

January 1, 2023

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on January 1, 2023.

Mayor Jason F. Cilento called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Municipal Clerk William Robins read the Sunshine Statement and called the Roll for the 2022 Council.

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

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

01-01-2023: #1

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

The 2022 Dunellen Borough Council is hereby adjourned.

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

The Oath of Office for Councilwoman Trina G. Rios was administered by Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz

The Oath of Office for Councilman Daniel Cole Sigmon was administered by Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz

The Oath of Office for Councilman Harold VanDermark was administered by Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz

Assemblywoman Munoz thanked the Mayor, Council and audience for the opportunity to swear in the new council people. She and Michele Matsikoudis, who was also present at the Meeting, will be Dunellen's new Assembly representatives, along with Senator John Bramnick. She wished everyone a healthy and happy and prosperous New Year.

Mayor Jason F. Cilento called to order the 2023 Borough Council. The Roll Call was taken by Municipal Clerk William M. Robins:

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

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

01-01-2023: #2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire legal services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the Law Offices of John E. Bruder, Esq., has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services for the amount set forth in the 2022 Municipal Salary Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Law Offices of John E. Bruder has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that John E. Bruder has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit John E. Bruder from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the Law Offices of John E. Bruder as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in *The Courier* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

Mayor Cilento praised Mr. Bruder for his long and distinguished service to Dunellen.

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

The Oath of Office for John E. Bruder was administered by Municipal Clerk William M. Robins.

At this point, nominations for Dunellen Borough Council President were made. Trina Rios was nominated by Mrs. Albertson and her nomination seconded by Mr. VanDermark.

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

01-01-2023: #3

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

Trina G. Rios is hereby appointed Dunellen Borough Council President for Year 2023.

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

Mayor Cilento praised Councilwoman Rios, noting that she was the first Hispanic Councilperson and first Council President.

At this point, the following appointments were made:

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS and COMMISSIONS

1. Mayor's appointments to Standing and Special Committees
2. Mayor's appointments to the Planning Board: Roger Dornbierer, Robert Krause and Christopher Brillante
3. Mayor's appointments to the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization: Theresa Ratner, Jeremy Rettig, Lauren Meyers, Rimla Khawaja, Christopher Cotty, Margaret Lockwood, William Robins and Heidi Heleniak
4. Mayor's appointments to the Dunellen Parking Authority: William Wagner, Cliff Vail and John Paul Osborn
5. Mayor's appointments to the Mayor's Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task Force: Diana Starace, Crisol-Iris Lantz and Sgt. Jeffrey Delbuono (Traffic Safety Officer)
6. Mayor's appointments to the Dunellen Recreation Commission: Kathy Wilson and Timothy Howard
7. Mayor's appointments to the Maurer House Restoration Committee: Karen Seader, Linda Petracca and Edward Webber
8. Mayor's appointments to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Martha Morse and Amy Cheney

9. Mayor's appointments to the Master Plan Re-Examination Steering Committee: Jason F. Cilento, Roger Dornbierer, Thomas D'Amico, Edward Webber, Sara Maher, Kenneth Baudendistel, Homer Mosley, Jr., Lily Yip, Margaret Lockwood, Crisol-Iris Lantz, Chiara Kupiec, William Robins, Trina Rios, Teresa Albertson
10. Mayor's appointments to the Mayor's Cannabis Task Force: Roger Dornbierer, Det. Nicholas Goldman, Isaias Noel Gendrano III, PhD, MPH, Melanie Tirpak, Tara Duggan, Steve Fucito, Mara Carlin and Shronda Wise-Schimp
11. Mayor's appointments to the Dunellen Library Board of Trustees: Edward Ditter and Richard Pinder
12. Mayor's appointments to the Mural Steering Committee: Margaret Lockwood, Elizabeth Lopez-Velez, Shronda Wise-Schimp, Robin Walker, Maryann Meyers, Amy Cheney and Trina Rios

Mayor Cilento administered the Oath of Office to those task force, agency or committee persons in attendance. Those not in attendance were invited to be sworn in at the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

01-01-2023: #4

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

William M. Robins is hereby appointed Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Borough of Dunellen.

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

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

01-01-2023: #5

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

The following is the list of the Official Borough Council Meeting dates for the year 2023:

Sunday, January 1, 2023 -- Reorganization Meeting -- Noon

Monday, January 9, 2023

Monday, February 6, 2023

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
Monday, March 6, 2023
Monday, March 20, 2023
Monday, April 3, 2023
Monday, April 17, 2023
Monday, May 1, 2023
Monday, May 15, 2023
Monday, June 5, 2023
Monday, June 19, 2023
Monday, July 3, 2023
Monday, August 7, 2023
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Monday, September 18, 2023
Monday, October 2, 2023
Monday, October 16, 2023
Monday, November 6, 2023
Monday, November 20, 2023
Monday, December 4, 2023
Monday, December 18, 2023
Monday, January 1, 2024 -- Reorganization Meeting – Noon

All meetings are in the Municipal Council Chambers, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, and begin at 7:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

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

01-01-2023: #6

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

The following newspapers be and are hereby officially declared to be the official newspapers for the purpose of publishing official advertisements for the Borough of Dunellen:

Courier News, Home News Tribune, Star-Ledger

provided, however, that the listing of said newspaper herein shall not preclude additional advertising in other newspapers not eligible as official newspapers.

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:

01-01-2023: #7

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

Whereas, the Borough of Dunellen is required to appoint banks in good standing as depositories for Borough funds; and

Whereas, The Provident Bank, Blue Foundry Bank, TD Bank, Valley National Bank, Crown Bank, Unity Bank and PNC Bank are located within or near the Borough of Dunellen; and

Whereas, all of the above mentioned are in good standing.

Now therefore be it resolved that The Provident Bank, Blue Foundry Bank, TD Bank, Valley National Bank, Crown Bank, Unity Bank and PNC Bank are hereby designated as the official depositories of the Borough of Dunellen for the year 2023.

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

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

01-01-2023: #8

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

Robert Spengler is hereby appointed Public Defender for the year 2023 at a salary set forth in the Borough Salary resolution.

Be it further resolved that health benefits are not provided as part of the position.

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

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

01-01-2023: #9

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

In the absence of the designated Public Defender, or during times when a second Public Defender is needed, Daniel Frascella is hereby appointed Alternate Public Defender for the year 2023 at a salary set forth in the Borough Salary resolution.

Be it further resolved that health benefits are not provided as part of the position.

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:

01-01-2023: #10

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

In conformance with public laws of the State of New Jersey, 1996, c.95, sect. 14, Rebecca Robles, attorney at law of the State of New Jersey, is hereby appointed a Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the Attorney General or County Prosecutor who may represent the State, County or Municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Central Municipal Court or any other Municipal Court.

Further be it resolved that health benefit coverage will not be made available as part of the compensation package for the position of Municipal Prosecutor, and

Further be it resolved that the term of this appointment is from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2023, and

Further be it resolved that the 2023 salary will be \$12,000.00.

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

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

01-01-2023: #11

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

In conformance with public laws of the State of New Jersey, 1996, c.95, sect. 14, Thomas Lanza, Jr., attorney at law of the State of New Jersey, is hereby appointed a Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the Attorney General or County Prosecutor who may represent the State, County or Municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Central Municipal Court or any other Municipal Court.

Further be it resolved that health benefit coverage will not be made available as part of the compensation package for the position of Municipal Prosecutor, and

Further be it resolved that the term of this appointment is from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2023, and

Further be it resolved that the 2023 salary will be \$18,000.00.

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

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

01-01-2023: #12

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

The following calendar of employee holidays for the year 2023 be adopted:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| January 1 | New Year's Day (Sunday) |
| January 16 | Martin Luther King Day (Monday) |
| February 13 13 th) | Lincoln's Birthday (Sunday, 2/12) (Borough observes on Monday, February |
| February 20 | Presidents' Day (Monday) |
| April 7 | Good Friday (Friday) |
| May 29 | Memorial Day (Monday) |
| June 16 | Juneteenth (date is Monday, 6/19; New Jersey celebrates on the Friday before) |
| July 4 | Independence Day (Tuesday) |
| September 4 | Labor Day (Monday) |
| October 9 | Columbus Day (Monday) |
| November 7 | Election Day (Tuesday) |
| November 10 | Veteran's Day (11/11 is on a Saturday; Borough closed on Friday) |
| November 23 | Thanksgiving (Thursday) |
| November 24 | Day after Thanksgiving |
| December 25 | Christmas Day (Monday) |
| January 1, 2024 | New Year's Day, 2024. To be included in the Employees' Holidays for 2024. |

Be it further resolved that any day designated by the Governor of the State of New Jersey or the President of the United States be also designated a holiday. Those holidays falling on Saturday will be observed on Friday and those holidays falling on Sunday will be observed on Monday, except where noted otherwise.

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:

01-01-2023: #13

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR AUDITING SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire the services of a Registered Municipal Accountant to conduct an audit of the Borough of Dunellen, the Dunellen Sewer Utility, and the Dunellen Public Library for CY 2022 ending December 31, 2022, as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the services is not to exceed 44,200.00; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Suplee, Clooney & Company from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #14

**AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT
FOR BOND COUNSEL**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire Bond Counsel as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the Law Office of McManimon, Scotland, Baumann has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the Law Office of McManimon, Scotland, Baumann has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the Law Office of McManimon, Scotland, Baumann has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the Law Office of McManimon, Scotland, Baumann from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the Law Office of McManimon, Scotland, Baumann as described herein, at an amount per the Agreement with the Borough, but not to exceed \$18,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #15

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire municipal engineering services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the firm of CME Associates has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the firm of CME Associates has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm of CME Associates has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of CME Associates from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the firm of CME Associates as described herein, at an amount per the Agreement with the Borough and the attached Schedule of Rates, but not to exceed \$25,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the Courier News or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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:

01-01-2023: #16

**AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT
FOR MUNICIPAL ENGINEER**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a desire to acquire alternate municipal engineering services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers as described herein, at an amount per the Agreement with the Borough and the attached Schedule of Rates, but not to exceed \$18,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #17

**AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT
FOR SEWER UTILITY LEGAL COUNSEL**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire Sewer Utility Special Council as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firm of Murphy McKeon, P.C., has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firm of Murphy McKeon, P.C., has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the Law Firm of Murphy McKeon, P.C., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the Law Firm of Murphy McKeon, P.C., from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the Law Firm of Murphy McKeon, P.C., as described herein, at an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #18

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR REDEVELOPMENT

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire Special Counsel on behalf of the Borough for matters concerning Redevelopment for 2023 as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services. This appointment is in reference to the original appointing Resolution 08-05-2013: #29, and all terms and conditions of that resolution apply.

WHEREAS, the Law firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the law firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the law firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the law firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf as described herein, at an amount not to exceed \$18,000, other than costs to be paid from the Redevelopment Interim Cost Trust Fund; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #19

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR REDEVELOPMENT

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire alternate Special Counsel on behalf of the Borough for matters concerning Redevelopment for 2023 as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services. This appointment is in reference to the original appointing Resolution 10-19-2020: #4, and all terms and conditions of that resolution apply.

WHEREAS, the Law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the law firm of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann as described herein, at an amount not to exceed \$18,000, other than costs to be paid from any Redevelopment Interim Cost Trust Fund; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #20

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

NW Financial Group, LLC, Hoboken, NJ, is hired as financial experts regarding Redevelopment for the Borough of Dunellen for the year 2023 at the following rates:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Principal: | \$225.00 (hourly) |
| Managing Director: | \$205.00 (hourly) |
| Senior Vice President: | \$195.00 (hourly) |
| Vice President: | \$190.00 (hourly) |
| Analyst: | \$185.00 (hourly) |

Payment for these services will be from the Redevelopment Escrow Account established by the Redevelopers or by separate award made by the Dunellen Borough Council in 2023.

The total amount of this certification of funds is not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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:

01-01-2023: #21

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR LABOR LAW LEGAL COUNSEL

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire Labor Counsel as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the Law Firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy has not made any reportable contributions to a

political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the Law Firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the Law Firm of Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, as described herein, at an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in the *Courier News* or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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:

01-01-2023: #22

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has a need to acquire the services of a municipal planner as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A- 20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is *one* year; and

WHEREAS, the firm of DMR Architects, PC, has submitted a proposal; and

WHEREAS, the firm of DMR Architects, PC, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the firm of DMR Architects, PC, has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Dunellen in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the firm of DMR Architects, PC, from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Dunellen has certified as to the availability of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen authorizes the Mayor and Borough Administrator to enter into a contract with the firm of DMR Architects, PC, as described herein, for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Courier or other paper of record as required by law within ten days of its passage.

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

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

01-01-2023: #23

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

Harbor Consultants, Inc., is hired as alternate planners for the Borough of Dunellen for the year 2023 at the following rates:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Principal Engineer: | \$150.00 (hourly) |
| Professional Engineer: | \$150.00 (hourly) |
| Design Engineer: | \$135.00 (hourly) |
| Junior Engineer: | \$125.00 (hourly) |
| Principal Planner: | \$150.00 (hourly) |
| Professional Planner: | \$150.00 (hourly) |
| Assistant Planner: | \$100.00 (hourly) |

Other hourly rates as stated in the proposal dated December 12, 2022.

Payment for these services will be from various Redevelopment Escrow Accounts established by Redevelopers or by separate award made by the Dunellen Borough Council in 2023.

The total amount of this certification of funds is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

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:

01-01-2023: #24

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

The Mayor, Municipal Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, and Tax Collector are authorized to be signatories on Borough financial documents and instruments.

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

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

01-01-2023: #25

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

1. That pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 the interest rate to be charged on delinquent tax payments for the year 2022 is hereby fixed at 8% up to \$1,500 and 18% over \$1,500 per annum.
2. That an additional 6% penalty be charged for a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 when same is not paid by the end of the year mentioned above.
3. That the Collector of Taxes and be and is authorized and directed to provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became due. The interest is to be calculated from the date the tax was due until the date of the actual payment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk provide a certified copy of this resolution to the Tax Collector.

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

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

01-01-2023: #26

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

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen finds and declares that N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17-1 empowers authorized municipal employees to process the cancellation of tax refunds and/or delinquencies of less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen further finds and declares that the Municipal Tax Collector is qualified to process the cancellation of tax refunds and/or delinquencies of less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen further finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Borough of Dunellen for the Municipal Tax Collector

to be authorized to process the cancellation of tax refunds and/or delinquencies of less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17-1.

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

That the Municipal Tax Collector of the Borough of Dunellen is hereby authorized to process the cancellation of tax refunds or delinquencies of less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) during the calendar year 2022, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17-1.

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

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

01-01-2023: #27

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

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the CY 2023 Dunellen Municipal Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and

Whereas, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty days of January, 2023.

Now therefore be it resolved that the attached CY 2023 Temporary Dunellen Municipal Budget is hereby adopted.

TEMPORARY BUDGET – 2023

| Title | Salaries and Wages | Other Expenses |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Administration | 16,300 | 3,000 |
| Legal Advertising | | 2,000 |
| Telephone | | 9,000 |
| Financial Administration | 27,300 | 16,000 |
| Assessment of Taxes | 5,400 | 7,000 |
| Collection of Taxes | 14,900 | 7,000 |
| Legal Services | 16,100 | 12,000 |
| Borough Clerk | 16,300 | 2,000 |
| Engineering Services | | 6,000 |
| Municipal Planner | | 19,000 |
| Public Buildings & Grounds | 4,500 | 14,000 |
| Electric & Gas | | 42,000 |
| Planning Board | 1,100 | 6,000 |
| Group Insurance | | 226,000 |
| Other Insurance | | 136,000 |
| Mayor & Council | 5,600 | 3,000 |
| Gasoline | | 15,000 |
| Water | | 2,000 |
| Postage | | 5,000 |
| Information Technology | | 10,000 |
| Cablevision (ISP) | | 1,000 |
| Fire | | 14,000 |
| Fire Hydrant Service | | 19,000 |
| Rescue Squad Contribution | | 9,000 |
| Police (including OT) | 613,500 | 25,000 |
| School Crossing Guards | 22,400 | |
| Dispatcher Services | | 36,000 |
| Emergency Management | 1,300 | 1,000 |
| Emergency Vehicle Lease | | 34,000 |
| Road Repairs | 130,000 | 21,000 |
| Tree Maintenance | | 15,000 |
| Shade Tree | | 1,000 |
| Garbage & Trash | | 20,000 |
| Green Brook Flood Control Commission | | 500 |
| Board of Health | 15,700 | 5,000 |
| Recreation Commission | 24,800 | 3,000 |
| Senior Citizen Activities | | 1,000 |
| Construction Code Official | 38,200 | 5,000 |
| Social Security | | 53,000 |
| Defined Contribution Retirement Plan | | 1,000 |
| Municipal Court | 49,100 | 5,000 |
| Free Public Library | 66,400 | 10,000 |
| Public Defender | 1,000 | |
| Municipal Prosecutor | 5,900 | |
| *Capital Improvement Fund | | 150,000 |
| *Payment on MCIA Bonds | | 385,600 |
| *Interest on MCIA Bonds | | 269,000 |
| *Payment of Bond Anticipation Notes | | 175,400 |
| *Payment of Interest on Notes | | 59,160 |

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

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

01-01-2023: #28

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

Whereas, NJSA 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the CY 2022 Dunellen Sewer Utility budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and

Whereas, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty days of January, 2023.

Now therefore be it resolved that the attached CY 2023 Temporary Dunellen Sewer Utility Budget is hereby adopted.

2023 Temporary Sewer Budget

| <u>Account Title</u> | <u>Salaries</u> | <u>Other Expenses</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Regular – Public Works Department | 22,000 | |
| Overtime | 4,000 | |
| Telephone | | 200 |
| Equipment Repairs | | 14,000 |
| Stationery | | 300 |
| Supplies | | 1,050 |
| Miscellaneous | | 300 |
| Equipment | | 300 |
| Postage | | 400 |
| Water | | 300 |
| Credit Card Fees | | 700 |
| Tax Program costs (WIPP) | | 3,000 |
| Professional Services | | 4,000 |
| Engineering Services | | 3,000 |
| Legal Fees | | 1,400 |
| Rentals | | 300 |
| Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA) | | 155,000 |
| Service Contracts (PARSA Maintenance Fee) | | 3,600 |
| PARSA Management Fee | | 3,100 |
| Permit Fees | | 1,000 |
| Electricity | | 6,000 |
| Social Security | | 1,500 |
| Subtotal | 26,000 | 199,450 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Grand Total | <u>225,450</u> |
| Total Appropriations, 2022 Budget | 1,019,340 |
| Less: Capital Improvement Fund | -25,000 |
| Capital Outlay | -75,000 |
| Debt Service | <u>-28,380</u> |
| Adjusted Total Appropriations, 2022 | 890,960 |
| 26.25% of appropriations, less Capital Improvement Fund, Capital Outlay and Debt Service: | <u>233,877</u> |
| Total Temporary Appropriations are less than 26.25% prior year appropriations? | <u>TRUE</u> |

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:

01-01-2023: #29

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

The following companies are hereby awarded a Tow Operator’s License and placed on the Borough’s towing rotation for 2023.

- West 7th Corporation, T/A as Piscataway Auto and Truck Repair, Piscataway
- Majestic Towing and Transport, Inc., South Plainfield
- J&L Auto Center, South Plainfield
- JVD Towing Service, LLC, South Plainfield
- M&W Towing Service, LLC., Plainfield
- Mike’s Towing & Recovery, Bridgewater
- SHT Corp, T/A as Somerset Hills Towing, Bridgewater
- Musial & Sons Transport Service, LLC., Piscataway

The term of this award is from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2023.

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:

01-01-2023: #30

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

Kelly Cupit is hired as a Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Borough of Dunellen, effective January 1, 2023, for a one-year term, at an annual salary of \$7,000.00. This part-time position is without benefits.

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:

01-01-2023: #31

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

The officially elected 2023 Line Officers and Executive Officers for the Dunellen Fire Department are as follows:

LINE OFFICERS

Chief Jonathan Scott
Deputy Chief Richard Feyrer
Captain Brian Cashin
Captain Sue Connolly
Lieutenant William Scott
Lieutenant Mark Crawford

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President Jeremy Lowder
Vice President William Scott
Treasurer Mark Crawford
Corresponding Secretary Sue Connolly
Statistical Secretary Brian Cashin
Historian Jack Green

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:

01-01-2023: #32

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 Consultant for the Borough of Dunellen, at a rate of \$60.00 per hour, for the year 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

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

State of the Borough Address
Mayor Jason F. Cilento
Reorganization Day Meeting
January 1, 2023

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Dunellen Borough Council, and Borough staff. I will begin my fourth State of the Borough Address by wishing you and yours a happy and healthy New Year! We are privileged to serve this great borough and the amazing people who call it home. They put their trust in all of us up here today; may we never lose focus on that.

I look forward to working with the members of the Borough Council to accomplish even greater tasks ahead: Teresa Albertson, Jessica Dunne, and Joseph Paltjon, as well as Trina Rios, Daniel Cole Sigmon and Harold VanDermark, who I thank and congratulate today on their swearing-in. And thank you, Deputy Minority Leader Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, for joining us today to swear-in our council members and for being a part of this annual re-organization. Additionally, congratulations to Trina Rios for being re-appointed Council President. We know you will continue to serve this community with devotion and integrity.

It is my honor to stand before you as your mayor this afternoon to inform you that the state of the Borough of Dunellen is strong. Living and doing business in New Jersey's Miracle Mile is truly a blessing. While facing unprecedented adversities over the past three years such as a pandemic, Hurricane Ida, and the loss of our Firehouse, our community still showed up to support one another with generosity, strength, and optimism for the future. We are a community of volunteers and can only be successful if everyone pitches in, and in Dunellen, **they do**. The people of Dunellen are who give proof to the phrase "The Miracle Mile!" And, as Mayor, I am encouraged and inspired every day by our collective volunteerism and unwavering dedication to making Dunellen a wonderful place to call home.

To that end, this administration accomplished a lot in 2022, including historic improvements to our infrastructure and parks and the continued revitalization of our downtown. First of note, our commitment to finding more cost-effective ways to improve our roads has been paying off, with nearly six out of our sixteen miles of municipal-owned roadways newly paved. This includes:

- The completion of Lincoln Avenue this year through funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Municipal Aide grants from fiscal year 2020 and 2021, totaling \$1,029,550. These funds covered the entirety of improvements to the roadway, its curbs and sidewalks, and sewer and storm water, including the addition of dozens of new native trees, push-button rapid rectangular beacon lights, ADA crosswalk improvements, and more;
- Our continued partnership with Middlesex County's mill and pave program allowed us to pave Schwartz Place and sections of First Street and Dunellen Avenue, as well as including newly installed ADA crosswalks;
- The amended Ordinance 2021-23, Restorations to Streets and Sidewalks under Chapter 256-9, implemented in September of 2021, brought New Jersey American Water and PSE&G to the table for discussions regarding assisting the Borough pave several

sections of roads after investing in 3.4 miles of new utilities along Fourth Street, Lincoln Avenue, Madison Avenue, North Avenue Extension, Pulaski Street, Third Street, Mountainview Terrace, and North Washington Avenue;

- And finally, 2022 saw a continued partnership with the New Jersey Department of Transportation to restrict the ability of large trucks to turn at the intersections along Route 28.

Every road paved has received enhanced striping and signage with the sole purpose of enhancing traffic and pedestrian safety and enforcing speed limits, especially near our schools and downtown businesses. Protecting the people living in and visiting our square-mile Borough is of the utmost importance, and I thank the Mayor's Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task Force for their continued assistance and input on this matter.

Since being sworn-in as Mayor in 2020, the Borough of Dunellen has been awarded a total of \$2,161,540 in grants from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for various road and transit village projects that have already been or will be implemented over the next two years. For 2022, this includes the awarding of \$226,000 Transit Village Grant for Wayfinding signage along North Avenue and \$619,460 for Second Street Improvements between the Middlesex Borough border to Madison Avenue. Through these newly awarded grants, we intend to improve the experiences of both residents and visitors with re-envisioned streetscapes, pedestrian-friendly walkways, improved and bike-friendly roadways, and clear, welcoming signage that better communicates where parking and municipal services can be found.

The revitalization of Dunellen's downtown continues with its renaissance of new investments and businesses opening up. Over the course of the last two years, we have been able to attract close to \$38 million in additional investments in residential, mixed-use and façade improvements in downtown Dunellen. Six businesses, including a cake and coffee shop, an Italian restaurant, a lobster dog food truck, and more, opened in 2022 alone. The Dunellen Downtown Management Organization continues to bring events and beautification projects to North Avenue throughout the year. The Dunellen Station development project has welcomed dozens of new residents to its townhomes and apartments, and its retail space is expected to be completed this year, with Blue Foundry Bank and Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation already signed as commercial tenants. Plenty more residential and mixed-use development projects and façade improvements are still to come. That is precisely why I presented to the Borough Council this year an ordinance for a Short-Term Tax Incentive program to help smaller property owners within the Redevelopment Area make investments through a five-year tax incentive, relieving certain property owners of taxes owed on the new and improved valuations. I am grateful to the Borough Council for unanimously supporting this incentive program, as I believe it will continue to spur additional investments downtown. So long as we continue to promote and adopt a commerce-friendly mentality that attracts and retains new business, investors, and builders, Dunellen's downtown will continue to thrive and increase revenue that will help the Borough offset the tax burden on our residents.

In addition to our redevelopment efforts, this administration conducted three interconnected planning initiatives to help guide the Borough's decision-making over the next decade – the first of which was the Master Plan Re-examination. Dunellen's current Master Plan – in other words, the blueprint for Dunellen's future development and land use – was adopted in 2012. Updates include broader policy goals in support of our collective visions and concerns, such as one of New Jersey's first Climate Resiliency Assessments, and an eventual plan. Furthermore, Dunellen was awarded two technical assistance grants – one by the Active

Transportation Study by New Jersey Transit’s Transit-Friendly Planning Program, the other by the Complete and Green Streets for All policy by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority – to recommend improvements for pedestrians and all modes of transportation in Dunellen with greener and more sustainable infrastructure practices. These planning initiatives – which provided several opportunities for public input through residential surveys and municipal outreach – will be presented for consideration early this year. We thank the Master Plan Re-Examination Steering Committee and the Mayor’s Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task Force for their dedication to each initiative.

Furthermore, throughout the year, we continued to work with our municipal planners to find ways to make improved amendments to our Redevelopment Plan and recognize the importance of being more environmentally conscious and creating a more sustainable Dunellen. We amended the Redevelopment Plan to include EV charging station requirements, pervious pavements, rain gardens, and native plant requirements.

The Borough of Dunellen also adopted a number of quality-of-life ordinances designed to improve not only the aesthetics of our downtown and neighborhoods, enhance economic development, but also the well-being of our property and business owners. These include:

- A completely revamped Sign Ordinance setting comprehensible rules for signs on businesses and buildings in downtown;
- Amendments to our Redevelopment Plan establishing an Industrial zone and a transition zone at Dunellen’s borders without requiring developments to be mixed-use, which we anticipate will strengthen our already established central business district;
- An ordinance permitting and encouraging wineries and breweries to develop downtown;
- A bond ordinance to pay for stream and brook cleaning to improve water flow and alleviate local flooding;
- A flood damage control ordinance that regulates water run-off in new developments
- A bond ordinance for park improvements such as painting and the addition of new lights to the Washington Park Gazebo;
- And, most notably, the ability and encouragement for studios and production companies to film in Dunellen, including this year, David Duchovny’s new project “Bucky Dent.”

As part of our ongoing effort to promote government transparency and enhance communication with residents, business owners, and visitors, the Borough regularly posts timely updates and virtually broadcasts Council Meetings, Mayoral Town Halls, and monthly “Messages from the Mayor” on our website. This year, to increase face-to-face interactions, I added Walks and Talks with the Mayor in Columbia Park as part of a Mayor’s Wellness Campaign. Lastly, we introduced E-Notify to actively alert community members of important Borough incidents, such as emergencies and road closures, while Dunellen’s Downtown Management Organization continued to improve its monthly e-newsletter, *Next Stop! Dunellen*, and Dunellen’s quarterly newspaper, *The Dunellen Report*, entered its twelfth year of print publication. It is our responsibility as a governing body to make constituents acutely aware of happenings within local government, and we will continue to fulfill this mission.

I would like to spend some time now recognizing in detail the fantastic jobs our departments, Boards, committees, and commissions have been doing to enhance the lives of our residents:

The Dunellen Parks and Recreation Department had another successful and memorable year in 2022, hosting 33 events and serving nearly 600 youth participants in activities such as basketball, tennis, track, soccer, baseball, softball, flag football, and summer camp; in its second

year, the Hometown Heroes Banner program grew from 52 banners to 90 on flagpoles downtown; and, while continuing to honor public traditions such as the 74th annual Halloween Parade and the Memorial Parade & Ceremony, the Department also found time to stripe the newly paved basketball courts at Morecraft and Gavornik Parks, install the new benches at both parks, and install new playground equipment at Morecraft Park made possible through a community benefit donation by the developers of 528 North Avenue, Community Development Block Grants, and capital improvement expenditures. We recognize and appreciate the hard work of Recreation Director Alex Miller and Program Manager Julie Grof, as well as Parks and Recreation staff, the Recreation commission, and all the coaches and volunteers who help support the department and its programs;

The Dunellen Police Department had an active year with 170 arrests – including 52 DWIs – and 4,200 summonses. Our Borough is safe because of our Officers, and we thank them for the risks they take each day to protect us. Dunellen PBA 146 recognized several Officers this year for lifesaving efforts and exceptional performance of duties: Lieutenant Christopher Beenders, Sergeant Christopher Lovell, Detective Nicholas Goldman, Patrolman Marcin Nierodzik, Patrolman Keith Irons, and Patrolman Joe Dudley, whose service was also recognized this year at the State PBA’s annual Valor Awards;

The Dunellen Fire Department continues to serve our community with honor and bravery. On October 12, 2021, members of this department and our community lost a pillar and a piece of Dunellen history when the Firehouse unfortunately burned. These men and women have shown nothing but grit, patience, and dedication to their jobs as the Firehouse, its engines, and its equipment are restored or replaced. We are actively and immediately seeking a top-notch contractor to complete the rebuild of what will now become known as the George W. Hodulik Firehouse. I cannot think of anyone more worthy to have that building named after them;

We continue to thank the Dunellen Rescue Squad for being there in times of great and urgent need for our residents, and happily announce that the Dunellen Office of Emergency Management received an Emergency Management Grant of \$10,000 this year. Under the leadership of OEM Coordinator Homer Mosley, Jr. and Deputy OEM and CERTs Coordinator William Carlsen, Dunellen also celebrated the first anniversary of its CERTs Team, which currently maintains 13 members;

Dunellen Public Works promoted Richard Herkert to Foreman and hired two full-time and one part-time employee – Bryan Cashin, Bryant Warren, and Audrey Devine –, to further improve upon the tremendous job they’ve been doing maintaining the Borough;

The Dunellen Downtown Management Organization hosted its annual HarvestFest in Washington Memorial Park, sponsored Dunellen Restaurant Week and Spring Into Wellness, decorated the downtown for the change of seasons and holidays, and hosted several grand openings for new businesses and anniversary celebrations for long-standing businesses such as the Dunellen Cinema & Café, Miles Upholstery, Blacher Canvas, and Rome Pizza, while the Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission hosted their annual Art Summer Camp, presented summer concerts and plays in the park, began working with my office on a mural project with Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts, and decorated downtown storefronts for the holidays. Both organizations really helped to brighten the spirit of our downtown this year!

The Dunellen Municipal Alliance also held several events, informing our community of the Alliance’s mission to protect our youth from the effects of drug and alcohol abuse. They received \$5,000 from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to further assist these efforts;

The Dunellen Diversity & Inclusion Committee spent their first full year hosting educational workshops and events in celebration of Dunellen’s multicultural excellence, while the Dunellen Public Library – a cultural centerpiece of this community – continued to provide youth and adult programming, technological needs, and educational materials. The Friends of the Dunellen Public Library coordinated their successful outdoor market, this year in Washington Memorial Park, with funds from vendor fees for the benefit of the Library;

The Dunellen Planning Board held many important and successful meetings this year as it continues to be the municipal agency that oversees site plans for redevelopment projects in all zoning areas, as well as hiring Cherron Rountree as the Planning Board Secretary and Laruen Staats as the Recording Secretary, both of whom have been doing a great job at providing efficiency for the Planning Board;

The Mayor’s Cannabis Task Force took on the responsibility of seeking additional feedback from the community regarding the commercialization of cannabis in Dunellen, and will provide a fair and competent report to the Borough Council later this year;

Finally, the Borough added three full-time employees to provide more effective and accessible government services to the residents and businesses of Dunellen: Claribel Acevedo, technical assistant to the Construction Officer, the Planning Board, and Redevelopment; Julie Grof, program manager in our Recreation Department and assistant to the Department of Public Works; and Gail Woerner, tax office clerk. These individuals have been doing a fantastic job, allowing offices that historically have been closed most days to the public to now be open and accessible to the public.

Through collaboration, professionalism, and volunteerism, our employees and our community made great progress for the Borough in 2022 while remaining true to our small-town values. Now, I would like to share just a few of the tasks on the agenda for Dunellen in 2023:

The construction of Dunellen Station, as well as other recent investments into the revitalization of our downtown, has led to increased interest in Dunellen from developers. We anticipate the construction of several residential and mixed-use projects this year, as well as a historically high volume of applications for more. It is important to recognize the significance these projects will have in attracting new residents and businesses to Dunellen that will allow for even more improvements to government services and foster an economic boom for our downtown;

Working with our Municipal Planners, we will be implementing several recommendations from the 2022 Master Plan Re-Examination and the interconnected planning initiatives to successfully guide the direction of Dunellen over the next ten years. It is and has always been this administration’s vision and duty to make Dunellen a better place to live, work, bike, and walk, create, and do business in. This year, I will begin working with the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization to promote the benefits of a Business Improvement District in downtown Dunellen. Please be on the lookout for more information on this topic, including a future Mayoral Town Hall;

In the spring of 2022, with the help of New Jersey Legislative District 21 representatives Senator Jon Bramnick, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, and Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, my office pushed improvements to the Dunellen Train Station forward, with NJTransit’s Capital Division promising to initiate design and engineering phasing. In October, with additional support from Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, we applied the Dunellen Train Station for a Federal Transit Administration grant to realize the designing and engineering phase as a first step to modernize and make our station ADA compliant. I recognize

the grant application was not successful this year, and that's not the kind of news I would want to share with you – but - that does not mean we sit back, do nothing, and accept this minor setback. It just means we get back up and get back to the drawing board with our state and federal stakeholders this year, and continue to fight for an improved train station. It's what this borough deserves.

We continue to explore ways to save money and streamline municipal services through innovative shared services agreements with nearby municipalities and agencies. Major infrastructure improvement goals in 2023 will include:

- Working with New Jersey American Water and PSE&G on more utility improvements and paving roads;
- Working with Middlesex County on the milling and paving of more streets in Dunellen;
- Working with Middlesex County on the replacement of the Pulaski Street Culvert;
- Using New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aide Funds to improve Kline Place;
- Working with National Water Main Cleaning Company to assist with culvert clean-outs to help with water flow in our streams and brooks;
- And advancing the Culvert rebuild under the NJ Transit tracks to alleviate flooding.

This governing body will continue to work closely with one another and department heads to develop a long-term capital improvement plan that will strategically allow for downtown, park, and other capital improvements throughout the next several years. As we have so much to accomplish together moving forward, we will continually be reviewing and updating ordinances as needed.

I'd like to end my address to you today by thanking the Borough's administration and staff, and our various boards, commissions, and committees. Though there are many I'd like to recognize by name, here are a few notables:

- William Robins, our Municipal Clerk and Borough Administrator;
- Debra Weaver, our Human Resources Manager;
- Lauren Staats, our Administrative Assistant and Deputy Clerk;
- Alex Miller, Julie Grof, all Recreation Staff and the Recreation Commission; Richard Herkert and all of our Department of Public Work employees;
- John Bruder, our Borough attorney;
- Scott Olsen, our Chief Financial Officer;
- Tax Collector Dawn Hutchison, Tax Office Clerk Gail Woerner, and Tax Assessor Dawn Guttschall;
- Judge Katherine Howes, Municipal Court Administrator Terry Crisafulli, and Violations Clerk Denise Donato;
- George Deene, Code Enforcement;
- Mike Rossi, Claribel Acevedo, John McManus, Scott Brescher, Travis Lamberson, and Michael Mullin in our Construction Office;
- Police Chief Daniel Smith, Lieutenant Chris Beenders, Administrative Assistant Debbie Ritchie, and all of our Police Officers;
- Chief Jonathan Scott of the Dunellen Fire Department, Chief Jeff Best of the Dunellen Rescue Squad, and all of their membership;
- OEM Coordinator Homer J. Mosley, Deputy OEM Coordinator William Carlson and their entire CERTs Team and OEM Staff;

Thank you to all of our government services employees and volunteer agencies, including the Parking Authority, the Planning Board, Dunellen Downtown Management Organization, Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force, Mayor's Mural Steering Committee, the Master Plan Re-Examination Steering Committee, Dunellen Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission, the Maurer House Committee, Shade Tree Commission, the Dunellen Public Library Board, the Mayor's Cannabis Task Force, and the Dunellen Senior Club. Dunellen's success is truly measured by the countless volunteers who serve our community.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank my family for their unwavering support. I extend my love and gratitude to my wife, Lindsay, for all her love and support, and for whom without that love and support, I would not be able to be up here today, as well as my mother & father, my brother & sister, and their families. And a special thanks to my Pop-Pop for whom without his guidance I would have never began my journey into local politics.

I am continually honored and humbled to serve the community that helped raise me and my family. As Mayor of Dunellen, I promise to work with all members of Council to ensure responsible government is delivered to our constituents and that all residents feel they are fairly represented. May we continue to devote our minds and hearts to public service above all else, so that Dunellen continues to be a place where neighbors, friends, and families seek to create the greatness that uniquely defines our community. Thank you for your time today; I look forward to working with you all. Happy New Year!

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one from the public spoke.

At this point, the Mayor and Dunellen Borough Council honored former Dunellen Mayor Robert J. Seader with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mayor Cilento introduced Mr. Seader. He thanked Bob for being a wonderful mentor to him when he first came to Council and read the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

**On Awarding Robert J. Seader
Dunellen's 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award**

WHEREAS, Robert J. Seader has lived in Dunellen for 36 years; and

WHEREAS, Bob is married to Karen and they have two children, Robert, Jr., and Kelly; and

WHEREAS, Bob has volunteered in many worth-while Dunellen activities including coaching Recreation Baseball and coaching Dunellen Little League; and

WHEREAS, Bob served as a Dunellen Councilman from 1996 to 1998, and as the mayor of the Borough of Dunellen for 21 years, from 1998 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, among Bob's other significant contributions to local government is his participation for twenty-five years as a member of the Middlesex County Ethics Board, his service on the Peter J. Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission, and his attendance as Dunellen's representative to the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 Bob shepherded the borough through the process that designated Dunellen a Transit Village and in 2016 he led Dunellen's team in negotiating the Art Color Redevelopment Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Bob is rightfully proud of making possible the Borough of Dunellen's receipt of millions of dollars in grants such as \$2,400,000 in 2004 for the rehabilitation of Columbia Park, \$1,200,000 in 2016 for further improvements to Columbia Park, \$900,000 in 2006 from a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection grant to replace the culvert on South Avenue under the railroad tracks, \$500,000 in 2009 for the rebuild of Clem Santy Field in McCoy Park, \$2,000,000 in 2012 of Middlesex County Open Space funding for the purchase of the Maurer House and its adjacent land, and over \$700,000 for various streetscape improvement projects for the installation of decorative lighting. This is not even counting the numerous road improvement grants Bob initiated for paving many streets in Dunellen. Total: north of \$7,700,000.

WHEREAS, over many years, Bob Seader has worked tirelessly on behalf of the residents of Dunellen and all should recognize that Dunellen is the wonderful town it is due in large part to Bob's benevolent oversight.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, along with the Borough Council, extend congratulations to Robert J. Seader in awarding him with Dunellen's 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award.

DATED: January 1, 2023

Mayor Seader thanked Mayor Cilento and the Council for this award and thanked his family for all the sacrifices they made while he was in elected office.

At this point, the Dunellen Borough Council honored William Wagner with the Citizen of the Year Award. Mayor Cilento introduced Mr. Wagner and noted that they had something in common: both were faced with a pandemic when they began their respective tenures. Bill Wagner looked after his staff during that difficult time and that really speaks to his character. He then read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

On Awarding William Wagner Dunellen's 2022 Citizen of the Year

WHEREAS, William Wagner is a long-time resident of Dunellen, having moved here thirty-three years ago; and

WHEREAS, Bill has been married to Terri for forty-seven years. Together, they have two daughters, Kira Giordano and Ashley Maynard, both raised in Dunellen and graduates of Dunellen High School; and

WHEREAS, Terri was also raised in Dunellen and is herself a graduate of Dunellen High School. Terri worked for the Dunellen Board of Education for twenty-seven years and has recently retired; and

WHEREAS, Bill has served as a Commissioner for the Dunellen Parking Authority for eleven years, and for the past three and one-half years has been its Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Bill has also served with pride in other community volunteer organizations such as the Dunellen Lodge #1408 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks where is a past Exalted Ruler, and for seventeen years was a member and served as Treasurer for the Dunellen Lions Club #6817; and

WHEREAS, Bill is now retired from a company he helped co-found, GasFlo Products, a manufacturer of valves and fittings for compressed gas and semiconductor industries; and

WHEREAS, among Bill's proudest accomplishments is the superb oversight he has given to the Dunellen Parking Authority over these past three years of tremendous upheaval and change as he enabled the Parking Authority to successfully navigate the floodwaters of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequential devastation to the Authority's well-being. With remarkable foresight, Bill was able to create alternative funding sources to replace lost revenue. As a result, combined with the efficient use of existing assets and the sacrifice of Parking Authority employees, the Authority has been able to continue its mission of serving the residents of Dunellen by ensuring the effective and orderly management of downtown parking.

WHEREAS, William Wagner embodies all the traits and characteristics to qualify him with the designation of Dunellen's "Citizen of the Year."

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, along with the Borough Council, extend congratulations to William Wagner in awarding him the honor of being Dunellen's 2022 "Citizen of the Year."

DATED: January 1, 2023

Mr. Wagner thanked the Mayor and Council and noted that he like other volunteers work hard without recognition and he is

grateful for an occasion such as this when it is acknowledged.
People are paying attention and they do appreciate it.

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

01-01-2023: #33

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of January 1, 2023 is adjourned.

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

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aD3wNIShcec>