

May 4, 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 4, 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 Mrs. Narvesen and seconded by Dr. Dunne it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of April 20, 2020.

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:

**ORDINANCE 2020-07**

**AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A  
LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION AND FINANCIAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN AND 528 NORTH AVE URBAN  
RENEWAL, LLC**

This 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 April 20, 2020. It is now being further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body being held at the Borough Council Chambers, in the Borough on May 4, 2020 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 have been available at no cost and during regular business hours at the 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:

**WHEREAS**, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented (the “**Act**”), provides a process for municipalities to participate in the redevelopment and improvement of areas in need of redevelopment; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Act, the Borough Council (the “**Borough Council**”) of the Borough of Dunellen (the “**Borough**”), acting as the Borough’s redevelopment entity pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-4, designated certain properties identified on the Borough’s tax map as Block 69, Lots 1, 1.01, 2, 2.01 and 3; Block 70, Lots 13 and 13.01;

Block 85, Lots 1 and 2; Block 83, Lot 1; Block 1, Lots 14, 15.01, 15.02, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23; Block 2, Lots 10, 11.01, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; Block 32, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.01, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 24.01, 25, 26, 27 and 28; Block 33, Lots 14, 14.01, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23; Block 34, Lots 10.01, 22, 23, 24, 24.01, 25, 26, 27.01, 27.02, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 38.01 and 38.02; Block 48, Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28; Block 49, Lots 25, 26, 27.01, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39.01, 39.02, 40, 41, 43 and 44; Block 50, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Block 51, Lots 1, 2 and 3 (NJ Transit Property); Block 65, Lot 1; Block 66, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.01, 7, 8, 9, 10.01, 10.02, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.01, 15.02, 16, 17, 17.01, 18, 19 and 20; and Block 86, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 4.02, 4.03 and 5 as an area in need of redevelopment under N.J.S.A. 40A:12A 5 (collectively, the “**Redevelopment Area**”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7, the Borough Council adopted by ordinance on May 16, 2016, the Restated and Amended Dunellen Downtown Redevelopment Plan, Phase 1, and subsequently amended by ordinance on November 6, 2017 and September 4, 2018 (the “**Redevelopment Plan**”) for the Redevelopment Area; and

**WHEREAS**, 528 North Ave Urban Renewal, LLC (the “**Entity**”) is the owner of certain parcels within the Redevelopment Area commonly known as 528 North Avenue and identified on the Borough’s tax map as Block 34, Lots 31, 32, 33 and 34 (collectively, the “**Property**”); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Borough Council passed a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of that certain Redevelopment Agreement (the “**Redevelopment Agreement**”), which sets forth the respective obligations for the Borough and the Entity with respect to the redevelopment of the Property in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Redevelopment Agreement provides for, inter alia, a residential rental redevelopment project at the Property consisting of 40 rental housing units, of which 34 will be market-rate rental housing units and 6 rental housing units will be low income and moderate income housing units, as those terms are defined by N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304, allocated per the Uniform Housing Affordability Control regulations, N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq., as well as infrastructure improvements and related remediation (collectively, the “**Project**”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project as set forth in the Redevelopment Agreement conforms to the Redevelopment Plan and the master plan of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Act, improvements to property located within an area in need of redevelopment may qualify for long term tax exemptions under the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. (the “**LTTE Law**”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Entity is authorized to do business as an urban renewal entity under the laws of the State of New Jersey pursuant to the provisions of the LTTE Law; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the Entity’s substantial investment of equity and borrowed funds, such amounts are insufficient to pay for all of the costs associated with the development and construction of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of the Act and such other statutes as may be sources of relevant authority, if any, authorize the Borough to accept, in lieu of real property taxes, an annual service charge paid by the Entity to Borough as set forth in such laws; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to enhance the economic viability of and opportunity for a successful project, the Entity has submitted an application for the approval of a long term tax exemption for the Project (the “**Exemption Application**”), attached hereto as Exhibit A, and a form of financial agreement (the “**Financial Agreement**”), attached hereto as Exhibit B, to the Borough, all in accordance with the LTTE Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the mayor of the Borough has provided his recommendations with respect to the Exemption Application to the Borough Council; and

**WHEREAS**, upon review of the proposed Project, the Exemption Application and the Financial Agreement, the Borough has made the following findings with respect to the Project pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-11:

1. The development and construction of the Project, including infrastructure improvements as set forth in the Redevelopment Agreement and the Redevelopment Plan will be beneficial to the overall community; will achieve the goals and objectives of the Redevelopment Plan; will help revitalize the Property; will improve the quality of life for the community; will serve as a catalyst for further private investment in areas surrounding the Property; will facilitate the remediation of environmental contamination and the revitalization and productive reuse of land currently in a blighted, stagnant, unproductive and fallow condition; will enhance the economic development of the Borough by alleviating existing blight conditions of the Property; and will further Redevelopment Plan objectives and contribute to the economic growth of the Borough in general and specifically the Property;
2. The Project will result in the creation of six (6) units of affordable housing;
3. The aforesaid benefits of the Project exceed the cost, if any, associated with granting the tax exemption provided by the Financial Agreement;
4. The Financial Agreement is a material inducement to the Entity to undertake the Project in the Borough and facilitate the redevelopment of the Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is agreeable to granting a long term tax exemption to the Entity for the Project and, in connection therewith, the Borough and the Entity will utilize the Act and such other statutes as may be sources of relevant authority, if any, to facilitate financing of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the LTTE Law, the Borough desires to approve the Project, the Exemption Application and the Financial Agreement.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The Recitals are incorporated by reference as if set forth in full.

Section 2. The Exemption Application submitted by the Entity is hereby approved in accordance with Section 8 of the LTTE Law.

Section 3. The Mayor, in consultation with counsel to the Borough, is hereby authorized to execute the Financial Agreement following the execution thereof by the Entity and prepare, amend or execute any other agreements necessary to effectuate this ordinance, subject to modification or revisions, as deemed necessary and appropriate, with such execution to occur only simultaneous with the full execution of a redevelopment agreement for the Project.

Section 4. The Clerk of the Borough is hereby authorized and directed, upon execution of the Financial Agreement by the Mayor, to attest to the signature of the Mayor and to affix the corporate seal of the Borough upon such document.

Section 5. An exemption from taxation as set forth in the Financial Agreement is hereby granted to the Entity, with respect to the Project for the term set forth in the Financial Agreement; provided that in no event shall the term of the Financial Agreement exceed the earlier of (i) thirty-five (35) years from the date of execution of the Financial Agreement or (ii) thirty (30) years from the Annual Service Charge Start Date, as said term is defined in the Financial Agreement, and only so long as the Entity remains subject to and in compliance with the Financial Agreement and the LTTE Law.

Section 6. The executed copy of the Financial Agreement shall be certified by and filed with the Office of the Borough Clerk. Further, the Clerk shall file certified copies of this ordinance and the Financial Agreement with the Tax Assessor of the Borough and the Director of the Division of Local Government Services with the Department of Community Affairs, in accordance with Section 12 of the LTTE Law. Further, the Borough Clerk shall, within ten (10) days of the later of (i) the effective date of this Ordinance, or (ii) execution of the Financial Agreement, transmit certificated copies of this Ordinance and the Financial Agreement to the chief financial officer of, and legal counsel for, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Section 7. The Project shall conform with all federal, state and Borough laws, ordinances, regulations, the Redevelopment Plan and the Redevelopment Agreement relating to its construction and use.

Section 8. The Entity shall, in the operation of the Project, comply with all laws so that no person of race, religious principles, color, national origin or ancestry will be subject to discrimination.

Section 9. Without limiting the terms of the Financial Agreement, the Entity shall submit Auditor's Reports to the Borough in accordance with Article V of the Financial Agreement.

Section 10. This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with all applicable laws.

At this point, Mayor Cilento opened the meeting for public comment on this ordinance. No one from the public spoke. This portion was closed.

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

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

**05-04-2020: #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. Sigmon and seconded by Mrs. Burke it was moved to accept the following:

**05-04-2020: #2**

**WHEREAS**, the entire nation as well as the State of New Jersey have suffered the effects of the COVID-19 virus which has endangered the public health and paralyzed the economy of the region;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Phillip Murphy as issued a series of executive orders declaring a state of emergency, ordering non-essential businesses closed and only permitting the most essential work to continue for government and businesses alike;

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Dunellen (“Borough”) recognizes the effects this deadly virus has had on the community and wishes to mitigate, to the extent possible, these disastrous consequences on those who reside in the Borough;

**WHEREAS**, due to this current state of emergency on April 28, 2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 130 allowing municipalities to extend the grace period for taxpayers to pay 2nd Quarter taxes to June 1, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Borough wishes to extend this grace period for the 2nd Quarter as a way to mitigate the financial effects on its population;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen hereby authorize that the grace period to pay 2nd Quarter property taxes in the Borough of Dunellen be extended to June 1, 2020.

This extension shall take effect immediately.

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

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

**05-04-2020: #2-A**

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

Resolution 04-20-2020: #9, a Resolution establishing the Rate of Interest for Delinquent Sewer Utility Fees, is hereby rescinded.

Mayor Cilento explained that we were rescinding this resolution on the recommendation of the Governor’s Office. Mr. Bruder further explained that the Governor is now permitting property tax extensions to June 1<sup>st</sup>. He cautioned taxpayers to beware that any payments past June 1<sup>st</sup> will incur penalties from the original due date, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**05-04-2020: #3**

**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
19-2	5	9	Cote, Jennifer 135 First St	3,524.09	95.20	1,400.00	5,019.29

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$5,019.29**

**05-04-2020: #4**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR DONATIONS – ACCEPTANCE OF BEQUESTS AND GIFTS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29**

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for the Dunellen COVID-19 Pandemic Response by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for the Dunellen COVID-19 Pandemic Response are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement.

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

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for the Dunellen COVID-19 Pandemic Response, as authorized under N.J.S.A. 40A:5-9.
2. The Borough Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

**05-04-2020: #5**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION  
BY RIDER FOR DONATIONS – ACCEPTANCE OF BEQUESTS AND GIFTS  
REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29**

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for the Dunellen Parks Improvement Fund by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for the Dunellen Parks Improvement Fund are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement.

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

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts for the Dunellen Parks Improvement Fund, as authorized under N.J.S.A. 40A:5-9.
2. The Borough Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

**05-04-2020: #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 Avenue, LLC.” for financial work done for the redevelopment.

<u>NW Financial</u>	<u>Amount</u>
26344	\$3,137.50
26436	\$1,582.50
Total:	\$4,720.00

**05-04-2020: #7**

**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 Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP., from the Interim Cost Agreement Escrow Account for work done toward “**528 North Avenue LLC**” redevelopment, subject to the refunding of the Account:

<u>Windels Marx File Number</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0305764-0000004	35441	\$4,163.00
0305764-0000004	36501	\$7,770.00
	Total	\$11,993.00



**05-04-2020: #8**

**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 CME Associates, from the Interim Cost Agreement Escrow Account for work done toward Dunellen Stations redevelopment, subject to the refunding of the Account:

<u>CME Associates</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0257761	Redevelopment	\$2,657.00
0258723	Redevelopment	\$4,187.00
	Total	<u>\$6,844.00</u>

**05-04-2020: #9**

**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 Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP., from the Interim Cost Agreement Escrow Account for work done toward **Dunellen Stations** redevelopment, subject to the refunding of the Account:

<u>Windels Marx File Number</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0305764-0000001	33392	\$8,595.10
0305764-0000001	33393	\$1,782.00
	Total	<u>\$10,377.10</u>

Reports:

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

As COVID-19 continues and the curve has not yet flattened, he encouraged everyone to maintain social distancing and to adhere to the Governor's Orders. As of this date, the totals in

the State are 128,269 infected, 7,910 deaths. In Middlesex County, there are 12,758 infected, 642 deaths. In Dunellen, there are 143 infected and six deaths.

We extend our gratitude to our local emergency services: our Rescue Squad who is on call 24/7 during this crisis and has been doing an exceptional job under unprecedented circumstances, as well as our Fire Department and Police Department. These men and women are putting their health and well-being at risk in their selfless acts to serve and protect us. We applaud them for their service.

I would like to extend appreciation to the Dunellen Office of Emergency Management and its coordinator, Homer Mosley, and his team of volunteers. Another big thank you must be given to Alex Miller, our Recreation Director and Senior Coordinator, who since day one has been by my side to ensure we continue to provide services to Dunellen's most vulnerable: our senior citizens and disabled individuals, as well as assisting me in the coordination of the Dunellen Pop-Up Food Drive to serve our neighbors in need. The food drive was a huge success and I thank Pastor Roy and the Living Hope Outreach Center for opening their doors and hearts to the community. I also thank the Dunellen School District and their IT Department. I thank our teachers, and this is also Teachers' Appreciation Week.

#### **COVID-19 Information:**

The Middlesex County Public Health Department is still the lead agency for any investigations regarding COVID-19 cases. Please reach out to them if you have any questions. The State of New Jersey is still not reporting recovery data, as of this time. Therefore, neither is the Middlesex County Public Health Department. This is mainly due to the data not being traceable, and there really is no definition for what a recovered COVID-19 case is. 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](http://www.covid19.nj.gov).

If you need help, you can reach 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 use these resources during this challenging time. You matter, and we want you to be safe.

**COVID-19 Q&A with Mayor Jason F. Cilento:** I will be releasing a video on my Facebook page tomorrow: [facebook.com/mayorcilento](https://facebook.com/mayorcilento)

**Congratulations to the Dunellen School District:** I was informed by Gene Mosley, Superintendent of Schools, that Dunellen High School was ranked in the top 40% of nearly 18,000 public high schools in America. Dunellen is #146 in New Jersey, ahead of 14 schools in Middlesex County including Piscataway (#159), Middlesex (#166), North Brunswick (#188) and Colonia (#230). We should all be very proud of our district. I firmly believe that the facility improvements in the next few years will only further assist Dunellen to secure a higher ranking in the near future.

**Eat Local Fridays!:** Join the Borough Council and me every Friday in supporting our local restaurants by ordering curbside or delivery. Not just Fridays, but we encourage you to dine at them weekly.

**Capital Projects:** Our engineers inform us that they are preparing bid specifications for the Grove Street Road Improvement Project and we hope to see some repaving later this summer. Likewise, the engineers have completed their preliminary work on the South Madison Avenue Roadway Improvement Project, and they will be submitting cost estimates to the borough for review. Last year we received a grant to repave Lincoln Avenue and we will soon apply for additional funds for that project in hope of offsetting the entirety of the project to grant funding.

**New Jersey Transit Update:** I received updates from New Jersey Transit about our meeting in early March. They report to us that they have examined the tunnels and bridges that we have in town to look at some of the cracks and leakage. They report that none of these defects in any way compromises structural integrity, but they have listed them for repairs and hope to have them done in the not too distant future.

**Redevelopment:** The Borough has entered into a formal Agreement with 528 North Ave Urban Renewal LLC for the building of 40 new apartments at 528 Bound Brook Road, the bend where North Avenue turns into Bound Brook Road going west toward Middlesex Borough. This is very exciting as it will bring new life to an area of town in need of rehabilitation. The builder promises us that it will be an environmentally friendly structure, including electric vehicle parking, with attractive street-side landscaping and streetscape improvements. The developer also has generously offered to make improvements to Morecraft Park, due to its proximity to the project.

**Census 2020:** I remind everybody to continue filling out their Census 2020, if they have not.

**Make Some Noise!:** Every Thursday between 7:00 pm and 7:05 pm, please go out and make some noise to support our essential workers and local heroes in our emergency services. Dunellen has joined its neighboring communities, Green Brook, Middlesex, Warren and Watchung in recognizing these local heroes.

**Dunellen Downtown Management Organization COVID-19 Business Resource Page:** Councilpersons Narvesen and Rios are working on a Business Resource page.

I want to let everybody know that the shopping includes delivery to seniors. Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, the town has delivered 21 times. I extend my gratitude to Councilperson Stacy Narvesen who has helped out every week, and to Councilpersons Burke and Rios who have helped two weeks each. And, the Pop-Up Food Drive, we had five days of food drop off with 155 people dropping off food or making donations. \$860 dollars was donated from which we got 86, \$10 food vouchers from Tropical Supermarket which were then distributed to people in need. We kept the money local, which was very good. We are very grateful to all those businesses and individuals who contributed, and we will continue again this week: Thursday, 10:00 am to 12 pm, one final drop-off, and then Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 1 pm. We will schedule residents

who need to pick up the food. I want to thank our volunteers: Councilwoman Narvesen, Councilwoman Rios and Councilman Sigmon were all extremely helpful. Councilwoman Rios helped with translation for some of our residents. Some residents who volunteered were Melissa Paltjon, Phil McGuane, Laura Murray and Robert Puckett, as well as the Wall family and countless others. This great turn-out really shows what Dunellen is all about.

Always know I am only an email or phone call away. Please use me as a resource.

Mrs. Rios: 1) the Municipal Alliance had their town hall and they had a great turnout; 2) the Dunellen Library is still going strong with its virtual book club, classes and meetings; 3) the DDMO is adding to its Facebook page a Mother's Day event designed to get more people into local businesses; 4) there is a Follow the Flag Facebook page to raise money for our front-liners, acquiring funds for our local health facilities such as Medemerge, Somerset Medical, Edison Hospital and Plainfield Health Clinic.

Mrs. Burke: 1) thank you to those who continue to work on the frontlines; 2) congratulations to Chief Smith on his happy family event. Thank you to Lt. Beenders for being here during Chief Smith's paternity leave; 3) asked about grass clippings. Dr. Robins responded that they are being picked up until the end of the month. Mayor Cilento noted that this is not normal practice but the DPW is picking up the bags during COVID-19.

Mr. Bayer: no report.

Dr. Dunne: 1) there were 51 cases since last Council Meeting, and she wishes to reiterate that people should maintain social distancing. The more we can adhere to the requirements, the sooner we can open up; 2) you might have seen what she and Mrs. Rios are doing on a Facebook page regarding Adopt a Senior. They are trying to reach out and capture all the High School Seniors. Mayor Cilento: wanted to remind everyone about the Governor's Executive Orders. The borough is following the Governor's Orders, so any circumstance in which you think a business or member of the public is not obeying the Governor's Executive Orders, please call the Dunellen Police at 732-968-3000, ext. 0 (non-emergency line). Report your concern and Dispatch will send an officer to investigate and act appropriately. You have to report the incident at the moment it is occurring. You can also go online to report violations at [COVID19.nj.gov/violations](https://COVID19.nj.gov/violations)

Mr. Sigmon: no report.

Mrs. Narvesen: 1) the DDMO has a listing of all the businesses that are open, and their hours, on their Facebook page; 2) she thanked Alex Miller for coordinating the senior meals program; 3) also wants to thank everyone for helping with the Pop-Up Food Bank program; 4) the track in Columbia Park is being finished up today. There are just a few remaining tasks such as finishing with the irrigation system and cleaning up the parking lot.

Mayor Cilento: reported that a bird called a killdeer is nesting in the end zone of the new turf field. Please do not disturb them.

Mr. Bruder: reported to Council regarding the new traffic signal at the corner of South Washington Avenue and New Market Road and the situation with obtaining an easement from the resident on the corner. He thinks there may be some miscommunication and he is asking for Council approval to send a letter to the resident explaining the advantages to her of granting the easement. The lack of an easement is holding up progress on the Dunellen Station project. Council approves.

Mr. Bayer: reported that the Galway developer of three houses on South Madison Avenue is asking for a waiver of a maintenance bond that covered road improvements from over two years

ago. The time for the bond has now passed. He will obtain a copy of the bond from CME and forward it to Mr. Bruder for review.

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## **PUBLIC PORTION**

Daryl Ann Drake-Mann, 417 Second Street, between Lincoln Avenue and Madison Avenue. First, she thanked the Council for the phenomenal job being done during COVID-19. Her concern is with the roadway on Second Street. There is a severe problem with the traffic. It is like a speedway. It seems that vehicles are “blowing through the stop sign” at Lincoln and the situation might get worse with the new development as WAZE will direct people to Second Street. She is asking for traffic calming devices to be placed. Mayor Cilento responded that the borough is in the process of obtaining mobile electronic speedometers. Mrs. Drake-Mann also noted that the volume of cars seems to have significantly increased. Mayor Cilento said that we will speak to our Police Department about enforcement and to our engineers for a more long-term strategy.

Terri Albertson, 412 New Market Road, she is curious about why the Council is getting involved in the Adopt the Senior program, which began as a grass-roots program, and they want to be sure all the kids are involved and no one is left out and she has been working closely with Heather to be sure that all the kids are listed. She is in touch with a lot of the kids. She is asking why it can't remain as a community-based effort? Mayor Cilento responded that he became aware of the national initiative, brought to his attention by Councilwoman Dunne, and they discussed it and then a private group came up and he asked Councilwoman Dunne to reach out to the individuals to see how we could help them. He understands that it is still a community-based initiative and some councilpersons just wanted to assist. If there is a different interpretation of the assistance, then he thanks Mrs. Albertson for bringing it to our attention so that we can evaluate our role in this. Dr. Dunne stated that they were not trying to take over. That a local group had come up and there was a letter from the Board of Education, and she reached out to Heather to let her know we were just trying to help. A concern was that just a few students would get adopted and others left out. We are getting a list from the Board of Education to cross-check the names with what Heather has on Facebook. We are happy to include you in those conversations. We are not trying to take over. We are just trying to make sure it is fair and equitable for all the seniors. Mrs. Albertson thanked her. She is reaching out to former students to get them involved in the process and thanks Councilpersons for keeping her in the loop.

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

**05-04-2020: #10**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of May 4, 2020 is adjourned.

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

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