

December 5, 2022

Note: This meeting was in a hybrid format, with limited seating in the Council Chambers supplemented by teleconference for the public who could not attend.

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on December 5, 2022.

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

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

Present: Jason Cilento, Trina Rios, Teresa Albertson, Jessica Dunne, Joseph Paltjon, Daniel Cole Sigmon and Harold VanDermark

On the motion of Mr. Sigmon and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 21, 2022.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mrs. Albertson and seconded by Mr. Paltjon it was moved to accept the following:

**12-05-2022: #10**

That the following resolution be read in honor of Laura Ruskuski

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

Mayor Cilento stated that this resolution is being presented to honor a life-long resident of Dunellen, Laura Ruskuski, who has also been a long-time volunteer and member of the Dunellen Parks and Recreation Commission. [At the time of this Council Meeting] Laura is battling a terminal illness. Earlier today, he and Recreation Director Alexander Miller presented this Resolution to Laura and her family.

**Resolution by Mayor Jason F. Cilento and the Dunellen Borough Council  
On Awarding Laura Ruskuski  
An Honorary Perpetual Park and Recreation Commissioner Membership**

**WHEREAS, Laura Ruskuski is a long-time resident of Dunellen; and**

**WHEREAS, Laura, born and raised in Dunellen and a third-generation Dunellenite, resides on Jackson Avenue with her husband John and two daughters, Alexandra and Kathryn; and**

**WHEREAS, Laura has consistently demonstrated that she holds the welfare of the residents of Dunellen in deep regard; and**

**WHEREAS, Laura is a member of the Dunellen Recreation Commission and has been a volunteer in many capacities for the Recreation Department, going as far back as 1982 when she began her softball coaching career under the guidance of Clem Santy; and**

**WHEREAS, in early 2014, misfortune came to the Dunellen Recreation Department resulting in the absence of its Director. The Department's communications and logistics capabilities were severely compromised. Scores of programs for hundreds of Dunellen children, teens and seniors were in jeopardy; and**

**WHEREAS, Laura Ruskuski led a team of truly dedicated Recreation Commissioners in a monumental rescue that literally saved the Dunellen Recreation Department from floundering; and**

**WHEREAS, Laura's team collectively devoted thousands of hours recreating files, establishing phone chains, arranging for coaches and umpires and supplies, holding planning and implementation meetings, writing procedures and policies, reaching out to parents and vendors, and responding to hundreds of telephone calls and emails; and**

**WHEREAS, Laura's team spent many additional hours searching for a new Recreation Director, making sure that the candidates reflected the enduring spirit and exceptional values embodied by the can-do ethic Laura demonstrated all summer.**

**NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, along with the Borough Council, extend thanks and deep gratitude to Laura Ruskuski for her many years of service to the Borough of Dunellen, specifically to our Parks and Recreation Department, in awarding her with an Honorary Perpetual Parks and Recreation Commissioner Membership.**

**Thank you for everything, Laura.**

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

**ORDINANCE 2022-30**

**BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN**

The following ordinance is being 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 5, 2022. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of said governing body to be held in the Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, in said County, on Monday, December 19, 2022 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 members of the general public who shall request the same.

Dunellen Municipal Code, Chapter 233-37, Sewer Rates is amended to read as follows:

Section 233-37. Sewer rates.

The sanitary sewer rates shall be as follows:

A. Owners of single-family residential properties, including existing townhouses or those created through redevelopment projects that are connected to the Borough sanitary sewer system, shall pay a flat annual rate in the amount of \$350.00 to be paid in equal installments semi-annually to the Dunellen Borough Sanitary Sewer Utility on the 15th day of April and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, following each period for which sewer service has been provided.

B. Owners of multi-family residential properties (properties with two, three or four residential units) connected to the Borough sanitary sewer system shall pay a flat annual rate for each residential unit in the amount of \$350.00 to be paid in equal installments semi-annually to the Dunellen Borough Sanitary Sewer Utility on the 15th day of April and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, following each period for which sewer service has been provided.

C. Owners of non-residential properties, including residential properties with five or more units and mixed residential/commercial properties connected to the Borough sanitary sewer system, shall be charged, except as otherwise stated herein, for sewer service based upon the amount of water supplied to the commercial property as determined by meter readings supplied by New Jersey American Water of the previous year, payable semi-annually. The apartments or rental units above or adjacent to the commercial property shall be billed at a flat rate of \$350.00 per apartment or rental unit to be paid in equal installments semi-annually. The sewer fee for the commercial parts of a mixed-use commercial/residential property, or of an entirely non-residential property, shall be \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons of water used at the property (whether determined by meter or estimate), but no less than the minimum annual usage charge of \$350.00. Where water usage cannot be determined by meter reading, the Sewer Utility fee shall be based on the property's estimated water usage, which estimate shall be calculated using best engineering practices for the property in question. Sewer user fees are to be paid to the Dunellen Borough Sanitary Sewer Utility on the 15th day of April and 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, following each period for which sewer service has been provided or available.

D. There shall be an annual sewer Administrative/Facility charge for all non-residential improved properties, residential properties with five or more units, and mixed residential/commercial properties, of \$150.00 in addition to the above rates described in Subsection C above. This charge is payable semi-annually in the amount of \$75.00 and is to be paid in concert with the sewer service charges.

E. Any single-family residential property that qualifies for the senior citizen tax deduction shall also be afforded a discount of \$100.00 from the residential property fee set forth in Subsection A above.

F. The foregoing rates and charges have been calculated in accordance with Chapter 230-7 and shall be subject to annual revision based upon the Borough and its Sewer Utility's financial obligation to PARSA and/or MCUA. In addition, separate fees or charges may be imposed by the

Borough's Sewer Utility upon specific users or one or more categories of users to defray fines, penalties or other extraordinary charges that may be imposed by PARSA and/or MCUA. Payment of such separate fees or charges shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in Chapter 233-36. The Borough Sewer Utility may also in its sole discretion and upon application of a user demonstrating special circumstances adjust a user's sewer use charges.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mr. Sigmon and seconded by Mr. VanDermark it was moved to accept the following:

## **ORDINANCE 2022-31**

### **BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN**

The following Ordinance is being 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 5, 2022. It will be presented for Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption at a meeting of said governing body to be held in Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, in said County, on December 19, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who have requested same.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that various fees as set forth in the Municipal Code of the Borough of Dunellen are hereby amended.

#### Chapter 168. Food-Handling Establishments

##### Article I. Licensing

§ 168-2. License required; fee; expiration.

##### B.

The annual license fee to be paid for conducting a retail food establishment shall be the sum of \$175.00. The fee for a temporary, one-day retail food establishment is set at \$25 per day. The annual fee for a mobile retail food establishment shall be in the sum of \$275.00.

##### D.

All new food establishments licensed on or after January 1, but before the expiration date of June 30th, shall pay half of the annual fee, \$87.50.

E.

There will be a reinspection fee of \$35.00 for each and every reinspection that results in a rating other than satisfactory.

§ 168-3. Violations and penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of or order promulgated under this article or code shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days, or both. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues. If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 will be assessed for each calendar month or any part thereof following the due date of such fee.

Chapter 99. Amusement Devices

§ 99-4. Fees.

The annual fee for an operator of any amusement game, machine, or device, which shall include the premises where the game or games are located, shall be as follows:

A.

For the first six machines: \$60.

B.

For each additional machine over six: \$40.

C.

If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 will be assessed for each calendar month or any part thereof following the due date of such fee.

D. License term.

The annual term for an amusement device is January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> and the license fee is due by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chapter 96. Alcoholic Beverages

§ 96-5. Plenary retail consumption licenses; fee.

The fee for a plenary retail consumption license shall be \$1,000.00 and the holder of such license shall be entitled, subject to rules and regulations, to sell for consumption on the licensed premises any alcoholic beverages by the glass or other open receptacle and also to sell all alcoholic beverages in original containers for consumption off the licensed premises.

If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 will be assessed for each calendar month or any part thereof following the due date of such fee. The term for a plenary retail consumption license is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

§ 96-7. Plenary retail distribution licenses; fee.

The fee for a plenary retail consumption license shall be \$1,000.00, and the holder of such license shall be entitled, subject to rules and regulations, to sell any alcoholic beverages for consumption off the licensed premises, but only in original containers.

If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date, a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 will be assessed for each calendar month or any part there of following the due date of such fee. The term for a plenary retail distribution license is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30th.

§ 96-8. Club licenses; fee.

A.

The fee for a club license shall be in the sum of \$80.00, and the holder of such license shall be entitled, subject to rules and regulations, to sell to only bona fide club members and their bona fide guests, alcoholic beverages intended for immediate consumption on the licensed premises.

If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 will be assessed for each calendar month or any part there of following the due date of such fee. The term for a Club license is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30th.

Chapter 130. Clothing Bins

§ 130-1. Permit required.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.61, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person or entity shall place, use, or employ a donation clothing bin, for solicitation purposes, within the Borough of Dunellen unless the person or entity shall obtain a permit, valid for a period of one year, issued by the Borough Clerk, upon approval of the Borough Council, in accordance with this Chapter 130. Such a permit will be valid for one year, beginning January 1 of any new year and ending on December 31 of that year.

§ 130-3. Renewal of permit.

An expiring permit for a donation clothing bin may be renewed upon application for renewal and payment of \$150.00 per bin fee for such renewal, to offset the costs involved in enforcing this chapter and N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.60 et seq. Such application shall include:

A.

The location where the bin is situated, as precisely as possible, and, if the person intends to move it, the new location where the bin would be situated after the renewal is granted and written consent from the property owner to place the bin on his property;

B.

The manner in which the person has used, sold, or dispersed any clothing or other donations collected via the bin, the method by which the proceeds of collected donations have been allocated or spent, and any changes the person anticipates it may make in these processes during the period covered by the renewal; and

C.

The name, and telephone number of the bona fide office required pursuant to § 130-2D of this chapter of any entity which shared or profited from any clothing or other donations collected via the bin, and of any entities which may do so during the period covered by the renewal.

§ 130-6. Violations and penalties.

In addition to any other penalties or remedies authorized by the laws of this state, any person who violates any provision of N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.60 *et seq.* which results in seizure of the donation clothing bin shall be: if any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 per bin will be assessed for each calendar month or any part thereof following the due date of such fee.

Ordinance 2021-04, "Sale of Electronic Smoking Devices and Electronic Smoking Device Products."

Section 3. Licensing Fees.

I.

If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date a late fee surcharge of \$75.00 will be assessed for each calendar month or any part thereof following the due date of such fee.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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

**12-05-2022: #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: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mr. Sigmon and seconded by Mrs. Albertson it was moved to accept the following:

**12-05-2022: #2**

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

Whereas, there exists a need to purchase a Ford Super Duty F-250 Pick-Up Truck with options for the Dunellen Fire Department; and

Whereas, a quote has been received from:

National Auto Fleet Group, (A&K Equipment Company), Rahway, NJ -- \$67,927.38

And whereas National Auto Fleet Group has a State Contract through Sourcewell (091521-NAF) for this system, and

The funds for this contract have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer. The funds will be taken from Account # C-011-22-006-000-601.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that a Ford F-250 Truck with option package be purchased from National Auto Fleet Group, for an amount not to exceed \$67,927.38.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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

**12-05-2022: #3**

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

A contract is awarded to Staats Plumbing and Heating, LLC., for the repair of a condenser pipe connected to the Municipal Building boiler, at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00. The funds for this contract will be taken from Account #2-01-26-310-000-203.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mr. VanDermark and seconded by Mrs. Albertson it was moved to accept the following:

**12-05-2022: #4**

**Borough of Dunellen**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF PUSH BUTTON RAPID  
RECTANGULAR FLASHING BEACONS AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS OF ROUTE  
28 (NORTH AVENUE) DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, Mayor Jason F. Cilento and the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey consider public safety one of its most important responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize traffic safety and, more specifically, pedestrian and vehicular safety, to be important components of public safety for local government entities throughout the State of New Jersey; and



WHEREAS, in light of various local, county, and state jurisdictional boundaries along roadways throughout the Borough, the Mayor and Council believes it is important for all levels of government to work together closely in furtherance of traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, to that end, Route 28, otherwise known as North Avenue and Bound Brook Road, are roadways owned by the State of New Jersey and is under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, through deliberative communications with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the Mayor on behalf of the Borough and in consultation with the Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force, has expressed our concerns about pedestrian safety within the Route 28 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has identified four key areas in and around the intersections of Sanford Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Jackson Avenue and Route 28 as particular areas of immediate concern; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council, at the direction of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, wish to affirmatively consider the foregoing Resolution which will serve to formalize the aforementioned concerns and request the installation of push button "Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons" in and around the intersections of Sanford Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Jackson Avenue and Route 28, commonly known as North Avenue and Bound Brook Road; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council express strong support for the installation of such aforementioned system and agree to further support it through the contribution of 25% towards the electrical costs associated with the installation of such a system and cost-sharing standards established within the requirements and regulations set forth by the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor Jason F. Cilento and the Borough Council of Dunellen, Middlesex County, State of New Jersey that our request to install a push button "Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons" in and around the intersections of Sanford Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Jackson Avenue and Route 28, commonly known as North Avenue and Bound Brook Road be made to the New Jersey Department of Transportation and that the Borough of Dunellen agrees to contribute 25% towards the electrical costs associated with the installation such system and cost-sharing standards establish within the requirements and regulations set forth by the State of New Jersey; and that the Municipal Clerk be and is hereby directed and authorized to transmit a fully executed copy of the Resolution to the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Bureau of Traffic Engineering, and the Office of Government & Community Relations.

Dr. Dunne asked about a painted crosswalk at Sanford Avenue? Mayor Cilento responded that by statute NJ DOT has to. NJ DOT will also be installing ADA compliant ramps. He also noted that the borough's share of the 25% might come from community donations from at least two developers.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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

**12-05-2022: #5**

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

Janet Lettieri is hereby hired as a Substitute School Crossing Guard, effective December 5, 2022, at an hourly salary of \$13.00. This is a position without benefits.

Dr. Dunne asked if we made a comparison of crossing guard salaries in nearby communities. Dr. Robins replied that we did not have a formal comparison, but we know that the numbers are \$15, \$16, \$17 and \$18. It is his intention to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee to make a substantial increase in starting salaries.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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

**12-05-2022: #6**

**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 2022 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	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
22-195-299	Construction Code		\$5,000
23-220-299	Group Insurance		30,000
25-240-101	Police	\$10,000	
31-460-299	Gasoline		5,000
	Subtotal	10,000	\$40,000
	Total		<b><u>\$50,000</u></b>

Whereas, there appears to be insufficient funds in the following 2022 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary; viz:

To:

Account	Title	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
20-100-003	Legal Advertising		\$200
20-120-001	Elections		1,200
20-150-101	Assessment of Taxes	\$25	
20-155-222	Legal Services	125	17,000
22-195-101	Construction Code	100	
23-210-299	Other Insurance		14,000
25-252-111	Emergency Management	125	
25-265-001	Fire Hydrant Service		5,000
26-290-101	Road Repairs	5,000	
26-310-111	Public Buildings & Grounds	1,000	
36-472-299	Social Security		6,225
	Subtotal	\$6,375	\$43,625
	Total	<b><u>\$50,000</u></b>	

Yes:

Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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

**12-05-2022: #7**

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

Agata Del Mauro is hired as a Planning Board/Redevelopment Escrow Clerk to oversee and process the various redevelopment escrow accounts, at a rate of \$35.00 per hour, effective immediately. The hiring of Agata Del Mauro is subject to the satisfactory submission of a criminal background check. This is a part-time position without benefits.

Mayor Cilento noted that with the increase in redevelopment has come an increase in monitoring the escrow accounts and we believe it best if we find a person dedicated to this task, thus freeing up our own personnel to attend to the many demands of their own departments.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mrs. Albertson and seconded by Mr. VanDermark it was moved to accept the following:

**12-05-2022: #8**

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

A contract is awarded to Absolute Fire Protection Co., Inc., for the refurbishment of Dunellen Fire Department Engine No. 2, at a cost not to exceed \$290,844.00. Funds for this award are to be taken from Account # C-011-22-006-000-601.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Citizen of the Year and Life-Time Achievement Award. We had solicited nominations from Councilmembers and we received one nomination for Lifetime and two for Citizen of the Year.

Mayor Cilento nominated former mayor Robert J. Seader. He noted a few of Mayor Seader accomplishments (Open-Space Grants, the development of Columbia Park, and Transit Village designation). Council gave unanimous consent.

For Citizen of the Year, Mayor Cilento nominated William Wagner, currently Chair of the Dunellen Parking Authority. He noted some of Mr. Wagner contributions, most notably overseeing the Parking Authority during the pandemic and ensuring that all their employees kept their jobs. Dr. Dunne had nominated the Dunellen Outings Community Committee who filled a gap in recreation activities for adults and seniors and she thinks they have done a very good and innovative job this year. Council discussed the two nominations and it was noted that DOCC is new and Bill Wagner has contributed for a long time and has done a lot. DOCC can be nominated in the future. Council consensus was to nominate William Wagner for Citizen of the Year.

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**Reports:**

Mrs. Albertson: 1) Fire Department--thank you to our firefighters for bringing Santa safely to the Christmas tree lighting last night. Christmas trees are still available. You can pick up a tree at the fire station They are open every Thursday and Friday from 6pm - 9pm. Saturday and Sundays 10-6 until sold out. Refurbished Fire Engine No. 2 has left Florida and is on its way back to Dunellen; 2) Greenbrook Flood Control Commission--the next meeting of the Green Brook Flood Control Commission will be held on Wednesday, December 7, at 7:30 pm. Check their website <http://gbfcc.org/> or my Facebook page for the link to the meeting; 3) Dunellen Senior Club--it's the place to be on Friday mornings. After our weekly business meeting we have special activities. In November we went to the Dunellen Public Library for a special program on Butterfly gardens. It has inspired the members to turn the planters in front of the Senior Center into Butterfly gardens. We are hoping to get some support from the community to help us purchase planting materials and plants. We had a Native American program from Redhawk Council. The program included educational information, music and dancing. Incoming events include a visit from Aristacare for Bingo and our annual potluck Christmas luncheon. After a 2 week break for the holidays, we will be back on January 6th. We look forward to another year of friendship, fun and activities.

Mrs. Rios: 1) Dunellen Public Library has some fantastic programs this month for all ages. Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information; 2) the Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission--when visiting or driving through our downtown take look at the wonderful window winter scenes painted on Dunellen businesses by our DACC members. If you are interested in having your business windows painted, please visit the Recreation Department web page and look for the DACC window tab to register; 3) the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization has decorated downtown with festive Christmas trees; 4) the Municipal Alliance will have a meeting tomorrow at 4:00 pm.

Mr. VanDermark: 1) yesterday was the Recreation Department's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. It is always a wonderful community event. We had a very good turnout on a beautiful night. For this event to take place, it takes a lot of help from many people and the Recreation Department would like to thank all involved: thank you to Mayor and Council for all their support, thanks to the Dunellen Fire Department, Police Department, Rescue Squad, OEM for your involvement in the Ceremony. Additionally, thank you to the following:

- DPW for preparing the park for the Ceremony.
- Boy Scout #129 for decorating the park with the Luminaries, filled in for Ken Baudendistel who was not available (Ken has done the Luminaries for the last 15 years).
- Girl Scouts troops #65248 , Unit #62, and Daisy Troop #65938.
- The Rotary Club is always there with hot chocolate and treats.
- The Imperial Brass Band.
- Karl Geiger and the Faber School Choir.
- Special thanks to Mike Luthman!

Senior Movie Monday-next Movie date is Monday, December 12th at 10 am. We are waiting on what movie will be showing. It will be a Holiday Seasonal Movie. Senior Holiday Party--the Recreation Department's Annual Senior Holiday Party will take place on Sunday, January 8th at 1:30 pm. Anyone interested in attending can call or email the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department would like to invite Dr. Robins, Mayor Cilento, and Council as always.

Dr. Dunne: 1) the Police Department is looking for Crossing Guards. Please contact Sgt. DelBuono if interested. The Dunellen PBA would like to extend their gratitude to everyone who volunteered, attended, or otherwise supported their toy drive last weekend. Thanks to the generosity of the supporters, the Dunellen PBA was able to donate hundreds of toys to embrella, formerly Foster and Adoptive Family Services, which serves foster, adoptive and kinship parents in communities throughout New Jersey.

I would also like to extend my personal thanks to those on patrol and our DPW during last week's storm for ensuring the safety of everyone. We had a downed tree and no power on our block and both were quick to respond and help the residents return to normal that evening; 2) the next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, December 13th at 7 pm. This Thursday is the DHS & LMS Choir Concert at 7 pm at Dunellen High School; 3) Shade Tree Commission – as always, if you are interested in having a tree planted, please contact the DSTC; 4) Dunellen

Parking Authority – last meeting of the year is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

I want to express my condolences for Jamesburg Councilwoman Daria Ludas, who passed away last month. She truly was someone who cared deeply about her community.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) DPW crew has been cleaning the downtown daily and all our Borough Properties & Parks.

- Crew will continue picking up leaf bags throughout the Borough. Bag pick-up will take place through December.
- Continued leaf clean-up in the parks and borough properties.
- Run roll-off boxes to the dump.
- Took down all the American Flags and Hometown Heroes Banners downtown.
- Put the wreaths and Christmas Trees up in the downtown.
- Put up the Christmas Decorations and the Christmas Tree in Washington Memorial Park.
- Prepared plows and salting equipment for the upcoming snow season. Replaced a few hoses on the backhoe.

Mr. Paltjon: 1) Buildings and Grounds Report--the Borough Hall roof project is nearing 90% completion. The main roof repairs have been completed and most of the work that is left is installing new metal flashing; 2) PARSA Report--the Borough has requested PARSA to inspect our sewer mains on the streets. New Jersey American Water will install new water main services and those that will be paved in 2023. Mayor Cilento will provide more information on those streets.

Mayor Cilento:

Lincoln Ave Project: The push button rapid rectangular flashing beacon signs have been installed and are operational.

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Update:

I have been speaking with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) on behalf of the Borough and the Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force about our concerns over pedestrian safety within the Route 28 corridor. This evening, the Mayor and Council approved a resolution supporting push button rapid rectangular flashing beacons at key locations along Route 28 (North Avenue and Bound Brook Road). This system is the same as the ones recently installed along Lincoln Avenue and on South Avenue. The resolution calls for the support of a 25% cost-sharing agreement between the Borough of Dunellen and NJDOT for the installation of push button rapid rectangular flashing beacons at the intersection of Sanford Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Jackson Avenue along Route 28. In consultation with NJDOT, after this resolution is issued to their traffic & engineering division, they will begin the necessary steps to study these areas and negotiate with the Borough terms. They have advised us that any installation could take upward of 12-months.

In addition, the Mayor and Council approved a resolution earlier this year requesting that NJDOT study the areas of North Avenue and Washington Avenue and Madison Avenue and North Avenue as areas in which 18-wheelers can no longer make turns. I have been advised that the implementation of the “no truck turn” will be completed on December 12, 2022 and sent over to their operations division for execution. It is dependent upon their work queue and the earliest time available for the appropriate signage to be installed. We have also expressed interest in turn signals for both these intersections, but a traffic study and review of electrical work must commence, and the Borough must agree to cost sharing of these expenses, as well as determine funding sources.

Furthermore, Business Administrator William Robins, Lt. Chris Beenders and I met with Middlesex County regarding Washington Avenue and New Market Road, two County roads that go through Dunellen and spoke about pedestrian and traffic safety along these corridors. We spoke about short-term goals, such as the appropriate striping of North Washington Avenue on making it a double line and not a dotted, as well as edge striping to help narrow the road. We also spoke about push button rapid rectangular flashing beacons at key locations, and the possibility of traffic signals at the appropriate intersections. Much like the NJDOT considerations, there would have to be a traffic study and review of electrical work, and the Borough must agree to cost sharing of these expenses and find a funding source.

There will be more information to come as it is provided by NJDOT and Middlesex County. I wanted to make note of these conversations being held with higher jurisdictions, so residents are aware we are working towards improving pedestrian and traffic safety in our community with various stakeholders. However, please keep in mind there are various matters to take into consideration as we begin to review our options.

**Dunellen Station Development:**

- Prism has requested a TCO for tenant occupancy of Building A-1.
- K Hovnanian is seeking a TCO for occupancy of Building B14 prior to the end of the year.

**Culvert Cleaning Project:**

National Water Main Cleaning Company has continued the culvert clean-out project. This should help with water flow during severe rainstorms. To date the contractor has cleared the following culverts of silt and debris:

- South Washington Avenue
- South Avenue
- Prospect Avenue & Grove Street

**Remaining culverts to be cleaned out are:**

- Grove Street Pipe towards Gertrude Terrace
- Gertrude Terrace Culvert
- Prospect Avenue Pipe (300' south of Skinner Plaza)
- New Market Road & Whittier Avenue Culvert

- Prospect Avenue Culvert (new #235 Prospect Ave)
- High Street/Gavornik Park: Piping system from South Madison Avenue to Gavornik Park

Please note that the Pulaski Street Culvert is not listed as we are working to coordinate with Middlesex County a replacement of this culvert soon. This project schedule is currently being worked out and from start to finish should take around a month to complete.

New Jersey American Water:

NJAW has completed the striping of Pulaski Street and North Ave Ext. This completes their 2022 road and utility improvement projects. In 2022, NJAW installed new water mains, new fire hydrants and water services to each home on the roads they did work on. In addition, they paved each street curb-to-curb which is approximately 2.5 miles. The following roads were part of their 2022 improvement schedule:

- Washington Avenue (from First Street to Mountain View Terrace)
- Madison Ave Avenue (from First Street to Mountain View Terrace)
- Mountainview Terrace (from Madison Avenue terminus by McCoy Park)
- Fourth Street (from Third Street to McCoy Park)
- Third Street (Fourth Street to Washington Avenue)
- North Avenue Extension (full length of the road)
- Pulaski Street (from North Avenue to the dead end at Gavornik Park)

It has been a pleasure working with NJAW this past year, having 2.5 miles worth of roads paved for free (which is approximately \$900,000.00). NJAW has requested to do work on the following streets in 2023:

- Washington Avenue (from First Street to North Avenue)
- Penfield Place (South Washington to Maple Avenue)
- Maple Avenue

PSE&G Road Pavement: we have been notified that scheduled road improvements for the following blocks in Dunellen may be delayed until spring 2023: 800 block of First Street; 700 & 800 blocks of Dunellen Avenue; and 700 & 800 blocks of Front Street. The approved contractor for the project is experiencing an unanticipated delay on a project that had been scheduled prior to contracting the work in Dunellen. The delay is pushing us into the winter months and the low temperatures are not ideal for paving roads.

Mayoral Town Hall Meetings:

Please join us on Thursday, December 15 at 7 pm for the Mayoral Town Hall Meeting on “Redevelopment in Dunellen.” We will discuss topics such as our recent Master Plan Re-Examination, updates on ongoing redevelopment projects, affordable housing, school-aged children in redevelopment projects, PILOTs (Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes)/Short Term Tax Exemption Program and there will be a question-and-answer session. As host, I will moderate the



discussion with the municipality's redevelopment professionals. Information on how to join the town hall is located here:

YouTube viewing: <https://youtu.be/6wTBcj7fbVY>

GoToMeeting:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/716119813>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(312\) 757-3121](tel:+13127573121)

Access Code: 716-119-813

I hope to see you there for this important conversation as we continue to revitalize Dunellen's downtown.

### CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Dunellen's successes have been and will continue to be made possible thanks to the countless volunteers who serve our community on a Borough committee, commission, or board. If you are interested in being involved, now is the time to take the first step. Complete the 2023 Committees' Volunteer Application, which is open now until Friday, December 16. There are two ways to apply: complete a paper application, which is available at the Clerk's Office in Borough Hall; or apply online at [https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/volunteer\\_sign-up/index.php](https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/volunteer_sign-up/index.php). Based on your area of interest and experience, applicants will be considered for appointments to vacant seats on Borough committees, commissions, and boards. For more information, please email me at: [jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov).

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### Department Heads reports:

Homer Mosley, Office of Emergency Management: Five CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members participated in the Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on 12/4/2022 enhancing the safe situation awareness objective of the Police Department and other Emergency Responders. CERT members donned their new Winter weather protective coats purchased from EMMA Grant funds at the event. OEM and CERT thank the Council for their support of the Office of Emergency Management.

OEM and CERT, along with Mayor Cilento, Council Members Sigmond and Vandermark and other community members had their first Project CARE Meeting to discuss how the Dunellen Community can assist our residents that are unhoused. The committee is making progress toward providing warming centers for these residents to escape the cold and to date, one church has offered to help provide an additional warming center besides that of the Police Department and NJ Transit.

Mayor Cilento thanked Mr. Mosley for hosting that meeting. We are on a productive course in addressing this pressing issue. He also thanked the PBA for the events they hosted over the

weekend, the American Legion, the Friends of the Dunellen Library, as well as the Recreation Department and all the emergency services agencies for what they did for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. A great start to the Holiday Season.

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Public Portion:

No one from the public spoke.

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

**12-05-2022: #9**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of December 5, 2022 is adjourned.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

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The YouTube presentation of this Council meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGHIRkWBJWM>