

May 18, 2020

Note: This meeting was held by teleconference.

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on May 18, 2020.

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, Kenneth Bayer, April Burke, Jessica Dunne, Stacy Narvesen, Trina Rios and Daniel Sigmon

On the motion of Dr. Dunne and seconded by Mrs. Narvesen it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 4, 2020.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

At this point, Mayor Cilento appointed Athelia Vigilante to the Dunellen Public Library Board of Trustees

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

ORDINANCE 2020-08

BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

The following DUNELLEN SALARY ORDINANCE is being Introduced for first reading on May 18, 2020. It will be furthered considered for public hearing and adoption on June 1, 2020, 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:

Step	Minimum	Maximum
11	\$120,000.00	\$170,000.00
10	\$75,000.00	\$140,000.00
9	\$50,000.00	\$75,000.00
8	\$40,000.00	\$65,000.00
7	\$35,000.00	\$55,000.00
6	\$30,000.00	\$50,000.00
5	\$25,000.00	\$40,000.00
4	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00

3	\$8,000.00	\$23,000.00
2	\$2,000.00	\$17,000.00
1	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00

Full-Time Positions

	<u>Step</u>
Chief of Police	11
Administrator/Clerk	10
DPW Supervisor	10
Court Administrator	9
Human Resources Manager	9
Recreation Director	8
Supervisor, Accounts & Payroll	8
Finance/Payroll Clerk	7
Deputy Municipal Clerk	6
Deputy Registrar	6
Deputy Court Administrator	6
Registrar	5
Clerk's Office Admin. Assistant	5
Violations Clerk, Municipal Court	5

Part-Time Salary Positions

Municipal Attorney	7
Construction Code Official	6
Municipal Judge	5
Chief Financial Officer	5
Recreation Administrative Assistant	5
Tax Assessor	3
Tax Collector	3
Municipal Prosecutor	3
Public Works Manager	3
Sewer Inspector	3
Public Defender	2
Office of Emergency Management	2
Sub Code Official (Electrical, Fire, Plumbing)	2
Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement	2
Sign Ordinance Enforcement Officer	1

Part Time – Hourly

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
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
Acting Recreation Director	\$20.00	\$25.00
Planning Board Secretary	\$12.00	\$25.00
Tax Clerk	\$12.00	\$18.00

Construction Office Assistant	\$12.00	\$18.00
Head School Crossing Guard	\$12.00	\$18.00
Police Administrative Assistant	\$12.00	\$18.00
School Crossing Guard	\$11.00	\$17.00
Clerk's Administrative Assistant	\$11.00	\$16.00
Senior Citizen Van Driver	\$11.00	\$16.00
Violations Clerk (Court)	\$11.00	\$15.00
Laborer	\$11.00	\$14.00
Janitor	\$11.00	\$14.00
Recreation Department part-time	\$11.00	\$15.00

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

Mrs. Burke noted that the minimum wage requirement for some categories was too low. Mr. Bruder advised that in order to change the ordinance after introduction, a resolution is required. [Note: the ordinance above is after the amendment was made.]

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

05-18-2020: #A

On the Salary Ordinance as Introduced (2020-08), the minimum for the following categories are adjusted to \$11.00 per hour: School Crossing Guard, Clerk's Administrative Assistant, Senior Citizen Van Driver, Violations Clerk (Court), Laborer, Janitor and Recreation Department part-time.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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

05-18-2020: #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: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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

05-18-2020: #2

ESTIMATED 3RD QUARTER LEVY PAYMENT

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has not adopted its budget; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen cannot send out its 2020 tax bills until the State of New Jersey adopts the 2021 State Fiscal Budget, therefore, a tax rate cannot yet be certified for 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has determined that there may be insufficient cash flow to support operations in the Borough of Dunellen unless third quarter revenues are received on time; and

WHEREAS, without a 2020 Certified Tax Rate, the Borough of Dunellen will be unable to issue 2020 tax bills on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed and computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3.

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

1. That the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue estimated tax bills for the Third Quarter of 2020.
2. That the entire estimated tax levy, including Municipal, Library, School, County and County Open Space, for 2020, is hereby set at \$21,078,798.00.
3. That in accordance with the law, the third installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10, 2020, or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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

05-18-2020: #3

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH EDMUNDS GovTech FOR THE PURCHASE OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT SOFTWARE.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen has determined there exists a need for the purchase of computer software for the Borough's Finance Department; and

WHEREAS, such services can only be provided by a recognized firm specializing therein; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such software involves the performance of professional services within the meaning of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "extraordinary, unspecifiable services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

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

1. Edmunds GovTech is hereby retained to provide the specialized services necessary in connection with the provision of Cloud Based Hosting of its finance software to the Borough of Dunellen in accordance with the contract submitted, and approved by the Mayor and Council; and
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., because the services are specialized, technical and qualitative in nature, and that they require the exercise of expertise and training not generally available and that such services can only be performed by persons familiar with the field of codification and that specifications for the exercise of such discretionary matters cannot reasonably be written and such services do not permit special advertising; and
3. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute said contract with Edmunds GovTech; and
4. The cost of the contract is not to exceed \$3,000.00, base software price, in year one; \$3,000.00 base software price in year two; and \$3,350.00 in year three. This contract for years two and three is subject to the availability of funds in those years.
5. A copy of this resolution as well as the contract be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen and that a notice of the awarding of said contract be published in an official newspaper of the borough within 10 days.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

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

05-18-2020: #4

**AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT
FOR PLANNER SERVICES**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Dunellen Municipal Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will not exceed \$17,500; and,

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

WHEREAS, the Firm of DMR Architects has submitted a proposal indicating they will provide the services; and

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

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

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

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

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

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

05-18-2020: #5

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

Whereas, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, C.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs, and

Whereas, it is the intent and spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue to expand existing programs, and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, and

Whereas, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality, and

Whereas, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2019 Recycling tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and indicate the assent of the Borough of Dunellen to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations.

Whereas, such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen that the Borough of Dunellen hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Bashar Assadi to ensure that the application is properly filed, at a cost not to exceed \$3,400.00; and

Be it further resolved, that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

Dr. Dunne inquired why this grant is for 2019? Dr. Robins replied that the grant is always in name one year behind. It will cover CY 2020.

05-18-2020: #6

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 the following checks to NW Financial Group, LLC., from the “528 North Ave Urban Renewal, LLC.” for financial work done for the redevelopment.

<u>NW Financial</u>	<u>Amount</u>
26522	\$2,687.50
Total:	<u>\$2,687.50</u>

05-18-2020: #7

WHEREAS, it has been determined by information obtained from New Jersey American Water that the following property had a major water leak, and

WHEREAS, the adjusted water usage was not reflected correctly on the New Jersey American File, and

WHEREAS, the water usage was overstated in the calculation of the 2020 sewer utility billing

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

That the proper Municipal officers be and they are hereby authorized and directed to issue a check as follows;

Account ID	Name	Amount
22-0	JDA Realty LLC 120 North Ave	
	Amount to be Refunded	\$335.75
	Check Payable and Mail To:	

	JDA Realty LLC 2 Talleyrand Drive Colts Neck, NJ 07722	
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05-18-2020: #8

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 for Pro Cap 8

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
19-13	64	16	Malloy, Kathleen 233 Gertrude Terr	4,121.14	161.77	1,400.00	5,682.91

TOTAL REFUNDED \$5,682.91

05-18-2020: #9

EXTEND 2020 CAT LICENSE RENEWAL DEADLINE TO AUGUST 31, 2020

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

WHEREAS, cat licensing renewals in the Borough of Dunellen expire on May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to the stay-at-home order issued by Governor Murphy through Executive Order 107, relative to the current COVID-19 pandemic, many residents may not be able to fulfill the requirement to update their cat's rabies vaccination, and therefore, the Deputy Registrar recommends extending the license renewal deadline to August 31, 2020 for the 2020 license year; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Registrar further advises that the Borough Administrator and County Health Department support this recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN: that the deadline of May 31, 2020, for the renewal of cat licenses for the 2020

licensing year, be and is hereby extended to August 31, 2020, and that there be no fines or fees for a late renewal past May 31, 2020 up to including August 31, 2020.

05-18-2020: #10

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

Permission is granted to the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization to place ribbons around downtown light poles from the week before Memorial Day to the week after July 4th, 2020.

05-18-2020: #11

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 a raffle license to the Dunellen-Green Brook Rotary Club

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

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

Presentation by Joseph Villani and the 150 North Avenue project:



Joseph Paparo, Esq., attorney for Mr. Villani, and Joseph Villani, presented architectural plans to the Council and described the project to be built at 150 North Avenue, on the corner of Jackson Avenue and North Avenue. The proposed project is a multi-family and mixed-use development of 14 residential units with 19 parking spaces. The parking floor area will be 5,640 square feet, the first-floor lobby will be 2,428 square feet, the second and third floor residential area will be 16,804 square feet. There will be two retail stores.

Mr. Paparo explained that the proposal meets all the criteria of the Borough’s Redevelopment Plan and Master Plan and furthers the goals and objectives of the Plans. There is an issue of density that will be presented to the Dunellen Planning Board, though this project’s proposed density is like other projects previously approved and built in Dunellen.

Mr. Villani explained that there will be ten two-bedroom apartments and four one-bedroom apartments. There will be two small commercial spaces on the ground floor. It is an elevated building with parking underneath. The proposed density is like his previous projects and to the 528 North Avenue project recently approved. He took an underperforming property and is now seeking to further build-out the downtown area.

Mr. Bayer asked whether the density is exactly like the other buildings, or similar? Mr. Villani responded that the density is like his other buildings, and exactly the same as for 528 North Avenue.

Mayor Cilento asked whether this project will have the required affordable housing component. Mr. Villani responded that it will.

Dr. Dunne asked about the other Villani projects in town. He responded that they have completed 216 North Avenue and 364 North Avenue and have 376 North Avenue under construction which should be completed by July. Dr. Dunne asked if the entrance for the parking will be off Jackson Avenue? Yes, it will.

Mrs. Burke asked about street parking for this project. Mr. Villani responded that there are currently driveway cuts on North Avenue which will be eliminated, and street parking will be available there.

Mrs. Narvesen asked if there is a timeline for construction? Mr. Villani responded that they are ready to move now and will do so as soon as they get approvals. He hopes to begin before next winter.

Mr. Bayer asked if the property is environmentally clear? Yes.

Mr. Olsen noted that they were behind on some of the escrow accounts on the other projects. Mr. Villani responded that he would discuss with him and resolve.

Mr. Bruder stated that they are good to go before the Dunellen Planning Board.

Mr. Paparo asked if they could be designated as the redeveloper for this project. Mr. Bruder responded that the Council is the Redevelopment Agency and the Council can take that action. He invited him to call him to discuss this matter.

Council Discussion on Project Graduation project proposal

This is a request from Project Graduation to place signs in Washington Memorial Park. Mayor Cilento read the request letter from Project Graduation to the Council. They ask to place photographs of graduating seniors on signs in the park. Their hope is to provide graduating seniors and their families an opportunity to see “our children as we would have on the day of graduation. We are hoping this would provide everyone with some closure.”

Mrs. Rios asked about what appears to be an archway and wondered if the Police might be needed in case there is an accumulation of people trying to take photographs?

Heather Shealy, 144 Second Street, stated they had discussed setting up designated times for students to come so there would not be large groups of people.

Mayor Cilento noted his support for this project. He asked about obtaining waivers to place the photographs. Mrs. Shealy responded that they still needed to get Board approval and there might be a problem getting addresses for each student and that might encompass the waiver issue.

Angelina Lowder, 706 Walnut Street, stated that the Committee had not discussed names; they were looking to simply place photographs with no name at all. That is what the approval would be for.

Dr. Robins asked whether the photographs would be on permanent display, during the exhibit. They would be in the ground for a few weeks? He has a concern regarding vandalism. He does not believe that the DPW has snow fence. Mr. Safar noted that all they have is orange fencing.

Mrs. Lowder stated that they plan for the exhibit to be there four-five days, to give the parents an opportunity to view. They think the students will wish to take their photographs away, and they want to coordinate with what the District is doing regarding graduation and this has not yet been determined.

Mayor Cilento did not see any problem with the DPW placing orange fencing and thought that keeping the exhibit to four days would decrease chances of vandalism.

Dr. Dunne also expressed concerns with vandalism.

Mr. Bayer suggested the photographs be placed in the gazebo. Mrs. Lowder responded that their vision was to try to duplicate an actual graduation seating, as can be seen in the handouts provided. Parents would be there for crowd control and social distancing.

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

05-18-2020: #B

Permission is granted to Project Graduation to place photographs of graduating seniors in Washington Memorial Park, the dates to be set after approval by the Dunellen School District and a determination of actual graduation plans by the District.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon

Reports:

Mayor Cilento: Before beginning his report given, Mayor Cilento asked for a moment of silence for the lives lost to COVID-19.

There are zero reported cases of COVID-19 as of today, May 18, 2020, and it looks like the curve is changing.

I find it important that I begin all of my reports by thanking the people fighting COVID-19 on the frontline each and every day. Thank you to the Dunellen Rescue Squad who have been on call 24/7 during this pandemic and thank you to the Dunellen Fire Department and Police Department for their service and protection. All of our emergency services are doing an exceptional job under unprecedented circumstances. But who would expect less of them, our emergency services are the best in the State. I know I can speak on behalf of the Council when I say, we are proud of you all, and we applaud you.

Thanks is extended to Homer Mosley, Jr., and his OEM team who are there for our first responders and are working tirelessly to ensure our first responders are well equipped with PPE and are now beginning the process to make sure Dunellen is reimbursed for our COVID-19 related expenditures. To Alex Miller, our recreation director and senior coordinator, thank you for being my right hand guy throughout this whole crisis. You have gone beyond your job description and Dunellen is better off because of your service to our community. Our borough administration under the management of Bill Robins, John Bruder our municipal attorney, the Clerk's Office, Tax Office, Municipal Court, Construction/Zoning and our Public Works, thank you for keeping a positive attitude and for honorably serving the people of Dunellen. Your calm and ease continue to make this an easier transition for our residents as we go from abnormal living to what we all hopefully will soon be, some kind of new normal way of living.

As always, we must recognize our other frontline workers, all the nurses, doctors, and healthcare workers who are fighting COVID-19 every day. We thank you, as well as all the essential workers who are helping make the world go 'round for all of us. We should also

appreciate our teachers and school administration, who continue educating Dunellen's children through remote learning. Another recognition I would like to give is to the Dunellen School District who assisted the Borough on IT matters during this crisis. We thank them for helping us in this area.

COVID-19 Information: Middlesex County Public Health Department is the lead Agency in all investigations regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases, including all close contacts. If it is determined that a member of the community has been in close contact with any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, the County will reach out to the individual(s). For daily COVID-19 Dunellen updates, please visit: http://www.dunellen-nj.gov/news_detail_T30_R11.php Please note that the State of New Jersey is not releasing recovery data at this time, and therefore, neither is the Middlesex County Public Health Department. My office will continue to be in contact with the Middlesex County Public Health Department and will share whatever information is permitted by law.

If residents should have questions regarding COVID-19, they are encouraged to call the NJ State Health Call Center at 1-800-222-1222 or you may call the Middlesex County Health Department 24/7 at (732) 745-3100. You may also visit the New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub at: www.covid19.nj.gov.

If you are in need of assistance due to a mental health crisis or domestic violence, here are contact numbers for you: the crisis text line by texting "NJ" to 741741; call the family helpline at 1-800-843-5437; the domestic violence hotline at 1-800-572-7233; or the mental health line at 1-866-202-4357. We encourage you to utilize these resources during this challenging time. You matter, and we want you to be safe.

Third COVID-19 Q&A with Mayor Jason F. Cilento: I will be conducting another Q&A on COVID-19 to be released by video on Friday, May 22nd. If you have questions regarding COVID-19, please submit them to me via my email: jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov or you can visit my Facebook page to submit via google form. I want to thank Dr. Dunne who has helped with some of the scientific related questions.

Senior Food Pick-ups: Have been conducted for a seven week period so far, making 28 stops to date. Thank you to Alex Miller, and Councilwoman Narvesen helping weekly with this initiative, as well as other council members, Burke, Rios and Sigmon.

Dunellen COVID-19 Pop-up Food Drive: Continues this week, drop offs: Wed. May 20, 5-7pm; Thursday May 21st, 10a-12p; scheduled pickups are for residents in need Sat. May 23rd, 9am-1pm. This is located at the Living Hope Outreach Center, 201 Whittier Avenue. We have helped over 66 combined households, feeding 215 people to date. Thank you to Living Hope Outreach Center under the leadership of Pastor Roy Carryl and his wife, Wendella. Thank you to Philip McGuane and Councilwomen Rios, Dunne and Narvesen and Councilman Sigmon. Thank you to Alex Miller and to all the individuals who have donated their time and efforts. This initiative really proves what Dunellen is all about: helping neighbors.

Make Some Noise!: Dunellen has joined its neighboring communities, Green Brook, Middlesex, Warren and Watchung in recognizing the service of our essential workers by making some noise

each Thursday at 7:00 pm for our local heroes. Go outside, clap your hands, bang some drums, scream (no fireworks, please) and extend our thanks to all our frontline workers.

Census 2020: Remember to respond to our federal government's request for Census 2020 information. This is very important to make sure we get the funding we need. We lost a congressional seat a few years ago. Dunellen is at a 67% response rate. In my opinion, that is too low, given in 2010 it was 69%. Hopefully, with the extensions given, we can beat our old response rate. Thank you to Julie Grof, our project manager of the grant we received from Middlesex County.

Eat Local Fridays! continues every Friday. Please go out and support our local businesses – curbside and takeout. The Dunellen Downtown Management Organization has a Dine-In Dunellen Guide on their website: tinyurl.com/dineindunellen

Memorial Day: In coordination with the Dunellen Recreation Dept, the American Legion Post 119, and the VFW Post 5479; the Borough of Dunellen is creating a video for a virtual Memorial Day Ceremony. This will be released on a Facebook event page hosted by the Dunellen Recreation Department, and we are seeking other ways for viewers to see this for those who do not have social media.

State Grants:

1. Municipal Aid Grant Program

- Additional funding for the Lincoln Avenue Improvements. The original construction cost estimate for the project was \$1,015,000.00 and the Borough received \$525,000.00 in FY 2020.

2. Safe Streets to Transit

- Pedestrian Crossing Improvements including RRFB's at key locations in the Borough. Potential locations include North Washington Avenue in the vicinity of Washington Memorial Park and New Market Road at Grove Street, both of which will require County approval.

3. Bikeways Grant Program

- The Dunellen Avenue Area Bicycle Improvements including shared use arrows on Dunellen Avenue, Sanford Place, Madison Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, First Street, Fourth street, Jackson Avenue, and Jefferson Avenue, as well as bicycle lanes on North Washington Avenue in accordance with the attached Figure 7 of the Dunellen Transit Hub Plan. The improvements on North Washington Avenue are subject to County approval and the improvements on Jefferson Avenue are subject to County and City of Plainfield approval.

4. Transit Village Grant Program

- Continuation of streetscape lighting along North Washington Avenue to and within Washington Memorial Park. Continuation of streetscape lighting on South Washington Avenue from North Avenue to the Redevelopment site. We also hope to upgrade the Gazebo in Washington Park for a performing arts venue.

AARP Grant Filed: Working with Diana Starace and Julie Grof, submitted for a \$40,000.00 Liveable Community grant through AARP's Community Challenge program. The grant was applied for improved pedestrian crossing at South Washington Avenue and Orange Street, going into Columbia Park, which would include a Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon to remind drivers to slow down and stop when a pedestrian is crossing. If the application proves successful and we are awarded the grant, we felt this would be the best location due to the AARP grant we received last year for Columbia Park and the increased foot traffic the park is bound to see due to the facility improvements, as well as the park being the location of the Senior Center. If/When the time comes, I will need council liaisons to assist me in the overall scheduling and timeline of the project. So Council Members, think about it, and get back to me.

I have been in communication with Gene Mosley regarding High School graduation, and he and Principal Paul Lynch are working on plans for graduation which at this point are still preliminary. It may be virtual or some kind of socially distant graduation, probably in Columbia Park

Mrs. Rios: 1) Library Board of Trustees Meeting May 21st at 7:00 pm. The Library website has the Zoom information; 2) there will be a virtual meeting of the Municipal Alliance on May 26 at 7:00 pm; 3) the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization has an Open Business Guide which lists all the open businesses and their hours; 4) and please check out our Flag on Facebook page for our local frontliners.

Mrs. Burke: 1) a thank you to all who are assisting in Dunellen's efforts during this COVID-19 pandemic; 2) asked about 139 South Washington Avenue, can we assume that with the Governor's new order lifting restrictions on construction, that something will begin to happen with this property? What is the status of this house and is it going to be torn down? Mr. Bruder understands that it is supposed to be torn down, but he does not have any recent update on its status. Mayor Cilento noted that the owners have been cited and once Court begins again the legal process can continue. Mr. Bruder noted that the Dunellen Municipal Court is beginning again, remotely, with hearings and pleas by Zoom. Dr. Robins confirmed that Judge Howes has begun sessions by teleconference, starting last Wednesday at 9:00 am.

Mr. Bayer: 1) revenues are down and we received a notice from the Parking Authority that they may need to lessen what they give to the borough each year. Construction fees are down; 2) he spoke with Mr. Bruder and Lou Ploskonka about waiving the Galway Properties maintenance bond requirement. Mr. Bruder noted that after a project is completed, a maintenance bond is required for a period of two years. It is his understanding that the project was completed a few years ago and given that fact it is Council prerogative to cancel the maintenance bond.

Dr. Dunne: 1) we appear to be in the flattening of the curve but that does not mean we should cease to take precautions. We should continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing. In your own homes, you are safe, but outside you should continue to wear a mask; 2) there are a number of people on the Council and in the community helping with the Flag Program and we will

be making a push in the next few weeks and we will be able to make a number of donations to our Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad and making an effort to reach additional people in our community; 3) we are looking to do some kind of community thank you to our frontline workers.

Mayor Cilento thanked Mr. Sigmon for building the flower boxes around the signs in Columbia Park.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) have been working with Liz Lopez of the Dunellen Library and the Friends of the Dunellen Library on a drive-in movie fund raiser for the benefit of the Library and the Rescue Squad. Looking toward the summer for this event and there will be social distancing guidelines.

Mrs. Narvesen: 1) working on the Walkability Study and want to include the South Madison Avenue project; 2) Columbia Park is almost complete: just needs some work on the long jump and pole vault and some areas still need a little cleaning; 3) the Pop-Up Food Drive continues and so far we have helped 66 households and 215 individuals. She thanks all who have helped.

PUBLIC PORTION

Homer Mosley, 113 Pearl Place, OEM Coordinator, wanted downtown businesses to know they can now open their businesses to curbside takeout. Licensed premises can now sell takeout of your favorite cocktails. Social distancing must be maintained. Mayor Cilento noted that information is being distributed through the borough's website, DDMO Facebook page and the newsletter.

Mr. Mosley also noted that the playground area in Columbia Park need re-taping. He saw some residents using the equipment. Mayor Cilento responded that we will replace the tape and that we will continue to take our guidance from the Governor's Executive Orders.

Shalonda Tanner, 207 Lincoln Avenue, thanked Mayor Cilento for his leadership during this unprecedented and very uncertain time. It has been very comforting seeing the updates and the provided information, sharing the community positivity. She just wants to say thank you. As a parent of a graduating senior, she thanks all of you for the effort you are putting forward with having communication with the school district and administration to try to ensure that our seniors are not short-changed in being recognized for their achievement which is a huge milestone for a high school graduate.

Athelia Vigilante, 823 Second Street, thanks Mayor Cilento for appointing her as a Library Trustee; wants to commend the Fire Department on the amazing job they have been doing; and thanks Mayor Cilento for the information he is providing and for the food drug which she thinks is just amazing. And thanks Trina Rios for her hard work.

Jeff Best, Chief of Dunellen Rescue Squad, 401 Madison Avenue, noting the passing of former OEM Coordinator Robert Walker and a former Chief of the Rescue Squad. He will keep us apprised of any arrangements.

He noted that NJ American Water had replaced hydrants and wondered when they would replace the curbs. Mr. Safar responded that when NJ American Water does street work they usually put in temporary curbs and Mr. Safar pursues them until they have completed the repairs and restoration. It often takes a few months. He will send an email to the area supervisor and ask their schedule.

Mr. Best thanks all that is happening to support the Rescue Squad, especially the Flag Group;

they have never eaten so well. Everyone in the community has shown support and he is greatly moved by this.

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

05-18-2020: #12

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of May 18, 2020 is adjourned.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Narvesen, Rios and Sigmon
