accept the following:

### **Ordinance 2020-17**

The following ordinance was Introduced for first reading at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on December 7, 2020. It is now being further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said governing body being held in the Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, in said County, on December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting copies of the full ordinance have been available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who have requested the same.

Dunellen Municipal Code Chapter 269-13 (A) is amended as follows:

Chapter 269-13 (A). Parking prohibitions.

- A. Parking is prohibited at all times on certain streets. No person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any streets or parts thereof described, except where other parking regulations have been provided for.

<b><u>Name of Street</u></b>	<b><u>Side</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Fourth Street	North	From Washington Avenue in an easterly direction to McCoy Park

Grove Street	Both	New Market Road to Gertrude Terrace
High Street	East	Entire Length During School Hours
Library	New Market Road	Parking Lot
Madison Avenue	Both	North Avenue to South Avenue
New Market Road	Both	Entire Length
Orange Street	South	South Washington Avenue to Columbia Park
Skinner Plaza	Construction Office	4 Parking Spaces so identified
South Avenue	Both	Gertrude Terrace to Madison Avenue
South Madison Avenue	West	South Avenue to Walnut Street
South Washington Avenue	Both	From North Avenue (Route 28) to New Market Road
Walnut Street	Both	West Fourth Street to New Market Road

At this point, Mayor Cilento opened the meeting for public comment on the ordinance. No one from the public spoke. This portion was closed.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

On the motion of Mr. Bayer and seconded by Mrs. Rios was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #1**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The bills, as per the attached list, are hereby authorized for payment.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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Resolution 12-21-2020: #2 was REMOVED.

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On the motion of Dr. Dunne and seconded by Mrs. Burke was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #3**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The computer firm of RJH Solutions is hired as an information technology vendor for the Borough of Dunellen, at a rate of \$60.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Dr. Robins explained that this is Ronnie Haynes' company which will serve as a supplemental IT consultant. Ronnie is already familiar with our system and he will be able to undertake repairs and troubleshooting.

Mayor Cilento inquired whether the comprehensive IT company that we hope to hire as of January 1<sup>st</sup> will be assisting with cameras in the Council Chambers? Dr. Robins replied in the affirmative.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mr. Bayer was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #4**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen approve the attached Anti-Nepotism policy. This policy is effective as of December 21, 2020.

Dr. Dunne asked Mayor Cilento to provide a brief summary of the intent of the anti-nepotism policy. Mayor Cilento informed the public that this new policy prevents elected officials from hiring their family members and precludes any future employees from having supervision by relatives. It provides an opportunity for fair employment.

Mayor Cilento thanked Dr. Dunne, Municipal Attorney John E. Bruder and Dr. Robins for assisting in the process of this policy.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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On the motion of Mr. Bayer and seconded by Mrs. Burke was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #5**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The voluntary resignation of Eugene Leporiere as Dunellen Tax Collector is accepted, effective December 31, 2020.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mr. Bayer was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #6**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Patricia Dougherty is hired as a part-time employee of the Dunellen Tax Office, at a rate of \$50.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. This appointment is without benefits and is effective December 21, 2020.

Mayor Cilento noted that Mrs. Dougherty had been our Tax Collector and she brings background and knowledge to this position. She will be here to assist us during the remainder of 2020 and possibly for a short while in 2021.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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On the motion of Mrs. Narvesen and seconded by Mr. Bayer was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #7**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

WHEREAS, there is a need for improvements and repairs to the Maurer House, 500 Mountainview Terrace; and

The following quotes were received:

Anthony's Builders, Manville, NJ	\$11,575.00
Weather-tek, Dunellen, NJ	\$11,500.00
John Haas Construction, LLC, Green Brook, NJ	\$7,475.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a contract be awarded to John Haas Construction, LLC., for repairs and improvements to the Maurer House, for an amount not to exceed \$7,475.00.

Dr. Dunne asked what repairs will be done? Mr. Bayer responded that it will be general maintenance. Mrs. Burke asked about the source of the funds for the repairs? From prior fund raising.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

CONSENT AGENDA:

On the motion of Mr. Bayer and seconded by Dr. Dunne was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #8**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

**AUTHORIZE 2021 MUNICIPAL DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS**

That, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A.40A:4-19, the following appropriations for Interest and Debt Redemption charges for the year 2021 be and the same are hereby appropriated as follows:

Municipal Debt Service

Principal – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2012)	\$225,000.00
<u>Interest – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2012)</u>	<u>12,745.00</u>
Total	\$237,745.00

Principal – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017)	\$117,732.00
Principal – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017 Sewer)	19,010.00
Interest – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017)	30,860.00
<u>Interest – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017 Sewer)</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>
Total	\$175,502.00

NJ Environmental Infrastructure – Trust Loan	\$71,575.00
<u>NJ Environmental Infrastructure – Fund Loan</u>	<u>46,782.00</u>
Total	\$118,357.00

Bond Anticipation Note Principal	121,300.00
Special Emergency Note Principal	49,000.00
Sewer Utility Note Principal	6,700.00
Interest on Bond Anticipation Note	85,870.00
Interest on Special Emergency Note	1,420.00
<u>Interest on Sewer Note</u>	<u>8,890.00</u>
Total	\$273,180.00

Grand Total \$804,784.00

**12-21-2020: #9**

**CANCEL OUTSTANDING CHECKS**

WHEREAS, there exists outstanding checks on the reconciliation of the Current and Payroll Funds, and

WHEREAS, these checks have been investigated and it has been determined that these checks should now be canceled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following outstanding check(s) in the amount of \$468.60 be and are hereby canceled:

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>
Payroll	62678	\$159.15	1/28/19	Kerry Johnson
	62689	159.14	3/11/19	Kerry Johnson
	62750	692.31	12/18/19	NJ Family Support
Total – Payroll		\$1,010.60		

**12-21-2020: #10**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

WHEREAS, the last council meeting of the year 2020 is December 21, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the final payroll of 2020 and the first payroll of 2021 are December 31, 2020 and January 15, 2021, respectively and the last check run is December 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS, some payments are owing and due prior to the first regular meeting in 2021, and

WHEREAS, there is no subsequent council meeting scheduled to approve the transfer of appropriations from surplus accounts to salary and wages and other expenses requiring additional funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the Borough CFO be and is hereby authorized and directed to transfer funds as needed such that all the accounts that are charged for the December 31, 2020 and January 15, 2021 payrolls, December 31, 2020 check run and all subsequent payments that are owed and due prior to the first regular meeting in January, 2021 are properly funded.

FURTHER RESOLVED that an itemized list of appropriation transfers be provided to the Mayor and Council members by the first regular meeting in January 2021.

**12-21-2020: #11**

**TRANSFER 2019 APPROPRIATION RESERVES TO ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

WHEREAS, the 2019 Appropriation Reserves contains unexpended balances of certain appropriations that will not be paid in 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following appropriation reserve balances be transferred to an Accounts Payable in the amount set forth below:

20-140-000-299	Information Technology	\$5,000.00
42-305-000-299	Intergovernment – Middlesex County Recycling	<u>17,237.22</u>
	Total	<u>\$22,237.22</u>

**12-21-2020: #12**

**CANCEL GRANT RECEIVABLE BALANCES**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel receivable balances from the balance sheet for grants that have expired, and

WHEREAS, the Borough CFO is hereby directed to cancel such receivables to Operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following receivable balances be canceled:

Municipal Alliance	
2016-17	\$2,068.25
Additional 2016-17	5.80
2017-18	17.53

2018-19	14.95
2019-20	<u>12,275.00</u>
Total	\$14,381.53

**12-21-2020: #13**

**CANCEL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BALANCES**

WHEREAS, it is necessary, from time to time, to formally cancel Accounts Payable balances from the balance sheet from which encumbrances will not be paid, and

WHEREAS, the Borough Finance Officer is hereby directed to cancel such receivables to Operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following Accounts Payable balances in the amount of \$53,216.91 are hereby cancelled:

Accounts Payable (2016)	\$40,549.91
Accounts Payable (2018)	12,667.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$53,216.91</u>

**12-21-2020: #14**

**SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL LEVY PAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, it has been agreed to turn over to the Board of Education its total monthly allotment as close to the beginning of the month as is reasonable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the Borough Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw checks and issue same to the Custodian of School Monies, in accordance with the following schedule:

Levy of \$6,524,614 from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 11, 2021	1,026,752.00
February 1, 2021	1,208,803.00
March 1, 2021	1,026,752.00
April 5, 2021	1,026,752.00
May 3, 2021	1,208,803.00
June 7, 2021	<u>1,026,752.00</u>



Total \$6,524,614.00

**12-21-2020: #15**

**CANCEL RESERVE BALANCES**

WHEREAS, there exists various grant reserves on the balance sheet of the Current Fund, and

WHEREAS, the funds creating these reserves have been investigated and it has been determined that these reserves should be canceled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following reserves in the amount of \$are hereby canceled:

Hazardous Discharge Remediation Fund	\$18.42
Pedestrian Safety Grant	37.18
NJ EDA Hazardous Discharge (Strip Joint)	41.28
Solid Waste Administration – Recycling Tonnage	3,664.53
Middlesex County Municipal Alliance	
Local Match ‘2016-17	13.35
DEDR Account ‘2016-17	17.53
Local Match ‘2017-18	31.25
DEDR Account ‘2018-19	5.80
DEDR Account ‘2019-20	5,753.06
Local Match ‘2019-20	318.83
Pedestrian Safety	2,530.00
Aggressive Driving Grant	<u>1,842.50</u>
Total	\$14,273.73

**12-21-2020: #16**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Whereas, there appears to be a surplus in the following CY 2020 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary, and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of unexpended balances in those appropriations having an excess over the amount required to those deemed to be insufficient.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the following “Transfer of Appropriations” be made:

From

Account	Title	S&W	Other Expenses
23-220-299	Group Insurance		\$9,000.00
32-465-299	Garbage & Trash		1,500.00
43-490-101	Municipal Court	\$10,000.00	
	Subtotal	10,000.00	10,500.00
	Total	<u>\$20,500.00</u>	

Whereas, there appears to be insufficient funds in the following CY 2020 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary; viz:

To:

Account	Title	S&W	Other Expenses
20-130-299	Assessment of Taxes		\$2,000.00
20-155-299	Legal Services		6,500.00
26-290-299	Tree Maintenance (002)		10,000.00
26-310-299	Public Buildings and Grounds	\$2,000.00	
	Subtotal	\$2,000.00	\$18,500.00
	Total	<u>\$20,500.00</u>	

**12-21-2020: #17 was REMOVED**

**12-21-2020: #18**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to CME Associates, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account for engineering work done toward “150 North Avenue” redevelopment:

<u>CME</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
267276	PB130	Review & Report	\$431.25
269162	PB137	Review & Report	1,804.50
269809	PB148	Review & Report	556.00
270746	PB150	Review & Report	174.00
271030	PB155	Review & Report	<u>870.00</u>

Total \$3,835.75

**12-21-2020: #19**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to CME Associates, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account for engineering work done toward “216-234 North Avenue” application:

<u>CME</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
253027	PB58	Engineering Review	\$292.50
253795	PB62	Engineering Review	822.00
256203	PB71	Engineering Review	331.50
256928	PB77	Site Observation	181.50
258720	PB77	Site Observation	361.00
262169	PB95	Site Observation	<u>174.00</u>
		Total	\$2,162.50

**12-21-2020: #20**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to CME Associates, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account for engineering work done toward “376 North Avenue” application:

<u>CME</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
245918	PB39	Engineering Review	\$661.25
256204	PB70	Engineering Review	150.00
258721	PB78	Engineering Review	144.50
262170	PB96	Engineering Review	<u>1,278.00</u>
		Total	\$2,233.75

**12-21-2020: #21**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following check(s) to CME Associates, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account for engineering work done toward “100 South Washington Avenue” site plan application, to be allocated equally between Dunellen Prism Associates and K Hovnanian:

<u>CME</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
252396	PB54	Review & Report	\$1,617.25
253799	PB64	Review & Report	84.50
254833	PB69	Review & Report	1,668.50
256206	PB72	Review & Report	1,764.50
256930	PB79	Review & Report	1,191.00
257762	PB79	Review & Report	1,878.00
258729	PB79	Review & Report	3,800.00
260220	PB84	Review & Report	3,921.50
261182	PB92	Review & Report	300.00
262311	PB98	Review & Report	547.50
263431	PB99	Review & Report	546.00
263776	PB109	Review & Report	1,146.00
265015	PB112	Review & Report	935.00
265793	PB117	Review & Report	1,278.50
266872	PB120	Review & Report	2,666.50
267278	PB132	Review & Report	4,540.00
267897	PB127	Review & Report	4,153.50
269165	PB139	Review & Report	3,934.50
269811	PB149	Review & Report	255.00
270750	PB153	Review & Report	<u>564.00</u>
		Total	\$36,791.75

**12-21-2020: #22**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to King Moench Hirniak & Mehta, LLP., from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account for legal work done toward “150 North Avenue” redevelopment:

<u>King Moench</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
91697	PB000145	Planning Board	\$80.00
		Total	<u>\$80.00</u>

**12-21-2020: #23**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to King Moench Hirniak & Mehta, LLP., from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account for legal work done toward “150 North Avenue” redevelopment:

<u>King Moench</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
91698	PB000146	Redevelopment	\$800.00
		Total	<u>\$800.00</u>

**12-21-2020: #24**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Limousine License for CY 2021 to:

Ambitrans, LLC.  
634 Bound Brook Road  
Dunellen, NJ

All fees and requirements of said license have been met.

**12-21-2020: #25**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The following establishments be issued an Amusement Games License by the Municipal Clerk as they have met the requirements and paid the proper fee:

American Legion Post #119  
Maggie Murray's Pub House  
Columbian Club  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Zupko's Tavern  
Columbian Club

**12-21-2020: #26**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

Whereas, application was made in accordance with the State Regulations for a license to be issued, and

Whereas, after proper investigation it was deemed that all requirements of the State Regulations have been met.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Governing Body authorize the issuance of an Instant Raffle License to the American Legion Post 119 for calendar year 2021.

Further be it resolved that this license will be issued pending final approval by New Jersey State Legalized Games of Chance Commission.

**12-21-2020: #27**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

WHEREAS, the property at 324 Dunellen Avenue was granted a successful 2020 County Board Judgment, and

WHEREAS, the lender paid the entire installment therefore creating an overpayment on the account

**NOW, THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:**

That the proper Borough officers be and they are hereby authorized to issue a check as follows:

<b>Block</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
28	14.02	Maldonado, Sabina 324 Dunellen Ave.  <b>Amount to be Refunded:</b>  Check Payable and Mail to:  Sabina Maldonado 324 Dunellen Ave. Dunellen NJ 08812	\$821.74

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, and Rios  
 [Mr. Sigmon’s screen froze and his vote on the Consent Agenda was unable to be recorded.]

At this point, Mayor Cilento moved Agenda item #8 to be discussed.

**Council Discussion**

1) Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award

Mayor Cilento noted that at our last meeting we had discussed the Citizen of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award. We had decided to award the Lifetime Achievement Award to Judith Persichilli, who was raised in Dunellen and is now the New Jersey Commissioner of the Department of Public Health. He has been in touch with her representatives and they are discussing how she will accept the honor.

For Citizen of the Year, we had discussed two other candidates, but instead he would like to put to the floor a suggestion to honor all of Dunellen’s Emergency Services. They have been working hard throughout the year and the award would include Police, Fire, Rescue Squad and the Office of Emergency Management. Each agency would receive a plaque. He acknowledged Dr. Robins’ contribution to this idea. He also advanced the suggestion of having an annual picnic for all the volunteers, when the social distancing provisions of the current pandemic allow us to do so.

Council gave their concurrence to the suggestion of honoring the Emergency Services Agencies.

2) The Living Hope Outreach Church, run by Pastor Roy Carry, presented an opportunity to work with the Neighborhood Health Center of Plainfield with COVID-19 testing. Discussions were held (Mayor, Alex Miller, Homer Mosley and Dr. Robins) and if we go ahead, it would be in the train station parking lot on a Saturday in January. The NHCP provides COVID-19 testing to residents of the Dunellen area. There would be portable tents and both appointment and walk-up testing. They would have a trailer on site for heating and shelter for the staff. Insurance not required. OEM has volunteered to be on site to assist with traffic flow. They are limited to about 200 tests.

Council agreed that it would be a great opportunity, especially given the increased infection

numbers. Various suggestions regarding sign-up logistics were advanced that will be passed on to the event organizers.

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## REPORTS:

Mrs. Rios: 1) I would like to start by saying a very heartfelt thank you to Council President Bayer for all his years and years of dedication and service to Dunellen. He dearly will be missed, but I am sure Mayor Cilento will find many great projects for him; 2) BOE meeting, I would like to say another thank you to Sydney McLaughlin for the very generous donation to the Carol Fund in the amount of \$50,000. Absolute amazing; 3) Winter break will be December 24 through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021; 4) Next BOE meeting will be their reorganization meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Please remember that the free school lunch is still available for all children under the age of 18 living in Dunellen. Pick up is available from 11-3 at the Dunellen High School. Please keep any eye out for information regarding school lunch distribution dates during the holidays; 5) Carol Fund was able to deliver gift and gift cards to 23 families. That is about 50 children this year. This is such an amazing and generous event that all of Dunellen has banded together to help. So many donations have been given to make this happen; 6) DDMO wreaths are up and trees are on street corners; 7) We are expected to have 2 grand openings in January. More information will be available. Please check out the DDMO FB page; 8) Library Finance Committee met and have gone over their budget. Thank you to Terri Albertson for all her years of dedication to the Library Board of Trustees. I'm sure she is not done volunteering yet; 9) I would like to put a call out to volunteers to fill out our volunteer application and volunteer. There are lots of committees looking for dedicated people. Check out the borough website for an application; 10) this past week the Ministerial Church Words with Purpose along with myself and Liz Velez of the Library held another Farms to Families food drive. We were able to hand out about 1600 boxes. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us that day. Please check the Dunellen Library FB page or my council FB page for information on our next Farms to Families food drive; 11) FLAG group is still around and looking for donations. We previously donated Thanksgiving pies to our working police on the holiday. This recognizes them work for us on a day when we are most thankful. It was a humbling experience.

Mrs. Burke: 1) any articles for *The Dunellen Report* are due early next week; 2) there has been chatter on social media about Santa. Yes, Santa will still be coming to Dunellen. We thank our Fire Department. Santa will be starting out on the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup> on the South side of Town. Be careful and stay six feet away. He will not be stopping for pictures; 3) thank you to our front-line workers: Police, Fire, and Rescue for working through this once in a lifetime pandemic, and to Mr. Mosley with OEM. Thank you to Mayor Cilento for doing an incredible job. Lastly, thank you to Ken Bayer for his service and it has been an honor to serve with you.

Mr. Bayer: 1) thanked his wife and family for allowing him to do this job for twelve years, as well as the residents. Thank you everybody and I will see you soon.

Dr. Dunne: 1) received a note from the DPW regarding how helpful it was to have residents remove their cars from the streets before the recent snow storm; 2) for the Department of Public Works report for the weeks of December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, they routinely cleaned the walks and streets of downtown, did a final leaf clean up in the parks, graded the baseball fields at Columbia Park with the High School Groundskeeper for preparation for the 2021 Baseball Season (part of shared services), took apart and removed a couple of desks from the Police Station, rebuilt a catch basin on First Street, installed new signs on Park and First Streets, Ron along with PARSAs located a



water leak issue, Ron informed American Water about this problem, crews removed bags and branches on the street prior to the storm, they prepared all trucks, salters, and snow blowers prior to the storm, Rich Herkert, our Mechanic, repaired Police cars #502, #503, and #507, and also DPW Truck #40, and our Bucket Truck. Rich also installed a new gas tank on the Loader. This spring we will have a street sweeping schedule that will operate throughout most of the year (once a month your street will be swept by the street sweeper). We will have more details about that in March; 3) a shout out to Ron, Mike, Tom, Joe, Rich, Jessie, Ryan, and Chris for their hard work during the snowstorm on December 16-17th, working through the night to keep our roads as clear as possible; 4) a reminder from the Dunellen Parking Authority that there is free parking downtown until January 1<sup>st</sup>; 5) the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is under final review and we should have something in January 2021; 6) thank you to Mayor Cilento and Dr. Robins for allowing us to participate virtually. COVID-19 cases continue to rise here in town and I encourage everyone to stay home as much as is possible; 7) a thank you to Ken Bayer for your guidance over the past three years, for your mentorship, and more importantly for your friendship. It has been a pleasure getting to know you. One of the things the residents don't realize is how much you do and how much you have done. You just do it, quietly, whatever needs to be done. I know you will be missed.

Mr. Sigmon: [lost connection—no report.]

Mrs. Narvesen: 1) for Recreation, Santa Around Town has already been noted; 2) the Annual Senior Holiday Party will be postponed; 3) the Recreation Department will again start Food Shopping for Seniors. If any senior needs food shopping, please call Alex Miller; 4) the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization is working on possible spring events; 5) and she also thanks Ken Bayer. You are our family.

Mayor Cilento: the Reorganization Meeting will be on January 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 pm. We are hoping to make it all virtual, except for Council Member Dunne and Councilmember-elect Reid. They will be able to join us live for their swearing-in. Please limit invited family members to immediate family.

### **Covid-19 Update:**

Since my last report on 12/18/2020, we have been made aware of fourteen more new cases added to Dunellen's cumulative total of 457. Dunellen's cumulative death total remains at ten.

Dunellen and Middlesex County's cumulative totals can be found at [www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/](http://www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/)

Please also visit the Middlesex County website for a schedule for free flu shots, as well as locations for COVID-19 testing.

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub at: [www.covid19.nj.gov](http://www.covid19.nj.gov).

If you need assistance due to a mental health crisis because of the impact of COVID-19, please text the crisis line by texting "NJ" to 741741, call the family helpline at 1-800-843-5437 or call the mental health line at 1-866-202-4357. Please remember to continue practicing social distancing and wearing of a mask.

### **Capital Improvements:**

Railroad Avenue – Work has been postponed to this project until January 4<sup>th</sup>. Notifications will be sent to the residences on Railroad Avenue.

South Madison Avenue – The work is in progress and will continue throughout the winter, weather permitting.

### **Middlesex County Partnership & Projects:**

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders passed two resolutions at their 12/17/2020 county board meeting that will greatly impact Dunellen's infrastructure. First, they approved the agreement the Borough Council approved for the mill and pave program. This program will greatly impact the amount of roads Dunellen will be able to pave annually at a more cost-effective rate. Secondly, the Freeholders approved a contract to Underground Utilities Corp. for the replacement of Culvert-151 located on South Madison Avenue over the Bonygutt Brook. This project is anticipated in the spring of 2021. This project will be an improvement in this area of town in terms of flood mitigation and the flow of water through the brook.

### **Dunellen Arts & Culture Commission (DACC):**

DACC had two workshops this past month. One was in partnership with the duCret School of the Arts. This was a Takumi Pottery online workshop. The second was an ornament workshop with Lisa Doren from Dunellen's Lisa's Hand Painted & Handcrafted Gifts and More. DACC will also be putting together craft kits for winter break. These workshops and projects were made available through grant funds from Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

### **Thank You to Council President Kenneth Bayer:**

It has been an honor serving alongside Kenneth Bayer for the past ten years. His service to our community has been significant to say the least. Ken has been serving the community for decades from coaching Little League to serving on the Planning Board before he was elected to the Borough Council. Ken has been vital in the redevelopment of Dunellen's downtown, having worked to see the development of the Art Color complex and other smaller projects throughout Dunellen's downtown. As chair over the years of the Finance and Administration Committee, Department of Public Works Committee, and Police & Public Safety Committee, Ken has always sought to work in the best interest of Dunellen's residents to ensure quality of services, while also maintaining a mutual respect for our employees. Simply put, Ken is someone who always keeps his word and has never been braggadocious about how much he does for Dunellen. He always shows up and does the job with no expectation of credit. He is a man of honor and we should all strive to emulate his style of public service. Our Miracle Mile is better because of his service. You leave behind big shoes to fill, Council President Bayer. Thank you, Ken for your years of service to Dunellen. I want to thank you for my first year of service as mayor. You were here non-stop, and I am indebted to you and I am grateful to you for everything you have done for this town.

**Happy Holidays:**

As we conclude this year, I hope our neighbors who observe Chanukah had a happy one and enjoyed the festival of lights, and as we come to the celebration of Christmas and Kwanza, may we enjoy time with our families in a safe way and may we move into the New Year with optimism and good faith. Don't forget about Santa around Town on Christmas Eve as he is escorted around town by the Dunellen Fire Department. Be sure to follow him on the tracker that can be found on the Dunellen Fire Department's Facebook page. Please remember to join us on January 1<sup>st</sup> at noon for our reorganization meeting, which will be virtual. More information on how to join will be made available in the near future. I look forward to this day to address the Borough of Dunellen about our accomplishments in 2020 and the look ahead to our 2021 agenda.

Homer Mosley, Office of Emergency Management, informed the Council that on January 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual workshop on Shelter Fundamentals. We are in the midst of developing the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. He would like to thank his OEM Team members for their hard work in 2020, and to April Burke who has been of great assistance in the revision of the Emergency Operations Plan.

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

No one from the public spoke.

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On the motion of Mr. Bayer and seconded by Mrs. Rios was moved to accept the following:

**12-21-2020: #28**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of December 21, 2020 is adjourned.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon