

May 16, 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 May 16, 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 asked for a moment of silence for the passing of former Councilman Tom Cote, School Crossing Guard Christine Petroski, and on his own behalf, for the passing of his grandmother, Jean Free, and those who were recently killed in the Buffalo shootings.

On the motion of Mr. Sigmon and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 2, 2022.

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

At this point, the following Proclamation Recognizing May as Mental Health Month was read:

### **Proclamation Declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Month**

**WHEREAS**, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illnesses affect almost every family in The World; and

**WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses often recover if given the necessary services and supports in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and

**WHEREAS**, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento**, on behalf of Dunellen, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2022, as MENTAL HEALTH MONTH. As the **Mayor**, I also call upon all Dunellen citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

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

**2022-13**

**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 May 16, 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 on June 6, 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 VARIOUS SEWER UTILITY REPAIRS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW**

JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$283,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$283,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Purpose(s): Various sewer utility repairs, including but not limited to, repairs on Pulaski Street and Grove Street, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

Appropriation: \$283,000

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$283,000

Grants (if any) Appropriated: N/A

Section 20 Costs: \$56,500

Useful Life: 40 years

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

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

**ORDINANCE 2022-14**

**BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN**

The following DUNELLEN SALARY ORDINANCE is being Introduced for first reading on May 16, 2022. It will be furthered considered for public hearing and adoption on June 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dunellen Borough Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey. Copies of this ordinance will be posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board, and will be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk for any interested members of the public.

The following are base salaries, without longevity or benefits:

<b>Step</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
11	\$120,000.00	\$180,000.00
10	\$75,000.00	\$140,000.00
9	\$60,000.00	\$90,000.00
8	\$40,000.00	\$65,000.00
7	\$35,000.00	\$60,000.00
6	\$30,000.00	\$60,000.00
5	\$25,000.00	\$40,000.00
4	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
3	\$8,000.00	\$25,000.00
2	\$2,000.00	\$20,000.00
1	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00

<b><u>Full-Time Positions</u></b>	<b><u>Step</u></b>
Chief of Police	11
Administrator/Clerk	10
DPW Supervisor	10
Court Administrator	9
Human Resources Manager	9
Recreation Director	8
Supervisor, Accounts & Payroll	8
Technical Assistant to the Construction Official	8
Administrative Assistant, Interdepartmental	8
Finance/Payroll Clerk	7
Deputy Municipal Clerk	6
Deputy Registrar	6
Deputy Court Administrator	6
Tax Office Assistant	6
Police Department Administrative Assistant	6
Violations Clerk, Municipal Court	6
Registrar	5
Clerk's Office Admin. Assistant	5

**Part-Time Salary Positions**

Municipal Attorney	8
Construction Code Official	5
Municipal Judge	5
Chief Financial Officer	5
Public Works Manager	5
Recreation Administrative Assistant	4
Tax Assessor	3
Tax Collector	3
Municipal Prosecutor	3
Sewer Inspector	3
Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement	3
Public Defender	2
Office of Emergency Management	2
Sub Code Official (Electrical, Fire, Plumbing)	2
Zoning Officer	2
Public Information Officer	2
Grant Writer	2
Sign Ordinance Enforcement Officer	1

<b><u>Part Time – Hourly</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum</u></b>
Sewer Inspector - Additional Hourly	\$30.00	\$48.00
Substitute Deputy Clerk (Court)	\$25.00	\$35.00
Interpreter	\$20.00	\$30.00
Tax Assessor Assistant	\$15.00	\$30.00
Planning Board Assistant	\$15.00	\$30.00

Planning Board Secretary	\$13.00	\$30.00
Acting Recreation Director	\$20.00	\$25.00
Recreation Administrative Assistant	\$13.00	\$25.00
Tax Clerk	\$13.00	\$25.00
Construction Office Assistant	\$13.00	\$25.00
Police Administrative Assistant	\$13.00	\$25.00
Head School Crossing Guard	\$13.00	\$25.00
School Crossing Guard	\$13.00	\$20.00
Clerk's Administrative Assistant	\$13.00	\$20.00
Senior Citizen Van Driver	\$13.00	\$20.00
Violations Clerk (Court)	\$13.00	\$20.00
Laborer	\$13.00	\$20.00
Janitor	\$13.00	\$20.00
Recreation Department part-time	\$13.00	\$20.00

**Part-Time - Monthly/Meeting**

Planning Board Recording Secretary	\$275/meeting	\$300/meeting
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**Elected Officials**

Mayor	\$5,000 annually
Council President	\$2,800 annually
Council Member	\$2,500 annually

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:

**05-16-2022: #1**

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

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

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

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

**05-16-2022: #2**

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

2022 Summer hours for employees of the Municipal Clerk’s Office, Tax Office, Construction Office, Recreation Department, and Municipal Court will be as follows, for the term beginning May 23, 2022 to September 5, 2022:

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break

Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Dunne asked about beginning on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Robins explained that if the employees work the week before Memorial Day, May 23–27 this year, then Summer hours could begin on the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend.

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:

**05-16-2022: #3**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TO  
AMEND THE BUDGET CAP LAW TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR  
INCREASING INSURANCE COSTS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45, et al, a municipality is required to limit any increase in its levy to 2.0% and any increase in appropriations to 2 1/2% or the cost-of-living adjustment, whatever is less, over the prior year's final appropriations subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, all local public entities, including participating municipalities in the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL), has incurred an estimated \$50 million in COVID related worker's compensation claims and it is anticipated that these costs will continue to increase as a result of long-term COVID cases; and

WHEREAS, a 2021 New Jersey Department of Labor decision regarding worker's compensation funding has generated increased costs to the members of the MEL by over 10% in order to cover claims that were previously funded by the State pension system; and

WHEREAS, a recent amendment to the sexual molestation statute of limitations will increase total liability costs for members of the MEL system by an estimated amount of 6% in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of weather-related catastrophic claims and corresponding impacts are anticipated to increase property insurance costs by over 10% per year; and

WHEREAS, cyber liability events throughout the country have resulted in twice the amount of premium costs in 2022 and such costs are expected to accelerate at a pace far greater than the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, these increasing costs, regulations, policy decisions and environmental impacts are occurring when many other items and costs in municipal budgets are also increasing at an inflationary rate; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen that N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45 be amended to provide that appropriations in the first three years after the effective date of (this amendment) for liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance, cyber insurance, and property insurance be exempt from the Appropriation CAP and the Levy CAP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the New Jersey Legislative representative for the Borough of Dunellen.

In response to a question from Dr. Dunne on the implications to the borough of this resolution, Dr. Robins explained that certain items lie outside the CAP law, which the borough adopts annually, and our JIF has asked all its members to request respective state legislators by this resolution to amend the CAP law to include additional items which have an impact on municipal budgets. The specific items are set forth in the resolution.

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

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

**05-16-2022: #4**

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

The resignation of Lylian Pagan, Municipal Court translator, is accepted, effective April 4, 2022.

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:

**05-16-2022: #5**

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

Gail Woerner is hired as a full-time Tax Office Assistant, effective June 1, 2022, at an annual salary of \$45,000.00, with benefits.

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

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

**05-16-2022: #6**

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

Deborah Ritchey is hired as a full-time Police Department Administrative Assistant, effective June 1, 2022, at an annual salary of \$45,000.00, with benefits.

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

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

**05-16-2022: #7**

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

Annette Sorbino is hired as a part-time assistant in the Construction Office, effective April 30, 2022, at an hourly salary of \$20.00. This is a position without benefits.

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

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

**05-16-2022: #7-A**

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

Whereas, there exists a need for improvements to various streets in the Borough of Dunellen; and

Whereas, the Borough of Dunellen has entered into an agreement with the County of Middlesex for the milling and paving of various streets and roads; and



Whereas, funds for this project have been authorized by Ordinance 2022-08, titled “Bond Ordinance providing for various road improvements in and by the Borough of Dunellen.”

Now therefore be it resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen as follows:

1. The sum of \$250,804.00 is hereby authorized and approved for payment to the County of Middlesex, such sum per the Agreement representing Dunellen’s obligation under the Agreement for the cost of the materials required for the project.
2. The total cost of this authorization shall not exceed \$250,804.00.

Mayor Cilento noted that these are all the roads he had previously informed Council of, except for Second Street and one block on Front Street which are not eligible under this program due to coring issues.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**05-16-2022: #8**

Dunellen Borough Council resolution 02-07-2022: #14 is amended as follows:

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

Contracts are awarded to Motorola Solutions, care of Wireless Communications and Electronics of Metuchen, NJ, for the purchase of the following items:

Panasonic Toughbook 55 and accessories NJ State NASPO contract # #89980	\$5,402.88
David Clark Intercomm System for 4 positions and Pump Panel Headsets,	\$8,879.69
Radio Communications Equipment and Accessories NJ State contract #83909	\$299,248.15
Radio Communications Equipment and Accessories NJ State contract #83909	\$10,834.75
Uninterrupted Power Supply and cabinet	\$3,596.86

For a total amount not to exceed \$327,962.33.

**05-16-2022: #9**

Dunellen Borough Council resolution 05-02-2022: #14 is amended as follows:

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

A contract is awarded to Mid-Atlantic Rescue Systems, Inc., for one Boat Series 14-inch Inflatable, with various accessories, for an amount not to exceed \$19,199.30.

**05-16-2022: #10**

**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 US BANK CUST FRO PRO CAP 8

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
19-01	1	15.02	NEAL, EARL W & DEBORAH 144-146 NORTH AVE	\$23,754.30	\$5,448.80	\$1,100.00	\$30,303.10

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$30,303.10**

**05-16-2022: #11**

**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 TRYSTONE CAPITAL ASSETS LLC

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
17-20	70	10	CEKADA, A & CUBELO, M 126 NEW MARKET AVE	\$2138.46	\$ 425.50	\$700.00	\$ 3263.96

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 3263.96**

**05-16-2022: #12**

**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 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5479.

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

**05-16-2022: #13**

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue checks to DMR Architects, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account(s) listed below, for architectural work towards the following application(s):

**TRAIN STATION REDEVELOPMENT (MAS DEVELOPMENT GROUP)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
20220415	PE135	Professional Services	\$633.75
20220415	PE135	Professional Services	<u>345.00</u>
			978.75

**05-16-2022: #14**

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue checks to CME Associates, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account(s) listed below, for legal work towards the following application(s):

**370-372 NORTH AVE (LILY YIP)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
303525	PB273	Resolution Compliance Review	\$92.00

**545 FOURTH STREET (SWITZER)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
303526	PB275	Resolution Compliance Review	\$828.50

**BRUDNER REDEVELOPMENT (FORCE MAIN)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
303528	PE128	Engineering	\$1,254.50

**150 NORTH AVENUE (COMMUNIPAW)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
295346	PE131	Engineering	\$542.50
297879	PE131	Engineering	<u>\$276.00</u>
			\$818.50

**100 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE (PRISM ASSOCIATES)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
303529	PE129	Engineering	\$1,135.00

**05-16-2022: #15**

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

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue checks to McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account(s) listed below, for legal work towards the following application(s):

**TRAIN STATION REDEVELOPMENT (MAS DEVELOPMENT GROUP)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
190275	PE130	Professional Services	\$2,460.90

**05-16-2022: #16**

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

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue checks to Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account(s) listed below, for legal work towards the following application(s):

**440 NORTH AVENUE (CHELSEA BUILDERS)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
65093	PB268	Professional Services	\$600.00

75892	PB268	Professional Services	45.00
			<u>\$645.00</u>

**150 NORTH AVENUE (COMMUNIPAW)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
75891	PE132	Professional Services	\$39.18
75891	PE132	Professional Services	<u>1,043.42</u>
			<u>\$1,082.60</u>

**316 NORTH AVENUE (YIOS)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
66299	PE133	Professional Services	\$1,020.00
68631	PE133	Professional Services	<u>513.00</u>
			<u>\$1,533.00</u>

**745 BOUND BROOK ROAD (SRV)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
71895	PE103	Professional Services	\$225.00

**528 NORTH AVE (VISION DUNELLEN - JAIN)**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
77389	PE134	Professional Services	\$1,487.50

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

Reports:

Mrs. Albertson: 1) Fire Department--Department Report for January 1 - April, 2022, Total of 53 calls: 4 fire, 7 EMS, 15 Hazmat, 2 Service, 3 Series, 22 False Alarms, 12 Response to Mutual Aid calls: 8 Greenbrook, 2 Middlesex, 1 New Market Fire, 1 other; 2) Diversity and Inclusion--you all have a copy with information on our first program, the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression workshop will be taking place on June 14th at the Dunellen Public Library. We are very pleased to be able to offer this 90-minute interactive session. We're grateful to our Facilitator Lauren Porsch-Ortega for volunteering her time and knowledge to support the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. We hope we can count on your support to the Committee and this workshop. Do you have any questions? 3) The Senior Club--we meet every Friday at 10:30 am. We recently had a program of Irish Music. Later this month we will have a program on Stroke Awareness presented by Maria Bartman from St. Peters Hospital. Anyone 55 or older is invited to join the club.

Mrs. Rios: 1) Dunellen Public Library had an amazing performance from Moana at the Open-Air market this past Sunday. Tomorrow, May 17, the community food bank of New Jersey will have a representative at the library to assist with food stamp applications from 12-4. iPads and Chrome Books are now available for patrons to borrow to use for virtual doctor's appointments and employment searches. The Children's Department has added many new programs, so be sure to follow the library in social media, check us out online or visit us in person and pick up a program Calendar; 2) Dunellen Arts and Culture will be moving forward with the murals at Gavornik Park

pending Community Day; 3) Music in the Park is returning starting Thursday, June 23, with Daria Jones at 7pm.; 4) Summer Camp registration is now open for students in first through 12th grade. For more information call 732-968-4585; 5) on May 6th the Shade Tree Commission was at Faber Elementary School in honor of Arbor Day. I helped plant 2 pear flowering trees along with Robert Rios, Ken Baudendistel, all of the first graders and Ms. Moody; 6) Dunellen Downtown Management Organization: on May 21st we will be celebrating the Dunellen Theatre's 100th anniversary starting at 12:00. Miles Upholstery will have its milestone anniversary on June 4th at 1:00.

Mr. VanDermark: 1) The Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force will be holding its annual Walk/ Bike to School Day on May 26 at 7:30 am. There will be two starting areas, Columbia Park and the St. John's parking lot. All riders are required to wear helmets regardless of Age. Remember, we are setting an example. If you do not have a helmet, please email [rwjinjuryprevention@gmail.com](mailto:rwjinjuryprevention@gmail.com) no later than May 20th or my Borough email address which is available on the town website. Riders K - 3 must be accompanied by an Adult. Parents are encouraged to Ride/ Walk regardless of age; 2) Mayor's Cannabis Task Force will be meeting Wednesday 5/18 and we will have a survey for residents about questions on the Cannabis issues, such as:

- Where acceptable to have dispensary?
- List of categories - which of these do you want in Dunellen?
- How close to your residence would you feel comfortable having on near you?
- Did you initially vote yes or no - How do you feel now?
- Should it be retail and walk out or with a place to sit and use?
- Your age, gender, demographics.

We will present it to the Council at the next meeting. The Task Force has been working diligently trying to keep up with all the new rules and regulations that come out what seems like daily; 3) Recreation Report--all Recreation Sports are still underway with their seasons. Please remember we are still dealing with Covid cases. The Recreation Department and Borough Administration are working on updating Covid protocols and will be posted to the Recreation Department Page soon. Just a reminder that the Recreation Department Senior Luncheon will take place on Sunday, May 22nd @ St. John's auditorium at 1:30pm. Anyone interested please RSVP Alex Miller at 732-968-3033 x8; 4) thank you to the DPW, the 2021 Hometown Heroes Banners are up, we are waiting for the 2022 Banners. They should be in soon; once they come in, they will be put up on the decorative poles. Also remember the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10am. This Parade is one of our great traditions in town, supporting our Veterans and honoring those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Remember this day is to honor those who gave all for our country! Thank you to Mayor Cilento, Councilmember Joe Paltjon, Police Officer Joe Dudley, Bill Uhler, Darrel Storey, Jason Cunas, and Alex Miller for your time and effort organizing the Parade and Ceremony. The Recreation Department is happy to announce that the Baseball & Softball program is going back to Patriots Stadium for "**Rec Night at the Ballpark**" on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:05pm. Anyone interested can fill out the info on the Recreation FB Page. Any questions you can email [Alex Miller amiller@dunellenborough.com](mailto:amiller@dunellenborough.com). **Senior Movie Mondays: Are Back!** The Recreation Department is very excited that the Dunellen Theater is back up and running; the Recreation Department is thankful to [Craig Killian](#) and Richie Zupko for opening this program back up especially on a day that Zupko's is technically closed. The Senior Movie

package is \$5.00 for the movie, 2 slices of pizza, small soda, and popcorn. Upcoming movies for our seniors: May 23rd, June 20th, July 18th, and August 22nd. Movie start time is at 10am and pizza is served at 11am.

Mr. Paltjon gave a statement in response to Mr. VanDermark's report: I have a comment in regard to Hal's report and the Recreation Department and the Covid-19 Protocols. I am speaking as a Coach and not as a Council member. I want to say that we really need guidelines to follow for the Recreation teams and I know that it is separate from the school guidelines. I had one instance in which a Parent reached out to me and let me know that their child was considered a close contact from school and to err on the side of caution and be super safe they decided to keep their child away from the team for 5-6 days. This type of action is being super cautious and choosing to be extra safe with concern for the other players and parents. So, I really appreciate this parent letting me know and making the right decision. In another instance I heard about, another parent sent their child to a game while there was Covid positive people in the house. These are young kids that are in close contact with each other, use the same ball and equipment, constantly touch their faces, with germs everywhere. In my eyes this was not a smart decision by that parent and this decision put others at risk of getting sick and was not looking out for the safety of others. Honestly, I don't know why that house was not all put in quarantine. In another instance, any positive of close contact players per Alex needed a negative test to return. I speak with Alex all the time and are updated with all of this. As you know, cases are starting to rise again, and we all need to please be extra cautious and safe and make smart decisions to help keep all of our players and our fellow neighbors safe. I look forward to these protocols.

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. Congratulations to Sgt. Jeff Delbuono for receiving the Trooper Scales Memorial Award last week from the Brain Injury Alliance of NJ. The award recognizes members of Law Enforcement who work to make our roads safer and prevent brain injuries. The 200 Club of Middlesex County is an organization dedicated to proving to public servants that they do not stand alone. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, they will recognize three of Dunellen's finest. Sgt. Brian Robbins will be recognized for a Meritorious Service Award for his off-duty heroics in saving a man's life. Furthermore, Sgt. Robbins and former Officers Barry and Rosofsky will be recognized for heroically helping a man who had tied a noose around his neck above the Washington Avenue Train Bridge. They no doubt saved his life that evening. Yesterday, Sgts. Lovell, Robbins and Patrolmen Conduis and Issler were able to de-escalate a very dangerous situation with a woman in distress yielding a knife. Our police do an amazing job and protect us in ways we likely don't even realize; 2) Shade Tree--on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Shade Tree Commission presented and planted two flowering pear trees to J.P. Faber Elementary school in honor of Arbor Day. First graders were excited to see how an acorn turns into a seedling and were super happy to help plant new trees. I am happy to announce that we have completed the planting of 87 trees this week throughout the town which was funded through a CSIP grant from the State of NJ. There are more trees coming in the fall, so if you are interested in having a Shade Tree planted on your property, contact the DSTC; 3) Board of Education--The next BoE meeting is tomorrow evening at 7 pm. May has been a busy month in the schools. The School District Calendar of Events can be found

here: <http://www.dunellenschools.org/dps/Calendar/>

4) Community Garden--the Community Garden initiative is taking hold! We scoped out a location at McCoy Park and are envisioning a native meadow for the garden. We are working with the Rutgers Extension, and they will plan a site visit later this spring and we hope that we can maybe get an intern to work with us on this project. We plan to come to the Council with a proposal later this year.; Other items—5) in addition to the congratulations of the Fire Department, I was able to attend Mass that Sunday. Father Alphonsus gave a wonderful acknowledgment to the men and women of our department, but I would also like to acknowledge that he congratulated our OEM director, Homer Mosely, as well, so congrats to Homer as well for working with our community; 6) 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. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be bringing a program, “Kids Don’t Float!” to the PTO from 7-8 pm. Stay tuned for more details; 7) The Destroyers Rugby U12s & U14s hosted Union and Morris Youth Rugby at Columbia Park yesterday. The Destroyers U12s won both games to finish the regular season undefeated. The U14 side picked up their first win of the season vs. Morris. Both teams finish the season at the State Championship this Sunday. Registration for Dunellen Coed Flag Rugby is open. Kids 5-14 years old. See the Dunellen Flag Rugby Facebook page for more details; 8) COVID numbers are continuing to increase. The US passed 1MM COVID related deaths. I ask that everyone do what they can to protect themselves, but more importantly, to protect the vulnerable among us. This is not about unmasking and seeing children smile. This is about us all doing our part to help all the members of our community. The newer variants have higher transmissibility rates. While we have not seen a surge in hospitalizations with the newer variants, they are clearly on the increase. Be safe and trust in science.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) Public Works--DPW crew has maintained daily cleaning of the downtown and all our Borough Properties & Parks.

- The street sweep schedule continues and can be found on the Borough Website.
- Lawn maintenance to all the parks & Borough properties.
- Field maintenance to the ball fields.
- Ran commingled and metal roll-off loads to the dump.
- Re-set multiple signs in the Borough.
- Hometown Heroes Banners and American Flags were put up throughout downtown.
- Cleared branches near the headwalls along our streams.
- Cut and removed a tree that fell across the Green Brook Brook (near Mountainview and Washington Avenue)
- Drove the Senior Bus in Ron’s absence

Serviced and repaired:

- The Senior Bus
- one of the mowers
- Police cars #503 and #509.

2) Green Brook Flood Commission--on May 24, 2022, Mayor Cilento, Councilwoman Albertson, and I will be attending a special meeting of the Green Brook Flood Control Commission which has



been organized to explain the process and answer any questions about the need to access the properties for survey and design purposes. Dunellen residents have been receiving letters about this Green Brook Flood Damage Reduction Project in the area from west of Madison Avenue in Dunellen and Green Brook to the east just beyond Rock Avenue in Plainfield and are invited to attend this meeting.

Mr. Paltjon: 1) Buildings and Grounds Report--I am proud to report that the Police Department has a brand-new rubberized locker room floor! The work was done by Liberty Floor Services LLC and was installed on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is in the process of setting up a meeting once the report comes back from the Borough Hall Roof to discuss the budget and what else could be used for possibly additional improvements and left in house for potential maintenance; 2) PARSA Report--the sewer main break on Grove Street has been repaired. PARSA will clean and video the entire section of Grove Street from South Avenue to the Railroad embankment and will provide a report of its findings; 3) Also, I wanted to make note that the Dunellen Cinema Café, aka Zupko's Theatre, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday this Saturday, May 21. The Theatre is truly a landmark here in Dunellen and the Zupko family has been a staple in this town with their support of many town functions, generosity and support of all things Dunellen. Please take some time to stop by and celebrate 100 Years. The Celebration will start with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Noon and the day will be filled with Bands and Specials all day. What better way to celebrate then with their Famous Thin Crust Pizza. Cheers to 100 Years!

Mayor Cilento:

Noted the outstanding actions of the Dunellen Police Department and also the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zupko's Cinema Café.

Mayor's Report to the Dunellen Borough Council – Meeting Date – May 16, 2022:

Covid-19 Update:

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:	81%
5 through 11:	34%
5 and over:	89%
12 through 17:	76%
12 and over:	96%

18 and over:	99%
30 and over:	96%
65 and over:	109%

Vaccine Courses Complete  
Dunellen Borough  
Middlesex County

All Ages:	71%
5 through 11:	29%
5 and over:	78%
12 through 17:	69%
12 and over:	84%
18 and over:	86%
30 and over:	84%
65 and over:	97%

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

Memorial Day Parade:

Our Annual Memorial Day Parade will take place on Memorial Day, May 30th at 10 am. Congratulations to Braegan Hopper on winning Mayor for the Day at the Dunellen PTO Tricky Tray. I look forward to walking with him in the Memorial Day Parade this year and being interviewed by him for the Dunellen Report and Next Stop! Dunellen e-newsletter!

New Jersey American Water and PSE&G Improvements:

NJAW: Will continue connecting services at various locations where water mains were installed throughout the rest of May. It is expected that installations will be completed by early June. The paving of all the streets that NJAW has worked on should take place about 60 days after installations are completed (most likely in August).

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 their 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: Expected to be completed with their work on the Second Street and Schwartz Place area by June 10th. The paving of most of the streets that PSE&G has worked on should take place about 60 days after gas installations are completed (most likely in August).

Gas mains that have been installed at "The Crossing" new development on South Washington Avenue have been completed. PSE&G will asphalt the sidewalk area so it is passable. The developer will be replacing the sidewalk once development is completed.

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 them immediately at 1-800-436-7734 (PSEG).

Capital and Infrastructure Improvements:

Pulaski Street Road Project (From South Avenue to the cul de sac at Gavornik Park): By the end of the summer this section of Pulaski Street will have all new utilities and a new road.

- The tentative work schedule for Pulaski Street.
  - Today: Stilo Contractors started the Installation of a new sewer main on the entire length of the road along with installing all new sewer laterals from the main to the curb.
  - On or about June 13<sup>th</sup>, PSE&G will finish gas main installation and gas services to each home.
  - In August the entire Pulaski Street from the Railroad Embankment to Gavornik Park will be paved by NJ American Water (including the cross section on South Avenue and Pulaski).

Lincoln Avenue - Scheduling Preconstruction Meeting

Grove Street Sewer repairs complete.

We are working with Piscataway Township on a local agreement to pave West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. More information to come in the near future.

Green Brook Trash Trap Pilot Program:

In coordination with the NJDEP and the Lower Raritan Watershed Project, I am happy to announce that the Borough of Dunellen will be part of a pilot program that will install a floating trash trap in the brook which will trap debris, so it does not go any further down the waterway. If the Borough of Dunellen had to pay for this resource, it could have cost us around \$35,000.00. Due to this pilot program as a result to our relationship with Heather Fenyk and her team at the Lower Raritan Watershed Project and the NJDEP, we will receive it for free. Alex Miller and I will be coordinating the program for Dunellen and will have a future meeting to discuss possible location sites.

New Jersey Conference of Mayors:

I would like to share with the Borough Council and the residents of Dunellen that I was elected and sworn-in as the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The NJCM's mission is to provide a unified approach and open line of communication to our State and Federal Legislatures and Administrations that reflects the will of the people of the State of New Jersey and works to improve the health and well-being of all its residents. I look forward to working with the other mayors of our State to find common ground on issues and advocate for municipalities across the State, but also to help give statewide recognition to Dunellen itself. This isn't solely my success but also the Borough's success to have a seat at a statewide organization.

#### 2022 Downtown Excellence Awards

Downtown New Jersey annually recognizes the achievements in downtown economic development at their Awards Ceremony & Networking Event and this year it will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Dunellen received an honorable mention for the Excellence in Place-making for the Dunellen Pop-Up Park, which will also have another grand opening this year on June 11<sup>th</sup> and will be part of the Community Day's activity in setting it up. Council President Trina Rios, DPW/Recreation Director Alex Miller, Heidi Heleniak, and Autumn Barbato will attend on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen. This is a great recognition for our Miracle Mile.

On our May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with Senator Bramnick and other state legislators, I walked the Dunellen Train Station and we discussed station improvements.

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Public Portion:

Chief Jeff Best, Dunellen Rescue Squad: expressed condolences to the family of Tom Cote. In addition to being a councilman, he had been for many years a member of the Squad. In regard to the Train Station, he related a time when someone at the station had a heart attack, and he needed to be carried down the stairs, which might have affected the outcome. An elevator is needed. Mayor Cilento asked Chief Best to provide him with a letter of support for an elevator that he will include in the file for support purposes.

Evan Shagoski, Deputy Chief of Dunellen Rescue Squad: wants to take a moment to recognize the fifty plus volunteers in our partnership and thank them for their service. He provided a report on events and municipalities serviced.

Erin Tigue, 605 Third Street: asked about a Recreation Department COVID policy. She referenced a councilmember's statement regarding being cautious about COVID and attending from home, but subsequently saw that person in public at a Recreation activity. She recommends clearer direction so we can all remain safe. Mr. Miller replied that he and Dr. Robins will be working on a COVID protocol that will be released shortly.

Tom Davis, 420 Jackson Avenue: he has been a resident for 41 years, the last five as a snowbird. Upon coming back this year, he was delighted to see all the changes in town. Columbia Park is beautiful. He wants to thank anyone here, and Mayor Cilento, for all that has been done. He also offered to help with projects, especially at the Senior Center. Mayor Cilento thanked Mr. Davis, and credited former Mayor Bob Seader for all he did in rehabilitating Columbia Park.

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

**05-16-2022: #17**

**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 Dr. Dunne it was moved to accept the following:

**05-16-2022: #18**

**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

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

**05-16-2022: #19**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of May 16, 2022 is adjourned.

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

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my93hjV9HBQ>