

March 7, 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 March 7, 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, Teresa Albertson, Jessica Dunne, Joseph Paltjon, Trina Rios, Daniel Sigmon and Harold VanDermark

Mayor Cilento called for a moment of silence in honor of the people of Ukraine and Kyiv. Let us pray for peace.

On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Albertson it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 22, 2022.

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

At this point, the following Proclamation Honoring the Importance of Girls Scouts to Today's Girls was read by members of the Girl Scouts:

## **A Proclamation on the Importance of Girl Scouts to Today's Girls**

WHEREAS, March 12, 2022, marks the 110th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, the largest and most impactful leadership program for girls in the world; and

WHEREAS, March 6-12, 2022 is National Girl Scout Week; and,

WHEREAS, since their beginnings, Girl Scouts has emphasized public service and civic engagement, and has fostered a sense of community in girls; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts works to champion the ambitions, cultivate the talents, and develop the skills of girls to confidently pursue their passions and make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, during a time when girls are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, stress, loneliness, and depression, Girl Scouts provides community, consistency, and connection for girls, and is a safe haven in all the uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, girls say that Girl Scouts support their mental health and is an accepting, safe space where they feel free to be themselves and where leaders and other girls are sources of support during difficult times; and

WHEREAS, especially in the time of COVID-19, Girl Scouts plays an indispensable role in engaging girls in after school and out-of-school programming and experiences that expand their world and allow them to tap into their inner innovator, change maker, and leader; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts engages girls of all grade levels in civics programming that deepens their understanding of democracy and government, prepares them for a lifetime of civic engagement, and motivates them to take action on issues that are important to them; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts offers girls 21st century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); the outdoors; entrepreneurship; and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills; and

WHEREAS, Gold Award Girl Scouts take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 50 million women—trailblazers, visionaries, and leaders—are Girl Scout alums who have made the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts Heart of NJ serves nearly 12,000 girls in their Council across Central Jersey, including 34 girls and 14 adult volunteers in Dunellen,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jason Cilento, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Dunellen, do hereby applaud the Girl Scout Movement and the Heart of NJ Council for providing girls with a safe, inclusive, all-girl space where they can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities, and I declare the week of March 6 through March 12, 2022, to be Girl Scout Week.

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At this point, a Proclamation in Honor of Women’s History Month was read by Dunellen’s Councilwomen:

## **Proclamation In Honor of Women’s History Month**

WHEREAS, throughout history, women have made significant contributions to the growth and strength of our borough, state, nation and the world in countless ways; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 theme for Women’s History Month is “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope,” which honors caregivers and frontline workers through this pandemic as well as recognizing all the ways women have provided healing and hope throughout history; and

WHEREAS, through leadership, innovation, and ingenuity, generations of women have made significant contributions in science, medicine, technology, business, politics, entrepreneurship, labor, and arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, women have been leaders in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, and in the abolitionist, emancipation, industrial labor, civil rights, and peace movements, created a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, whether serving in elected positions across America, leading groundbreaking civil rights movements, venturing into unknown frontiers, or programming revolutionary technologies, generations of women opened new doors and had a profound and positive impact on our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, and the Borough Council of Dunellen, New Jersey, hereby celebrate the month of March 2022 as Women's History Month and encourage others to celebrate too.

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

### **Ordinance 2022-09**

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

#### **NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, is being introduced for first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on March 7, 2022. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held in the Dunellen Borough Council Chambers, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, NJ 08812 on March 21, 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 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 FOR REPAIRS TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$250,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$238,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Purpose: Repairs to the Municipal Building roof, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto

Appropriation: \$250,000  
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$238,000  
Grant Appropriated: N/A  
Section 20 Costs: \$37,600

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

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

### **ORDINANCE 2022-08**

#### **NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY**

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced for first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on February 22, 2022. It is now being further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body being held in the Dunellen Borough Council Chambers on March 7, 2022 at 7 o'clock p.m. This public hearing is also available remotely. For how to access this meeting remotely, go to [\[https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/municipal\\_news/muniicpal\\_news\\_2/index.php\]](https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/municipal_news/muniicpal_news_2/index.php). During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of the full bond ordinance have been available at no cost at the Municipal Clerk's Office for the members of the general public who have requested the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

Title: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$600,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$571,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Purpose: Various road improvements, including milling, paving, striping and the installation of ADA compliant ramps to various municipal roads, including, but not limited to, Front Street between Sanford Avenue and Madison Avenue, Dunellen Avenue between Sanford Avenue and Madison Avenue, First Street between Schwartz Place and Madison Avenue, Second Street between Middlesex border to Madison Avenue and the entire length of Schwartz Place and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto

Appropriation: \$600,000  
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$571,000  
Grant Appropriated: N/A  
Section 20 Costs: \$120,000  
Useful Life: 10 years

Public portion: no one from the public spoke.

Dr. Dunne asked if we know when this will begin? Mayor Cilento responded that ideally this would be Summer 2022.

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:

**03-07-2022: #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

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

**03-07-2022: #2**

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

Boy Scout Troop 29 is approved to hold a town wide garage sale on June 4, 2022 (rain date June 11, 2022), from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. All fees for this event are waived.

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:

**03-07-2022: #3**

Resolution **11-15-2021: #4** is amended as follows:

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

GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
DUNELLEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
AND  
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
BY AND FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

GRANT IDENTIFIER: UCF-201-DSTC-00025-TP

The Governing Body of the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$44,000.00 to fund the following project:

Reforestation/Tree Planting—Shade Trees for Dunellen 2021

Therefore, the governing body resolves that William Robins, Borough Business Administrator, is authorized (a) to make application for such a grant, (b) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the state for a grant in an amount not less than \$0 and not more than \$44,000.00, and (c) to execute any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations.

The Borough Council authorizes and hereby agrees to match 20% of the Total Project Amount, in compliance with the match requirements of the agreement. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified up to 100% of the match and will be made up of in-kind services. The Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement.

Dr. Robins explained that the amount of the grant is being adjusted to make it below our new bid threshold.

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:

**03-07-2022: #4**

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

CME Associates is awarded a contract to undertake engineering services associated with the requirements of the Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit renewal, at a cost not to exceed \$4,468.00.

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

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

**03-07-2022: #5**

**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 authorized to enter into an agreement with the County of Middlesex for a Shared Radio Network.

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

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

**03-07-2022: #6**

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

Al Murkey is hereby hired as a Substitute School Crossing Guard, effective March 7, 2022, at an hourly salary of \$13.00. This is a position without benefits.

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:

**03-07-2022: #7**

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following proceeds for tax sale redemption(s):

Payable to FIG CUST FIGNJ119LLC & SEC PTY

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
20-30	57.01	21.03	WASILEWSKA, E & WASILEWSKI, W & M 403 SOUTH MADISON AVE	\$ 885.96	\$ 14.82	\$1,800.00	\$2,700.78

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 2,700.78**

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:

**03-07-2022: #8**

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

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

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

Now therefore be it resolved that the Governing Body authorize the issuance of an Instant Raffle License to the Knights of Columbus, #2544 John Barry Council.

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

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

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## **COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

### Vehicle repair in driveways

Dr. Dunne brought this issue to the Council's attention and Dr. Robins prepared and distributed two drafts of an ordinance for Council consideration. Dr. Dunne began by stating an important consideration is an ordinance's enforceability. She also noted that any ordinance ought to be in line with other ordinances, especially those on property maintenance. The intent of any ordinance should be that work should be out of sight. Mayor Cilento expressed concern regarding work done in enclosed areas which might engender a hardship for lower income residents without garages or who live in apartment complexes. Mrs. Rios noted that some residents do not have driveways and would need to do any repairs in the street. She also stated that most people who do their own repairs are very conscious of the environment regarding proper disposal of oil. She also pointed out that the section regarding permitting only family members would preclude repairing in a neighbor's driveway. Mayor Cilento noted that important considerations were not doing repairs in public right of ways, the right of people to be able to repair vehicles in their own driveways, limitation on hours, and proper cleaning up and disposal of materials. Mr. VanDermark expressed concern for those residents who could not afford to take their vehicles to mechanics. Other sections of the draft ordinances were analyzed, and their merits and demerits discussed. Mr. Bruder said he would try to draft a new ordinance based on Council comments.

The full audio of this portion of the Council meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rM7ce1OPnJI> from minute 20 through minute 40.

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### Reports:

Mrs. Albertson: 1) Fire Department--they continue to work on getting quotes for equipment replacements. Architects are getting ready to draw up plans for the rebuild; 2) Diversity and Inclusion--our Facebook page is back up and running. Please check us out. This month we are posting information for Women's History Month. We still have openings for new members. If you are interested in joining us, please fill out the Volunteer application on the Borough website; 3) Social Media--we are working on clarifications of certain parts of the social media policy, specifically the section on subcommittees. We are moving forward on our form for reporting violations of the social media policy.

Mrs. Rios: 1) Dunellen Public Library had some amazing programs this past month hosting their first jazz night. Representatives from Elijah's Promise were there to answer questions about SNAP and EBT/food stamps. This month, programs are just as fantastic with a hybrid parent and teen college planning workshop, a new home buyer and renovation loan program with Loan Depot,



a pottery class with instructors from Du Cret school of art and our own miniature art show showcasing school aged students. Students interested in entering can also pick up art supplies at the library; 2) the library received two grants: one from the Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 for collection development and \$2,500 for programs, and another from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund in the amount of \$2,875 for cultural programming; 3) the Friends of the Dunellen Library will be funding the purchase of new computers for the Circulation Desk. For more information, please call our library or look for us on Facebook. They are also looking for volunteers to join the first open air market that will be April 10 at their new location of Washington Park; 4) the Municipal Alliance SUDS program will start up again March 10th and the 17th. We have started the “We’re not buying it” program to the 7th grade class at Lincoln Middle School. This is a six-week program teaching kids not to believe in the hype or idea of drugs and drug use, teaching them to make conscious and cautious decisions; 5) the Dunellen Arts and Culture Committee has cleaned up almost all of the windows that had Winter scenes. Thank you to those businesses for their support of the arts. We will be looking for donations for the town wide yarn bomb where we decorate the parking meters with crochet designs; 6) the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization is still looking for vendors for the Spring into Wellness event on April 23 promoting all things wellness, be it physical, mental, or nutritional. Anyone interested can find us on Facebook or emailing us; 7) the Finance Committee- I just want to report on the Borough’s debt ceiling and borrowing capacity. As we all realize we’ve had to take out a large sum in bonds for the Fire Department and rightfully so, as well as Road improvement projects and other capital investments that we’ve had to make in the borough. I just want everyone to know in Council that the Finance Committee takes this seriously as we do know the governing body does as well. We have to take into consideration that we pay debt services every year in our budget. So, that will lower the amount that we owe in debt services. Plus, the state grants we get back in vouchers for the road projects and other projects that we get grant funding from will also help lower the debt. The Finance Committee along with the Borough Council will continue to make sound financial decisions for the Borough so we can continue making progress on capital improvements as well as making sure the Fire Department gets rebuilt and also take into consideration what impact this may have on taxpayers.

Mr. VanDermark: 1) Recreation basketball season wrapped up on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Recreation Department is very thankful to all the coaches. Registration is now open for all spring sports: Baseball/Softball, Tennis, and Track. Also, summer camp registration is now open too. 2) anyone interested in a Hometown Heroes banner can purchase them through the Recreation Department, deadline is March 27<sup>th</sup>; 3) the Recreation Department is very happy to announce the Easter Egg Hunt is back. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday April 10th at 1pm in Columbia Park. If anyone has any questions please feel free to email Alex Miller at [amiller@dunellenborough.com](mailto:amiller@dunellenborough.com); 4) the Mayor’s Cannabis Task Force will be meeting this week to draft recommendations to Mayor and Council.

Dr. Dunne: Thank you, Mayor Cilento, for your opening statements about the war in Ukraine. The NY/NJ metro area is home to the largest number of Ukrainians and Ukrainian-Americans outside of Ukraine. May we all stand with our neighbors and support them after this unlawful and inexcusable action of aggression from Vladimir Putin. I encourage everyone who is willing and able to support local, national & international organizations in their humanitarian aid.

1. Police Department report for February: 16 arrests, 11 DWI arrests, 459 summonses issued, 7 Borough Ordinances, and 297 MV Stops. The Police still do not have their new computers.
2. Thanks to Ms. Willoughby for having us all back to partake in Read Across America at Faber School. It looked a little different this year, but special thanks to her, Ms. Berke & her kindergarten class and my two student ambassadors for helping me read “Hop on Pop” and answering important questions from the kindergarten class.
3. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, I attended the Board of Education meeting. The Spring musical is Willy Wonka. We were reminded that as of today, March 7<sup>th</sup>, masks are now optional in schools. Board of Education president, Dr. Gendrano, whose doctorate is in epidemiology, reminded us that the threat of COVID still exists and that we need to be respectful of everyone’s response to the ongoing situation. As many of you know, I am a scientist and it’s unfortunate that science has been politicized in the way it has been over the past two years. So, I just ask that as we enter the great unmasking, that we use compassion and try to think about our friends and neighbors. It’s not just about “me,” but about “us.” Taking precautions to protect others is something we should all consider. Make your own risk calculations, but I ask you to think about your own risk in the context of others. Finally, the other item of note is that the superintendent search is underway. The next Board of Education meeting is March 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. Tomorrow, March 8<sup>th</sup>, is the next Shade Tree Commission meeting at the Senior Center at 7 pm.
5. Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, is the next Parking Authority meeting, at the PA building, also at 7 pm.
6. Our next Diversity and Inclusion meeting is slated for Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Those whose volunteer applications we have received will be invited to the meeting.
7. I mentioned the Water Safety project that I’ve been working with County officials and two residents to bring Water Safety programs to Dunellen. One of the residents has reached out to the PTO & Faber Principal to inquire about bringing some programs to the schools.
8. Finally, in honor of Women’s History Month, I wanted to make a brief statement. I think most people who know me know that I work a lot in both my professional context as well as my personal life advocating for Women & Girls in Science. This month, I think it’s important to recognize the challenges that still exist, and while my focus has, again, been on scientific careers, much of what I’ve learned through my research, volunteerism, and activities, can be extended beyond science. Last year, along with a few colleagues, I published a peer-reviewed research article in a leading journal. I want to read an excerpt of that:

“Disparities are often evidenced by and reinforced by microaggressions. Among the many examples of this... is that women’s professional titles are not used as commonly as men’s in many forms of communication. Other well-documented workplace microaggressions include women being interrupted in meetings, not being listened to, hearing others credited with their idea or work, being accused of plotting ... or being excluded from group decisions or informal events. Sometimes these workplace experiences also include macroaggressions – including overt sexual harassment; indeed, in one recent

report, 30% of women reported being sexually harassed in the workplace in comparison to only 4% of men. Women often cite the energy devoted to dealing with such [aggressions] as a factor in their loss of professional productivity and a reason for leaving the field. Hence, it is essential that women are not only represented, but make up an equitable proportion of these positions of authority in order to overcome these ingrained biases and cultural challenges.”

9. Not only have I experienced all these micro- and macro-aggressions in my professional career, but I have also experienced them all in my time on Council. All of this indicates that change is necessary across all aspects of our society to establish gender equity and we, as a Mayor and Council, have the ability to effectuate change here in Dunellen.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) DPW report:

- Cleaning downtown sidewalks.
- Continuing cleaning catch basins throughout the Borough.
- Grounded multiple stumps from trees that were removed last fall.
- Park maintenance in Columbia Park.
- Curbside leaf bag pick up has begun.
- Maintenance in the recycling yard, after the brush was removed, the crew worked on leveling out the ruts in the recycling yard.
- Unclogged a storm water pipe that runs from Skinner Plaza, behind the homes on Prospect Avenue and New Market Road.
- Our Mechanic repaired: both Sandpro tractors (ball field tractors), installed a new motor on our large salter, some minor maintenance on the small salter, repaired Police Cars: #501, #507, Crown Vic, and the Detective’s Car.

Mr. Paltjon: 1) Buildings and Grounds--following up from RVE’s roof assessment a few weeks ago, RVE has recommended that the Borough Hall roof is in need of replacement. RVE has been working on roof design and planning for the Borough; 2) PARSA--PARSA will continue videoing all our streets that will be paved this year. Mayor Cilento has met with Alex Miller and PARSA on charting our sewer calls to identify hot spots in the Borough. The chart will be identifying the nature of the calls, grease, roots, or debris; 3) Dunellen Rescue Squad—along with Mayor Cilento and Dr. Robins, we met with members of the DRS on March 4<sup>th</sup>. This was another meeting for open communications regarding a possible merger between the Dunellen Rescue Squad and the River Road Rescue Squad and how this affects the residents of Dunellen. There are still many outstanding questions; 4) congratulated Fred Parcells upon his appointment as the LMS Softball Coach; 5) finally, he is pleased that as of today, masks are optional in the District and it was nice to see their faces and smiles today. Masks are optional, so please be respectful of all.

Mayor Cilento:

Covid-19 Update:

Since my last report on 2/22/2022, we have been made aware of 7 more new cases added to Dunellen’s cumulative total of 1,787 since March 2020; 2 of these new cases have been within the last 24 hours. Dunellen’s cumulative death total is fifteen.

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

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:	74%
12 through 17:	72%
12 and over:	87%
18 and over:	88%
30 and over:	89%
65 and over:	98%

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

All Ages:	64%
12 through 17:	62%
12 and over:	75%
18 and over:	76%
30 and over:	77%
65 and over:	86%

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

**New Jersey American Water and PSE&G Improvements:**

The following streets are scheduled for gas and water services for the week of March 7th.

NJAW services:

- Fourth Street: from Third Street to Lincoln Avenue
- Third Street: from Fourth Street to Lincoln Avenue

- Lincoln Avenue & cross street tie-in @ Dunellen Avenue, First Street, and Second Street.

For questions or concerns on the NJAW project, you may contact Mike Rinaldo, Construction Inspector at 908-205-3471

They can also be reached at our Customer Service Center: 1-800-272-1325 Hours: 7 a.m.–7 p.m., M-F For emergencies, we're available 24/7.

PSE&G Services:

- #800 Block of Front Street
- #800 Block of Dunellen Avenue
- Sanford Avenue from North Avenue to Dunellen Avenue

For more information on this PSE&G project, as well as a video about the upgrade work, please visit [pseg.com/gaswork](http://pseg.com/gaswork). If you have any questions, please call 1-833-661-6400.

As with any construction project, you may experience an increase in traffic, loud noise, and presence of heavy equipment and machinery. If anyone in the household has a serious medical condition that may be aggravated by an interruption in gas service, please contact us immediately at 1-800-436-7734 (PSEG).

More information on the NJAW project can be found on our website where we have been posting regular updates: [https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/news\\_detail\\_T30\\_R28.php](https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/news_detail_T30_R28.php)

### **2022 Mill & Pave Project:**

Mill and Pave program will take place after PSE&G work is completed; the following streets will be newly paved curb to curb from the Mill & Pave project:

- Second Street from Middlesex border to Madison Avenue.
- Schwartz Place
- First Street (from Schwartz to Madison) #800 block to be paved curb to curb by PSE&G.
- Dunellen Ave (from Sanford to Madison) #700 & #800 blocks to be paved curb to curb by PSE&G.
- Front Street (from Sanford to Madison) #700 & #800 blocks to be paved curb to curb by PSE&G.

### **Art Color:**

There will be testing performed on the North Washington Avenue pump station force main into Green Brook on March 8, 2022. No anticipated traffic disruptions.

### **Green Brook Clean-up March 19th (10am-12pm):**

The Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, Central Jersey Stream Team, Union County Clean Communities Program, Mayor's Alliance for a Cleaner Green Brook Waterway, and the municipalities of Dunellen, Green Brook, Middlesex, Plainfield, and North Plainfield will be cleaning up garbage debris along the brook. Anyone interested to participate can register here

<https://lowerraritanwatershed.org/event/save-the-date-march-19-multi-site-green-brook-clean-up/> or you can go to my mayor's Facebook page, the Borough FB page, or the Recreation FB Page. Last fall we had a clean-up, and it was a wonderful community event, we had over 50 volunteers.

He will be sending to DPW a proposed Rubbish Ordinance and a proposal to add another roll-off day.

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### Public Comment

Joe Scricco, 436 Dunellen Avenue: asked about paving Lincoln Avenue. Mayor Cilento replied that there will be a bid opening on March 24<sup>th</sup> and paving is anticipated this Fall. Mr. Scricco also commented on the vehicle repair ordinance: noted that this ordinance will not realistically affect the people it is intended to address. Those are people who will dump motor fluid into the sewers. The ordinance will only affect law-abiding residents such as himself. Enforcement, as noted, is the key to this ordinance, but it is not likely that a Police Officer will come into his backyard to see that he has kitty litter. He recommends the ordinance be instructive in teaching people how to properly dispose of motor parts and oils. He referenced the garbage can in the Advance Auto Parts parking lot. He also noted that noise should be considered—not a limitation on times to work on vehicles, but on noise. He cannot afford a garage. He agrees that working in the street “should be frowned upon.” He understands we do not want old vehicles sitting in the backyard (property maintenance), but this ordinance will not realistically affect anyone who is already following the rules. It is also hypocritical for you to tell me that I cannot service or maintain my own vehicle when roads and trees are not themselves maintained. A tree fell on his brother's car.

Robert Scricco, 436 Dunellen Avenue, concurred with his brother's statements and opinions on this ordinance. Also noted the poor condition of Lincoln Avenue. Argued that working on your car in your driveway is fundamentally American. Proper disposal is the key.

Robert Rios, 317 Third Street: the ordinance as presented tonight, he would have been in violation yesterday. His son worked on his car, in the street. He was proud of his son but would have been cited. Also, an enclosure is a financial burden on those who cannot afford a garage to hide an American activity on their own property.

The full audio of this portion of the Council meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rM7ce1OPnJI> from minute 59 through minute 68.

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

**03-07-2022: #9**

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

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6) permits the closing of meetings to the public under certain circumstances; and

Whereas, there exists such a circumstance; and

Whereas, the Governing Body wishes to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters concerning contract negotiations; and

Whereas, minutes of the Executive Session will be kept and will be released when the matters under discussion during the Executive Session are no longer confidential.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Borough Council will enter into Executive Session.

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:

**03-07-2022: #10**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council will return to Regular Session.

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:

**03-07-2022: #11**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of March 7, 2022 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=rM7ce1OPnJI>