

June 20, 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 June 20, 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 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

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On the motion of Dr. Dunne and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 2022.

Yes: Albertson, Dunne, Rios and VanDermark  
Abstain: Paltjon and Sigmon, due to their absences

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Mayor's Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities  
Appointment to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Amy Cheney

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

### **Ordinance 2022-16**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN,  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "FIVE  
YEAR TAX EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT LAW"  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1, ET SEQ.**

**WHEREAS**, the Five-Year Exemption and Abatement Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1 et seq. (the "**Exemption Law**") enables municipalities which contain an area that has been designated as an area in need of rehabilitation pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. (the "**Redevelopment Law**"), to provide for the short term exemption or abatement of local property taxes imposed upon eligible dwellings, commercial, and industrial structures within such rehabilitation area; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 5, 2003, the Borough of Dunellen (the "**Borough**") adopted a Resolution, which designated certain properties on the Tax Maps of the Borough as an area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the Redevelopment Law (the "**Redevelopment Area**"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has determined that the authorization of tax exemptions for improvements to dwellings, multiple dwellings, commercial structures, and industrial structures, and for new construction of the same, is in the best interests of the Borough and shall facilitate the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Borough for productive use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough desires to amend the ordinances of the Borough to implement the Exemption Law in the Borough as specifically provided herein,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

**Section 2.** Part II, General Legislation, of the Borough Code is hereby supplemented with the addition of Chapter 115B, Five Year Tax Exemptions, which shall read as follows:

**§115B-1 Intent.**

The Borough of Dunellen hereby determines to utilize the authority granted pursuant to the Five Year Exemption and Abatement Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1 et seq. (the “**Exemption Law**”) to establish the eligibility of certain dwellings, multiple dwellings, commercial structures, and industrial structures for exemption throughout the Redevelopment Area as provided in this ordinance.

**§115B-2 Definitions.**

Terms used as defined terms herein shall have the meaning assigned to such terms in the Exemption Law or as set forth below:

**ASSESSOR** shall mean the tax assessor of the Borough of Dunellen.

**BOROUGH** shall mean the Borough of Dunellen.

**EXEMPTION LAW** shall mean the Five-Year Exemption and Abatement Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:21-1 et seq.

**REDEVELOPMENT AREA** shall mean the portions of the Borough of Dunellen, which have been determined to be an area in need of rehabilitation, as designated by the May 5, 2003 Resolution or any amendments thereto or as such properties have been modified, subdivided, or consolidated, pursuant to the Redevelopment Law.

**REDEVELOPMENT LAW** shall mean the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.

**§115B-3 Tax Exemptions and Abatements Authorized.**

The Borough hereby authorizes the utilization of an Exemption in accordance with the Exemption Law and establishes the eligibility of five-year tax Exemptions within the Redevelopment Area as set forth herein. Improvements and Conversions to, and new Construction of, Dwellings shall be eligible for Exemptions as set forth herein. Improvements and Conversions to, and Construction and new Construction of, Multiple Dwellings shall be eligible for Exemptions as set forth herein. Improvements to, and Construction and new Construction of, Commercial Structures shall be eligible for Exemptions as set forth herein. Improvements to, and Construction and new Construction of, Industrial Structures shall be eligible for Exemptions as set forth herein.

**§115B-4 Application, Fee, Escrow and Approval.**

**A.** No Exemption for Improvements or Conversions of Dwellings, Multiple Dwellings, Commercial Structures, or Industrial Structures, or new Construction of Dwellings shall be granted except upon written application filed with and approved by the Assessor. Every application shall be on a form prescribed by the Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury and shall be filed with the Assessor within thirty (30) days, including Saturdays and Sundays, following the completion of the Improvement, Construction or Conversion.

(1) An application fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) shall be submitted by the applicant with every application for an Exemption at the time of filing the application with the Assessor. The application fee covers the costs of the administrative services to be undertaken by the Assessor, and any other Borough official, in order to render a determination on the applicant's eligibility for an Exemption.

(2) Every application for an Exemption, which is filed within the time specified shall be approved and allowed by the Assessor to the degree that the application is consistent with the provisions of this ordinance, provided that the improvement, construction or conversion for which the application is made qualifies as an improvement, construction or conversion pursuant to the Exemption Law.

(3) The granting of an Exemption shall relate back to, and take effect as of, the date of completion of the project, or portion or stage of the project for which the Exemption is granted, and shall continue for five (5) annual periods from that date.

(4) All Exemptions shall be recorded and made a permanent part of the official tax records of the Borough, which record shall contain a notice of the termination date thereof.

**B.** No Exemption for Construction or new Construction of Multiple Dwellings, Commercial Structures, or Industrial Structures shall be granted except upon written application filed with and approved by the Borough Council. The application shall

contain the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:21-9. Applications for Construction or new Construction of Multiple Dwellings, Commercial Structures, or Industrial Structures shall be submitted prior to the commencement of Construction or prior to a change in circumstance necessitating the need for the tax exemption.

- (1) An application fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) shall be submitted by the applicant with every application for an Exemption at the time of filing the application with the Borough Council. The application fee covers the costs of the administrative services to be undertaken by the Assessor and any other Borough official, in order to render a determination on the applicant's eligibility for an Exemption.
- (2) An escrow deposit of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) shall be submitted by the applicant with every application for an Exemption at the time of filing the application with the Borough Council. The escrow deposit covers the actual costs of Borough professionals' review of the application and preparation of a tax agreement in connection therewith.
- (3) Exemptions for Construction or new Construction of Multiple Dwellings, Commercial Structures, or Industrial Structures shall be granted or denied on an individual basis after review and evaluation of each application and recommendation by the Assessor to the Borough Council.
- (4) Exemptions for Construction or new Construction of Multiple Dwellings, Commercial Structures, or Industrial Structures shall be granted or denied via the adoption of an ordinance by the Borough Council. Ordinances approving an Exemption for Construction or new Construction of Multiple Dwellings, Commercial Structures, or Industrial Structures shall also authorize the execution of a tax agreement between the Borough and the applicant on a form provided by the Borough and reviewed and approved by the applicant. The tax agreement shall set forth which one of the formulas provided in N.J.S.A. 40A:21-10 shall be used to calculate the annual payment to the Borough in lieu of full property tax payments and shall comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:21-10 through 12.
- (5) All Exemptions shall be recorded and made a permanent part of the official tax records of the Borough, which record shall contain a notice of the termination date thereof.

#### **§115B-5 Exemptions and Abatements.**

##### **A. Dwellings**

- (1) For Improvements to Dwellings, in determining the value of real property for an Exemption, the Borough shall regard the first Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) in Assessor's full and true value of Improvements for each dwelling unit primarily and directly affected by the Improvement in any Dwelling more than

twenty (20) years old, as not increasing the value of the property for a period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the value of the property to which the Improvements are made is increased thereby. During the Exemption period, the assessment on the property shall not be less than the assessment thereon existing immediately prior to the Improvements, unless there is damage to the Dwelling through action of the elements sufficient to warrant a reduction. The total amount of the Exemption granted to any single property shall not exceed the total cost of the Improvement.

- (2) For new Construction of Dwellings and Conversions of other buildings or structures to Dwellings, the Borough shall regard thirty (30) percent of the Assessor's full and true value of the dwelling constructed or conversion made, as not increasing the value of the property for a period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the value of the property to which the new Construction or Conversion are made is increased thereby.

#### **B. Multiple Dwellings**

- (1) For Improvements to Multiple Dwellings and Conversions of other buildings and structures to Multiple Dwellings, in determining the value of real property for an Exemption, the Borough shall regard the Assessor's full and true value of the Improvements or Conversion as not increasing the value of the property for a period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the value of the property to which the Improvements or Conversion are made is increased thereby. During the Exemption period, the assessment on the property shall not be less than the assessment thereon existing immediately prior to the Improvements or Conversion, unless there is damage to the Multiple Dwelling through action of the elements sufficient to warrant a reduction.
- (2) For Construction or new Construction of Multiple Dwellings, the tax agreement between the Borough and the applicant shall specify which one of the formulas provided in N.J.S.A. 40A:21-10 shall be used to calculate the annual payment to the Borough in lieu of full property tax payments.

#### **C. Commercial Structures and Industrial Structures**

- (1) For Improvements to Commercial Structures and Industrial Structures, in determining the value of real property for an Exemption, the Borough shall regard the Assessor's full and true value of the Improvements as not increasing the value of the property for a period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the value of the property to which the Improvements are made is increased thereby. During the Exemption period, the assessment on the property shall not be less than the assessment thereon existing immediately prior to the Improvements, unless there is damage to the Commercial Structure or Industrial Structure through action of the elements sufficient to warrant a reduction.

- (2) For Construction or new Construction of Commercial Structures or Industrial Structures, the tax agreement between the Borough and the applicant shall specify which one of the formulas provided in N.J.S.A. 40A:21-10 shall be used to calculate the annual payment to the Borough in lieu of full property tax payments.

**D. Additional Improvements**

Additional Improvements completed during a period in which a property is subject to a previously granted Exemption shall qualify for additional Exemptions just as if such property had not received a previous Exemption. The additional Improvement, Conversion or Construction shall be considered as separate for the purposes of calculating Exemptions.

**§115B-6 Tax Delinquency.**

No Exemption shall be granted pursuant to this ordinance with respect to any property for which real estate taxes or other municipal charges are delinquent or remain unpaid, or for which penalties and interest for non-payment of taxes are due.

**§115B-7 Revaluation During Exemption Period.**

In the event that the Borough implements a revaluation or reassessment during the exemption period for any property, any Exemptions granted hereunder shall continue to apply but at a valuation level consistent with the revaluation or reassessment.

**§115B-8 Revision of Base Assessment During Exemption Period.**

The granting of an Exemption for a particular property shall not prejudice the right of the Borough to appropriately examine and revise the assessment during the exemption period in the event the base assessment is found to be improperly valued and assessed.

**§115B-9 Applicability of Exemption and/or Abatement to Taxes.**

The Exemption of real property taxes provided by the Borough pursuant to this ordinance shall apply to property taxes levied for municipal purposes, school purposes, county government purposes, and the purposes of funding any other property tax exemptions.

**§115B-10 Effective Date; Sunset Provision.**

Upon final passage and publication, this ordinance shall take effect as provided by law, and shall authorize the Borough to grant exemptions to commence and take effect in the 2023 tax year and thereafter for up to a five-year period in duration. This ordinance shall lapse, unless readopted, on January 1, 2033, and no exemptions shall be granted after January 1, 2033, without such readoption.

**Section 3.** If any provision of this ordinance is legally invalid or is hereafter found to be legally invalid, the remainder of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

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:

**2022-17**

**NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, is being introduced and 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 June 20, 2022. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at the Borough Council Chambers, in the Borough on July 5, 2022 at 7 o'clock p.m. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of the full bond ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours at the Clerk's office for members for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,400,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARALLEL AUXILIARY CULVERT UNDER THE CONRAIL RAILROAD IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,333,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Purpose: The construction of a parallel auxiliary culvert under the Conrail Railroad, as described in Bond Ordinance #06-12, finally adopted July 5, 2006, as supplemented by Bond Ordinance #2017-04, finally adopted April 17, 2017

Supplemental Appropriation: \$1,400,000

Supplemental Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$1,333,000

Grant Appropriated: N/A

Supplemental Section 20 Costs: \$280,000

Useful Life: 40 years

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

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

**06-20-2022: #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 Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Albertson it was moved to accept the following:

**06-20-2022: #2**

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, has noticed and observed unsafe conditions regarding truck traffic at the intersections of Route 28 (North Avenue) and Route 529 (Washington Avenue), and Route 28 (North Avenue) and Madison Avenue in Dunellen; and

WHEREAS, these unsafe conditions consist of, among others, turning trucks blocking traffic in opposite lanes, trucks needing to drive on adjacent curbs in order to complete a turn, turning trucks endangering the safety of pedestrians, and property and utility appurtenances damage arising from truck turns; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen did request of the New Jersey Department of Transportation a traffic engineering analysis of these two intersections; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Bureau of Traffic Engineering conducted a turning analysis of the intersections of Route 28 (North Avenue) and Route 529 (Washington Avenue), and Route 28 (North Avenue) and Madison Avenue in Dunellen; and

WHEREAS, this analysis determined that vehicles of approximately 45.5 feet or greater in length would have difficulties performing the turning movements necessary to navigate the current geometric conditions of these intersections; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation intends to prohibit the turning of vehicles greater than 45.5 feet in length at these intersections; and

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Borough Council agrees with the findings of the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Bureau of Traffic Engineering regarding the prohibition of turning movements of vehicles greater than 45.5 feet in length.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that they support and endorse the findings of New Jersey Department of Transportation in prohibiting the turning movements of vehicles greater than 45.5 feet in length at the intersections of Route 28 (North Avenue) and Madison Avenue, and Route 28 (North Avenue) and Route 529 (Washington Avenue), in Dunellen.

Mayor Cilento stated that the origins of this ordinance arose from trucks hitting traffic lights at these intersections. We



requested an analysis from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. They are in support, as does Council if we agree, to restrict the size of trucks making turns at these intersections.

Dr. Dunne asked about signage. Mayor responded that NJ DOT will take care of the signage. She asked whether it was a matter of concern regarding truck traffic coming down Madison Avenue. Mayor Cilento responded that this change covers Madison and North and Washington and North and that Prospect Avenue already has a weight limit.

Mr. Sigmon inquired about weight limits on all streets. Mayor Cilento responded that that would require a study that could cost as much as \$30,000.00.

Dr. Dunne asked when this might go into effect? Mayor Cilento replied that this has to go to the NJ DOT for action.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #3**

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

Cherron Rountree is hired as the Dunellen Planning Board Secretary, at an annual salary of \$5,000.00, effective June 20, 2022, and subject to a "No Record" from the criminal background check. This is a part-time position without benefits.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #4**

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

Whereas, applications for renewal of liquor licenses for the year 2022-2023 have been submitted, and

Whereas, no objections to said renewals have been filed, and

Whereas, the proper fees have been paid by all applicants.

Now therefore be it resolved that the following be granted renewals of their licenses for the year beginning July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2023:

- American Legion Post 119 -- 1203-31-013-001
- Columbian Club of Dunellen, Inc. -- 1203-31-016-001
- N Avenue Liquors [North Tavern] -- 1203-32-006-003
- Country Rose, LLC [Maggie Murray's] -- 1203-32-008-003
- Mar Kar, Inc., [Avellino's] -- 1203-33-004-008
- JJR Restaurant LLC [Dunellen Hotel] -- 1203-33-007-004
- Zupkos Tavern, LLC [Zupko's] -- 1203-33-012-005
- Dunellen Liquors Inc -- 1203-44-001-006
- VFW Post 5479 – 1203-31-018-001

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

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

**06-20-2022: #5**

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

The following persons are hired for summer employment in the Recreation Department’s Good Times Summer Camp. Employment will be between June 29, 2022, and August 4, 2022. These wages will be taken from the Summer Camp Line 2-01-55-900-000-548. Hiring is subject to a “No Record” status on the criminal background investigation.

All wages are per hour, except where noted, and there are no benefits.

Kelly Seader	Camp Director	\$20.00 per hour
Skylar Staats	Counselor	\$15.00 per hour
Emily Murray	Counselor	\$13.00 per hour
Deryn Watts	Counselor	\$13.00 per hour
Jacob Manna	Counselor	\$13.00 per hour
Nathan Staats	Counselor	\$13.00 per hour
Sulayman Kahn	Counselor	\$13.00 per hour

Dr. Dunne asked about the pay differential among counselors. Mr. Miller responded that pay was in part a factor of experience.

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:

**06-20-2022: #6**

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

Nasir Tippet is hired as a part-time employee of the Parks and Recreation Department to provide maintenance and groundskeeping services to the ball fields in Columbia Park and McCoy Park during and after baseball tournaments. He will be compensated at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, working approximately 20 hours per week in the month of July, from fee funds collected by the Baseball League sponsoring the tournaments.

Dr. Dunne noted that this employee's salary was a "net-zero," that is, he will be paid from program fees? Mr. Miller confirmed this.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #7**

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

The Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen are hereby authorized to execute all documents attendant to the 2023 Municipal Alliance for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Agreement with Middlesex County, accepting the funds provided to Dunellen through this grant.

Yes: Dunne, Paltjon, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

Abstain: Albertson

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

**06-20-2022: #8**

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

Remington and Vernick Engineers is awarded a contract for a Dunellen Municipal Building Facilities Assessment, at a cost not to exceed \$24,700.00. The funding for this contract will be taken from American Rescue Funds under Budget Account number 2-01-44-904-000-299.

Mayor Cilento noted that funding for this contract is being taken from the American Rescue Funds received by the borough and the study will examine the energy efficiency of the building, ADA upgrades, and basically any other needed upgrades and improvements to the building.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #9**

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

The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are authorized to sign a Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Dunellen and the Township of Piscataway for the milling and paving of certain sections of West Fourth Street in Dunellen, including striping and speed limit markings, at a cost not to exceed \$81,575.00. Funds for this Shared Services Agreement are to be taken from Account # C-04-22-008-000-601.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #10**

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

Remington and Vernick Engineers is awarded a contract for the provision of a pavement marking and striping improvement project for certain Dunellen streets, at a cost not to exceed \$14,950.00. Funds for this contract are to come from Account # C-04-22-008-000-601.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #11**

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

**Urging the Swift Passage of S-330 which restores Energy Tax Receipts**

**WHEREAS**, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

**WHEREAS**, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property

taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties, and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

**WHEREAS**, the diversion of dedicated energy tax receipts to the State's General Fund further jeopardizes this critical property tax relief funding in future years; and

**WHEREAS**, by reducing Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA), which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Singleton and Senate President Scutari have introduced legislation (S-330) that will restore, over a five-year period, Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen in the County of Middlesex urges the Legislature to swiftly pass this legislation and Governor Murphy sign the legislation prior to passage of the FY2023 State budget; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Dunellen's State Senator and Assemblypersons, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, and the League of Municipalities.

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

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

**06-20-2022: #11-A**

Approval is granted to the Maurer House Committee for the use of Columbia Park for its Haunted Trail Fundraiser on October 28 and October 29, 2022.

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

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**06-20-2022: #12**

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

The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue food handler licenses to the following establishments:

8 On the Break -- 340 North Avenue  
Advance Auto Parts -- 216 North Avenue  
American Legion Post #119 -- 137 New Market Road  
Avellino's Italian Restaurant -- 625 Bound Brook Road  
Bakery Delights -- 246 North Avenue  
Brown's Stationery -- 111 North Washington Avenue  
Bubz Boba Bar -- 14B South Washington Avenue  
Café Nune -- 14 South Washington Avenue  
Columbian Club -- 647 Grove Street  
Dairy Quick -- 615 Bound Brook Road  
Dee's Dogs -- 100 South Washington Avenue  
Devine's Pharmacy -- 374 North Avenue  
Dunellen Bagel -- 390 North Avenue  
Dunellen Bakery -- 215 North Avenue  
Dunellen BBQ -- 626 Bound Brook Road  
Dunellen Board of Education -- High and Lehigh Streets  
Dunellen Hotel -- 120 North Washington Avenue  
Dunellen Liquors -- 195 North Avenue  
El Creador -- 197 North Avenue  
EZ Mobile Vending -- 163 Westervelt Avenue, Plainfield  
Family Dollar Store -- 215 North Avenue  
First Presbyterian Church -- 218 Dunellen Avenue  
Footprints Christian School & St. Lukes Evangelical Lutheran Church -- 264 New Market Road  
Healthy Life -- 375 North Avenue  
Hot Spot Fitness -- 310B North Avenue  
Il Forno A Legna II -- 390 North Avenue  
J&G Texas Weiners -- 238 North Avenue  
Just Us Children Learning Center -- 419 North Avenue  
Kwick Mart -- 221 North Avenue  
Living Hope Outreach Center -- 201 Whittier Avenue  
Lucky 7 Days -- 392 North Avenue  
Maggie Murray's -- 119 North Washington Avenue  
Mi Rincon Latino -- 248 North Avenue

Mike's Subs/30 Burgers -- 14 South Washington Avenue  
Mis Amigos Mexican Restaurant -- 373 North Avenue  
N Avenue Liquors -- 252 North Avenue  
Panda Restaurant -- 350 North Avenue  
Planet Chicken -- 107 North Avenue  
Precious Gifts Day Care Center – 400 New Market Road  
Precious Moments – 358 North Avenue  
Quick Check – 426 North Avenue  
Rays Pharmacy – 2 South Washington Avenue  
Rome Pizza -- 334 North Avenue  
Roscoe’s Wrap It Up – 399 North Avenue  
Seafood Boil – 201 North Avenue  
Small Town Bakery – 189 North Avenue  
The Soupery -- 329B Dorchester Drive, Lakewood  
Sun Power Gas -- 301 North Avenue  
Tipico’s Olga -- 106 North Avenue  
Tropical Supermarket -- 446 North Avenue  
Uncle Louie G’s – 500 North Avenue  
Veterans of Foreign Wars -- 201 Prospect Avenue  
Zupko’s Tavern – 450 North Avenue

**06-20-2022: #13**

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

WHEREAS, Angel Hands Massage, 108 North Avenue, Dunellen, NJ, has fulfilled all the requirements of Ordinance 2021-13, an ordinance requiring the licensing of massage establishments and massage therapists; and

WHEREAS, Angel Hands Massage has been inspected by the Dunellen Zoning Officer, the Dunellen Construction Office, the Dunellen Health Inspector, and approved by the Dunellen Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Angel Hands Massage has paid the appropriate fee to the Dunellen Municipal Clerk’s Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that Angel Hands Massage be granted a massage license for a one-year term, commencing July 7, 2022.

**06-20-2022: #14**

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

Resolution: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Second Street Improvements project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen formally approve the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA—2023— Second Street Improvements--00293 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**06-20-2022: #15**

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

Resolution: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the North Avenue Improvements project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen formally approve the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as TV—2023— North Avenue Improvements --00008 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**06-20-2022: #16**

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

Resolution: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Pedestrian Crossing Improvements project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen formally approve the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as SST--2023—Pedestrian Crossing



Improvement--00022 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**06-20-2022: #17**

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

Resolution: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 500 Mountainview Terrace Bike Path project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen formally approve the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as Bike--2023—500 Mountainview Terrace Bike Path--00014 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**06-20-2022: #18**

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

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of Calendar Year 2022 in the sum of \$5,000.00, which is now available from the Middlesex County Municipal Alliance Youth Leadership Grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$5,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Middlesex County Municipal Alliance Youth Leadership Grant.

**06-20-2022: #19**

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

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of Calendar Year 2022 in the sum of \$7,000.00, which is now available from the NJ State Division of Highway Traffic Safety, Law and Public Safety Agency, Distracted Driving Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$7,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Law & Public Safety, Distracted Driving Program.

**06-20-2022: #20**

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

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of Calendar Year 2022 in the sum of \$15,000.00, which is now available from the NJ State Division of Highway Traffic Safety, Law and Public Safety Agency, Pedestrian Safety Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$15,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Law & Public Safety, Pedestrian Safety Program.

**06-20-2022: #21**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN  
THE NATIONAL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen (the “Borough”) is from time-to-time in need of goods, services and equipment that may be available at a favorable cost from The National Purchasing Cooperative (the “Cooperative”); and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative was formed on May 26, 2010, pursuant to the laws of the State of Maryland and is a nationwide purchasing cooperative that offers membership to New Jersey public agencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey public agencies are permitted to join and participate in nationwide purchasing cooperatives pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2(b)(3) and the related requirements set forth in Local Finance Notice 2012-10; and

WHEREAS, membership in The National Purchasing Cooperative has been determined to be in the best interests of the Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Borough of Dunellen as follows:

1. The Borough hereby authorizes the Executive Director to enroll the Borough as a member of The National Purchasing Cooperative and to execute The National Cooperative Interlocal Participation Agreement on the Authority’s behalf.

2. This resolution shall take immediate effect.

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

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Reports:

Mrs. Albertson: 1) Diversity and Inclusion--we are happy to announce that on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, we held our first event. Our PRIDE presentation on Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression was held at the Dunellen Public Library. Lauren Porsch-Ortega was a wonderful presenter. She gave the audience definitions for many of the words used in the LGBTQ+ community. We discussed the different pronouns used for gender identity. The presentation was done in a very comfortable way allowing participants to ask questions or share information. We had 17 attendees including two students from the local high school. We are now preparing for a friendship event for children on July 23rd at 6:30pm. This will take place at Washington Park. There is also Music in the park starting at 7pm. It will be a great family night out; 2) Fire Department--things are slowly moving along. The new radios will be getting set up for use. Meetings are taking place to get everything in place for rebuilding. It is a long process. It is hard for our firefighters. We are doing our best to make sure the building will have everything they

need to continue to protect our community. Thanks to all of the Department members for their patience and for all they do for our community.

Mrs. Rios: 1) Dunellen Municipal Alliance will be hosting a town hall at the Dunellen High School auditorium from 6:45-8:30. The topic is “Vaping, Let’s Clear the Air.” This is open to all the public and we encourage all parents and students to attend. This past Friday was Leadership Academy for all the Municipal Alliance kids. This was a chance for them to be able to express their leadership skills through a five-hour course; 2) Dunellen Public Library will be kicking off their summer reading program next week; 3) Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission has started its first mural project at Gavornik Park. We will be asking students to help bring life to the artwork that will be displayed; 4) Music in the Park will start this Thursday, June 23 at 7 PM. These “Music in the Park” events are free, and we encourage everyone to come and enjoy a night of music; 5) DDMO will be celebrating Weather Tek’s anniversary in July; 6) the Municipal Alliance would like to hang their banner at Washington Park. Council approved.

Mr. VanDermark: 1) the Recreation spring sport season just wrapped up. We had 185 children playing in our spring sports which is the largest enrollment over the last 10 years. The Recreation Department is very thankful to all of our Coaches for all their hard work and dedication! Recreation Night @ the Ball Park, Recreation night at Somerset Patriots Ball Park is June 23rd at 7pm. Our Recreation Baseball and Softball Players will be walking on the field prior to the game. Summer Camp starts June 29<sup>th</sup>. We have 31 children registered for the program. Summer Camp runs for 6 weeks, Monday through Thursday 8am to 3pm.; 2) Senior Movie Monday was today at the Dunellen Theater. The movie was “Dog.” The next Movie Day is July 18th at 10am.

Dr. Dunne: 1) Police--the Dunellen Police Department will once again be participating in National Night Out, set for Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at Columbia Park from 6-8pm. If any community organizations would like to be represented at the event or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Sgt. Chris Lovell at [clovell@dunellenpd.com](mailto:clovell@dunellenpd.com) to express interest. More information will be posted as the event gets closer. Congrats to our PD who participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> annual law enforcement torch run to benefit Special Olympics in NJ. Dunellen officers received the “Flame of Hope” and ran it from Plainfield to Middlesex. Thanks to the Borough Council for approving the police vehicles. Happy to report that all three have been ordered and delivery is expected mid-August; 2) Board of Education--the next BoE meeting is tomorrow evening, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. Councilman Paltjon and I will be meeting with BoE President and VP next week to discuss items of mutual interest. Graduation from DHS is next Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Washington Park and I encourage all of our residents to attend and celebrate our graduates. 3) Last Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with RWJ University Hospital and Safe Kids of Middlesex County, we hosted a program, “Kids Don’t Float!” to the community. The workshop was presented in partnership with the Dunellen PTO. I want to thank Sarah Healy & Diana Starace, who have been working with me and County Officials on bringing water safety programs to Middlesex County. I would also like to express gratitude to Nicole Moore and the Dunellen PTO for being such wonderful partners. The program can be found online via our website and social media sites. We have additional water safety materials – if you are interested, please contact me for the materials; 4) Shade Tree--the Shade Tree Commission meeting for last Wednesday was canceled. If you are interested in having a tree planted in your yard, contact the DTSC. The next meeting will be held September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Senior Center; 5) Community Garden--if you are interested in learning more or participating in the planning process, we will be meeting with a representative from Wildones.org to discuss the planting of a native garden in

McCoy Park. Please reach out for more details. Wildones is a non-profit focused on creating native and sustainable landscaping in our communities.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) DPW has been maintaining its daily cleaning and they watered plants in the downtown. They are continuing the street sweep schedule and they did field maintenance in all the ball fields. They cleaned catch basins and streams and around the culverts. They assisted Town Plumbing in the clean-out behind the Boy Scout Hut. They ran the three roll-off boxes to the dump and cleared approximately 400 feet of the storm stream from Skinner Plaza and they did some rewiring on one of the landscape trailers; 2) he asked for a huge shout out for Community Day volunteers including Girl Scout Daisy Troop 65528, Girl Scout Troop 65300 and Girl Scout Troop 65417 and all other volunteers. It was an awesome day, and you can see all the work we did around the community, including putting another coat of paint on the hut in Gavornik Park in preparation of the mural.

And now I would like to address a social media post from this past week by Councilwoman Dunne. I don't appreciate the narrative being pushed that you were the only one in favor of recognizing Juneteenth, because that simply wasn't the case. You proposed that we consider adopting Juneteenth as a Borough Holiday at the February 22 meeting as the final topic of your report. The Council asked a few administrative and logistical questions and ultimately came to the understanding that our Borough Administrator and Legal Counsel needed to look into it a bit more before we took a vote.

Moving forward with that mutually agreed-upon process, we continued the discussion in Executive Session at the request of our Labor Attorney. In this Executive Session, Council members unanimously agreed to follow our Labor Attorney's counsel as the addition of this Borough Holiday would affect Labor Contracts.

This post bothered me so much that I went back and read the minutes from that meeting which show no opposition to adopting Juneteenth. I dug even deeper and watched the video from that meeting and created a transcript of the entire discussion and again, no opposition. In fact, I was the first to comment and I said it was a good idea. I fully support the adoption of Juneteenth as a Borough Holiday, and I support doing it the right way.

It is important to me and for Dunellen residents to have the record corrected.

Mrs. Albertson commented that she agreed with Councilman Sigmon's statement that we discussed it, and all agreed to hold off until 2023 on the advice of the Labor attorney and she was disappointed that it was written the way it was. She has enjoyed working with Councilwoman Dunne; it has really been a pleasure and she felt hurt by the way it was done because it felt as if she was attacking us and how it misrepresented what we had done. She is sorry that it happened, but she wants all to know it was hurtful and kind of disappointing.

Dr. Dunne responded that it was not meant to be hurtful. I apologize. I actually went back and listened to the public session. I did not ask for the meeting Minutes of the Executive. My recollection of what happened in private was slightly different. So, I apologize. I am happy to correct the record to be more accurate. It was not meant in any way to diminish what anybody on this Council. It was more of what we in the community need to do to move forward so I apologize

to Councilwoman Albertson and to Councilman Sigmon and if anybody was offended by my post I will go and correct it. As all of you know, I have been in my public life and in my private life I have been an advocate and an ally my entire life for underserved communities. That is what I do in my professional career. It is why I ran for Council. So, it is in no way meant to diminish what anybody else has done so I will go back and correct the record.

Mayor Cilento: “I will personally thank you for doing that, too, because I did see it misrepresented what we as a governing body had concluded. But I appreciate that you see it as worded differently than how we are perceiving it.”

Dr. Dunne responded that it was her intent was pure in terms of trying to elevate marginalized communities and underserved communities and in no way was it a reflection on this body and she is sorry that that’s the way it came out.

Mayor Cilento stated that this is something we all need to take into consideration. He thanked everyone for being respectful of the conversation.

Mr. Paltjon: 1) Buildings and Grounds Report--the findings and complete assessment report from RVE in regard to the Borough Hall Roof was sent over to the Council and this complete report was very thorough and due to the older nature of the roof state that it is well beyond its useful life; 2) PARSA Report--PARSA has almost completed the videoing of most of our sewer mains which is well over 4 miles. Once all of this videoing is complete, they will provide a report on all sewer mains. These reports will identify possible stress fractures/cracks in our sewer mains that can be repaired by sewer main relining. This in turn would cost the Borough a lot less money for sewer main breaks; 3) Rescue Squad Report--the Mayor, Council President Rios and I met with the Dunellen Rescue Squad President, Vice President Chief and Deputy Chief and Jana on Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>. It was an open discussion about the future of the Squad and how we can help each other and more importantly to continue to serve the residents of Dunellen. Month to date responded to 124 incidents both inside and outside the borough. They are looking to grow their outreach with surrounding boroughs, and they are in the process of creating a PowerPoint to present to the Borough Council about these plans for their future; 4) this Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> the Dunellen American Legion is having a Pig Roast from 1 – 6 pm at the Picnic Pavilion. Rain Date is Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy some award-winning BBQ from Grateful Smoke BBQ while supporting your Local Veterans.

Municipal Attorney John E. Bruder provided background and current status on the Railroad Culvert project and efforts to obtain construction easements from the property owner. He also reviewed efforts to address truck traffic on North Avenue Extension.

Mayor Cilento:

COVID-19 Vaccination Statistics from New Jersey Dashboard  
([https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_dashboard.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml)):

**At Least One Dose**  
**Dunellen Borough**  
Middlesex County

All Ages:	82%
5 through 11:	35%
5 and over:	90%
12 through 17:	77%
12 and over:	97%
18 and over:	99%
30 and over:	96%
65 and over:	108%

**Vaccine Courses Complete**  
**Dunellen Borough**  
Middlesex County

All Ages:	71%
5 through 11:	30%
5 and over:	78%
12 through 17:	69%
12 and over:	84%
18 and over:	86%
30 and over:	84%
65 and over:	97%

I have been in correspondence with the Governor’s office regarding the over 100% in 65 and over for “At Least One Dose” and they are looking into it. I will report back once there is more information.

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

**Congratulation to Ms. Shalonda Tanner, Post Commander:**

I wish to extend a congratulation to Shalonda Tanner for her recent and historic installation as the Dunellen American Legion Post 119 Post Commander. Your role as the first woman and first ever African American woman to serve as Commander of Post 119 in its over 100 years of existence is of significance and importance to our Miracle Mile. We all thank you for your continued service to the American Legion and our community.

### **Lincoln Avenue Project:**

The roadway improvements to Lincoln Avenue started on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The project will include New ADA ramps at all crosswalks, multiple sections of the sidewalks and curbing, any tree that will be removed will be replaced with a new 8-foot native tree, LED Push Button Flashing crosswalks near the school on First Street, Dunellen Avenue, and Front Street, and a Newly paved road that will have enhance striping for traffic and pedestrian safety.

**New Jersey American Water projects:** NJAW has about a week left of water main connections. This week they will be tying in the water mains from Washington Avenue and First Street, Washington and Second Street, and Washington and Mountainview Terrace. The crews will continue doing the clean-up/restoration phase. The Paving phase of the NJAW project is expected to start within the next 30 days for the following streets: Madison Ave (from First Street to Mountain View Terrace); Mountain View Terrace (from Madison to Washington Avenue); Fourth Street (From Third Street to Washington Avenue); and Third Street (From Fourth Street to Washington Avenue). All other streets in the NJAW project will need a little more time for the ground to settle and will be paved in the near future.

**PSE&G project:** PSE&G has completed the gas main and services installations on the following streets: 700 & 800 blocks of Front Street; 700 & 800 blocks Dunellen Avenue; 800 Block of First Street; Sanford Avenue (from Bound Brook Road to Dunellen Avenue); and Schwartz Place. Crew #1 has just started gas main & gas service installation on Second Street from Schwartz Place to the Middlesex border. This section is estimated to be approximately 3 weeks. Crew #2 has returned to Pulaski Street between South Avenue and Walnut Street; the crew will be finishing the gas main and services over the next few weeks.

**West Fourth Street:** Recently, I reached out to Piscataway regarding shared services on road improvements to West Fourth Street and Center Street. In coordination between both towns, we are finalizing a local agreement with Piscataway Township on sharing the cost of Milling and Paving West Fourth Street. I will have an update on this project as things progress.

**Green Brook Trash Trap:** The meeting on June 12th was postponed due to a thunderstorm. Alex Miller and I will be meeting with the DEP and Lower Raritan Watershed on June 26th about the Trash Trap Pilot program. I will keep you updated on that matter.

### **Dunellen Station Site:**



Redeveloper is installing curbs along South Washington Avenue. Supply chain issues continue to hamper the work at the North Washington Pump Station, but we are working through the issues with the Redeveloper's Team.

**NJDOT grant Applications:** We are preparing the applications for the July 1<sup>st</sup> submission.

**Mayoral Town Hall:**

OEM June 30<sup>th</sup> senior center 7PM. OEM Coordinator Homer Mosley and I will talk about the Office of Emergency Management and preparedness for emergencies.

**Cannabis Survey:**

The Mayor's Cannabis Task Force has completed a survey that Council has been provided to review. In the coming month, it will be released to the public for public input. Thank you to Council Members Terri Albertson and Hal VanDermark for their leadership in ensuring this is a balanced conversation and making sure Dunellen moves forward on the topic of cannabis.

**NJ Transit Transit-Friendly Planning:**

In working with NJ Transit on the Dunellen Train Station improvements, I have been able to obtain a free technical assistance grant from NJ Transit's Transit-Friendly Planning division on improved traffic and pedestrian circulation around the train station. We believe this will assist us in our current planning efforts with the Master Plan Re-Examination, as well as the NJTPA Complete and Green Streets Policy grant we received and help us secure future grant funding for such improvements. More information to come in the near future.

Homer Mosley: The following is a summary of recent Dunellen OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) activities:

- 1) The Dunellen EOPs (Emergency Operation Plans) have been updated, reformatted and submitted for review to the Middlesex OEM. The Middlesex OEM has forwarded them to the State OEM for comments and approval. Dunellen OEM thanks all departments and agencies participating in the updates.
- 2) Dunellen OEM has completed and submitted the required paperwork for fiscal year 2022-2023 EMMA (Emergency Management Agency Assistance Grant for \$10,000. OEM is near completion of the requirements for FY 2021-2022 grant and expects payment of \$10,000 later this year.
- 3) The last LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Council) meeting for FY 2021-2022 was held in May. This was one of the requirements for this year's grant. OEM thanks those that participated but there are still agencies which are critical to the LEPC functioning that haven't participated.
- 4) Several CERT members have completed training and testing for their FCC Amateur Radio Operator License. Amateur Radios can be used when other forms of Communications have failed during a disaster.
- 5) CERT members recently completed a three series course on CART which taught animal rescue and sheltering during disasters.

- 6) CERT hopes to resume analyzing building facilities for possible emergency shelter use since its members have now received Field Shelter Guide Training.
- 7) CERT members will continue updating their skills during the Summer to add more value and services for the Borough.
- 8) One of the CERT members has been assigned as the SAR (Search and Rescue) Coordinator by OEM Coordinator Mosley in cooperation with the Dunellen Police Department. The SAR Coordinator seeks out additional search and rescue resources when the Police and Borough have exhausted local resources.
- 9) CERT members have been distributing posters to downtown businesses regarding the CERT Program hoping to generate interest in CERT and recruit new members. CERT needs new members to accomplish all the work that needs to be done.
- 10) OEM Coordinator Homer Mosley thanks Mayor Cilento and the Council for allowing him to deliver the congratulatory proclamation to Reverent Roy Carryl and the Living Hope Outreach Center on their 20-year anniversary. The mayor had a previous engagement that day and couldn't be present. Living Hope brought the old Whittier School Building and has distributed food and has rendered other services to the citizens of Dunellen.
- 11) Finally, congratulations to my Deputy, Bill Carlson for successfully completing the grueling multiweek Emergency Management 1 Course and examination. He has recently applied for his NJ Certified Emergency Management credential.

Liz Lopez-Velez, Dunellen Library Manager, informed Council and public of the Summer Reading Kick-Off, this Friday at 1:00, with a program on sand with assistance of Rutgers University. Keep informed on this program and others from Library social media.

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Public Portion:

Pat Green, 631 North Avenue Extension, thanked Mr. Bruder and Council for addressing the traffic and truck problems on her street, and informed the Council of specific issues. Jack Green noted that the trucking company, Real, has now subcontracted. Mr. Brudner noted that he has learned from the owners at the site that the truck drivers pick up in Newark and have to leave at 4:00 am to avoid waiting a long time in line, which contributes to the problem here in Dunellen. Mr. Green responded that the trucks come at all hours.

Rita Edwards, 126 Dunellen Avenue, raised the problem of noise pollution around the Fourth of July holiday: very unbearable with all the fireworks. It was very frightening. Her dog was scared. Mayor Cilento replied that we would put out a post to encourage the public not to violate fireworks laws and to respect neighbors.

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

**06-20-2022: #23**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of June 20, 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://youtu.be/DDQLruwpp0E>