

November 1, 2021

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 November 1, 2021.

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, April Burke, Jessica Dunne, Richard Pinder, Trina Rios, Daniel Sigmon and Harold Vandermark

On the motion of Mrs. Burke and seconded by Mr. Sigmon it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of October 18, 2021.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

At this point, Council President Dunne read the following “Dunellen Land Acknowledgment Regarding Indigenous Peoples”:

DUNELLEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT REGARDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The land upon which the Borough of Dunellen stands is part of the traditional territory of the Lenne-Lenape, called “Lenapehoking.” The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the three continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation. We acknowledge the Lenne-Lenape as among the original people of the land in this region and we acknowledge their continuing relationship with this territory. In our acknowledgement of the continued presence of Lenape people in this region, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

At this point, Tax Assessor Dawn Guttschall presented information regarding the current revaluation of properties being conducted in Dunellen by Professional Property Appraisers. Last year, because of COVID-19, no interior inspections were done. With owner's permission, interior inspection will be done this year. 20% of the homes will be inspected again this year. Those houses that received exterior inspections last year will be sent letters asking if they want interior ones now. Interior inspections, indeed, all inspections, are helpful to note any changes. There have been many renovations in the past year. You want to keep the records accurate for purposes of comparing to similar houses for values. If you suffered damage because of Hurricane Ida, email Dawn: dguttschall@dunellenborough.com

All adjustments will be for next year, going forward. Property owners will receive cards in February with assessments for 2022. If you disagree, contact Dawn to discuss and if you cannot come to an agreement, you may do an Appeal. She also noted that the law changed regarding veterans. The Tax Assessor page on the website is: https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/departments/tax_assessor.php

Professional Property Appraisers: <http://www.ppareval.com/>

PPA's page on the Borough of Dunellen: <http://www.ppareval.com/Dunellen.html>

Homer Mosley, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, introduced his new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. Members underwent eight weeks of training. CERT supplements Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Members are able to educate Dunellen residents on disaster preparedness. They will assist OEM at fairs, setting up protective traffic barriers, at emergency operations centers and at shelters. Members: Denise Allen, Emani Blackwell, William R. Carlson, Rev. Roy Carryl, Wendella Carryl, Rebecca A. Christian, Malcolm Cumberbatch, Joseph P. Cummins, Ken Cyrus, John Finney, Melissa Hickey, Connor Kolchin, Georgette Mosley, Christopher Mueller and Sharon M. Stewart.

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

11-01-2021: #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: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

11-01-2021: #2

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

Whereas, there exists a need to lease a photocopier machine for the Tax Collector's Office; and

Whereas, a quote has been received from:

Wells Fargo -- \$95.00 per month, for a 60 month lease term; and

Whereas Wells Fargo has a New Jersey Business Registration 42-1074725 for the leasing of photocopier machines; and

The funds for this contract have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer, and continuation of the contract is subject to the availability of funds in future fiscal years. The funds are certified from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that a photocopier machine be leased from Wells Fargo, for an amount not to exceed \$95.00 for 60 months.

Funds for this certification are from Account #2-01-20-145-000-205.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

11-01-2021: #3

Borough of Dunellen

Resolution: Authorizing a request to extend NJDOT FY 2020 Municipal Aid Grant – Lincoln Avenue

WHEREAS, that the Borough of Dunellen is the recipient of the FY 2020 Municipal Aid grant in the amount of \$525,000.00 for the Lincoln Avenue rehabilitation project pursuant to a letter dated November 21, 2019, and

WHEREAS, due to the mitigating circumstances mentioned in the attached letter(s) from the Borough Engineer, there is a need to respectfully request an extension of time to award the construction contract.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that the borough hereby officially requests an extension of time for the award of the construction contract.

Mayor Cilento noted that New Jersey American Water will be doing work on Lincoln Avenue in the Spring 2022, so it is advisable to begin our own road improvement work later in the year.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

11-01-2021: #4

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

The mayor of the Borough of Dunellen is authorized to sign the attached Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Middlesex and the Borough of Dunellen for Fire Services.

Discussion ensued on the advantages, if any, of this shared services agreement. Fire Chief Mark Crawford noted that the Department already had a mutual aid understanding with the Borough of Middlesex. It was decided to table this motion:

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

11-01-2021: 4-A

Motion 11-01-2021: #4 is tabled.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

11-01-2021: #5

Resolution 07-06-2021: #7 is amended as follows:

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

WHEREAS, there is a need to repair the roof on the shed in Gavornik Park; and

WHEREAS, the following quotes were received for this repair:

Penyak Roofing Co.,	
3571 Kennedy Road, South Plainfield, NJ	\$1,815.00

My Building Solutions, LLC
34 JF Kennedy, Milltown, NJ \$6,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that a contract be awarded to Penyak Roofing Co. for the repair of the roof on the shed in Gavornik Park, at a cost not to exceed \$1,815.00.

11-01-2021: #6

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

The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a food handler license to the following establishment:

Living Hope Outreach Center
201 Whittier Avenue

11-01-2021: #7

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

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

Payable to FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
20-37	78	26	MICHELLE SCHAFER 269 MAPLE AVE	\$ 911.18	\$ 23.85	\$1,700.00	\$ 2,635.03

TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 2.635.03

11-01-2021: #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 FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY

Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
-------	-----	---------------	-----------	----------	---------	-------

TSC

20-22	45	11	LISSETTE TORRES	\$ 701.35	\$ 17.89	\$1,500.00	\$ 2219.24
		C0002	741 FIRST STREET				

TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 2,219.24

11-01-2021: #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 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):

REDEVELOPMENT OF ART COLOR SITE

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
66295	PB239	Professional Services	\$7,518.00

316 NORTH AVENUE – YIOS

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
65094	PE69	Professional Services	\$633.00

440 NORTH AVENUE – Chelsea Builders

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
66298	PB240	Professional Services	\$129.00

528 NORTH AVENUE - Katz

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
63473	PB236	Professional Services	\$405.00
66300	PB236	Professional Services	<u>267.00</u>
			\$672.00

745 BOUND BROOK ROAD (SVR)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
63474	PE70	Professional Services	\$975.00
66301	PE73	Professional Services	<u>2,565.00</u>
			\$3,540.00

11-01-2021: #10

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):

216-234 NORTH AVENUE (VILLANI)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
289873	PB237	Resolution Compliance Review	\$179.00
290849	PB237	Resolution Compliance Review	89.50
			\$268.50

528 NORTH AVENUE (KATZ)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
899877	PB238	Engineering Review & Report	\$1,087.25

100 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVE – PRISM (Retail, Apartments, Clubhouse)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
289889	PE71	Site Observation	\$3,684.50
290937	PE71	Site Observation	5,422.00
			\$9,106.50

BRUDNER REDEVELOPMENT - FORCE MAIN

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
289879	PE72	Construction Observation	\$3,314.50
290936	PE72	Construction Observation	4,031.25
			\$7,345.75

11-01-2021: #11

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):

316 NORTH AVENUE (YIOS)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
20211095	PE68	Architectural Review	\$330.00

11-01-2021: #12

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

WHEREAS, the following taxpayer has received a Correction of Error Judgement from the Tax Court and has received judgement reducing their assessment:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the following judgement be credited.

BLOCK	LOT	NAME	AMOUNT
30	24	DiMaggio. Anthony	\$ 7,157.72

No refund check to be issued. Credit will be applied to outstanding taxes.

11-01-21: #13

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

Whereas, there appears to be a surplus in the following 2021 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary, and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of unexpended balances in those appropriations having an excess over the amount required to those deemed to be insufficient.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the following “Transfer of Appropriations” be made:

From

Account	Title	S&W	Other Expenses
23-220-299	Group Insurance		\$6,000
31-461-299	Electric & Gas		5,000
	Subtotal		\$11,000
	Total		<u>\$11,000</u>

Whereas, there appears to be insufficient funds in the following 2021 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary; viz:

Account	Title	S&W	Other Expenses

To:	20-100-003	Legal Advertising		\$3,000
	21-180-299	Planning Board		5,000
	21-181-299	Municipal Planner		3,000
		Subtotal		\$11,000
		Total		<u>\$11,000</u>

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Best Practices Inventory 2021

Each year, the Department of Community Affairs promulgates a “Best Practices Inventory” and distributes to all 565 municipalities. It is designed to ascertain the status of municipal government practices in New Jersey. The inventory ostensibly assesses each municipality’s compliance with various laws and evaluates implementation of fiscal and operational best practices. The inventory is regarded as one-way taxpayers can evaluate their municipality’s performance.

This year there were twenty-seven scored questions and forty-three unscored questions on survey format. Some of the topics were: personnel, budgeting, financial administration, capital projects, transparency, authorities, procurement, web sites, cybersecurity, shared services, PILOTs, and affordable housing.

The unscored questions contained opportunities for a municipality to request from the DCA additional training or advice.

The State can withhold some of our discretionary aide if we do not answer a sufficient number of questions positively. This year we answered eighteen out of the twenty-seven questions with a “Yes” or “Prospective”; thus, we will receive full funding.

Dr. Dunne asked about the questions that pertained to cyber security and stimulus finding. Dr. Robins responded that he has twice distributed cyber security training materials to Council and borough employees and that stimulus funding will be discussed by the Finance Committee and Council later in the year. No decisions have been made and the unscored answers were general responses on possible expenditure categories.

Reports:

Mr. Vandermark: 1) Dunellen Downtown Management Organization will have a “Dining in Dunellen” fundraiser for the Dunellen Fire Department.

Mrs. Rios: 1) Library programs are on their website. The Library will be closed for Veterans’ Day and Thanksgiving; 2) the Dunellen Arts and Culture Committee has two winners: the Fall House

Decorating Contest on Madison Avenue and the Halloween one was the Nightmare on Whittier; 3) the Municipal Alliance will be starting its SUDS program for Fifth Graders this month; 4) the Carol Fund will be collecting food for Thanksgiving and the Angel Tree is virtual on their Facebook page.

Mrs. Burke: 1) thanked Homer Mosley for organizing the first CERT team; 2) thanked Pastor Roy for opening his home to our residents; 3) the Police Department has recently been trained on Use of Force and will undergo Body-Cam training; 4) the Dunellen Rescue Squad is welcoming volunteers and will be having elections; 5) submit copy for the next *Dunellen Report* by December 15th; 6) asked about the Rabies Clinic. Lauren Staats replied that there will be one held in Middlesex on November 6th.

Dr. Dunne: 1) the Finance Committee met and is working through some ideas for using the Stimulus funds; 2) the Green Brook Flood Control Commission is asking for pictures of the flood; please send to Dr. Robins; 3) noted the Blue Acres program, a federal program to buy up flood damaged properties; 4) she is meeting with Councilman Sigmon and residents regarding a community garden; 5) given time constraints and lack of funds, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is cancelling the movie event it was planning for Native American Heritage Month but the Committee is working on a Survey for distribution to residents.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) Saturday was the 73rd Annual Halloween Parade. There were over 100 people participating and the Recreation Department would like to thank Cheryl O'Neill for being Grand Marshal; 2) the Veterans' Day is Thursday, November 11th and the Recreation Department will be supporting the American Legion and other groups.

Mr. Pinder: 1) George Johnson stepped down from the Board of Education so there is a vacancy; 2) Department of Public Works:

The DPW crew has continued to do daily cleaning of downtown and the Parks, cutting grass on all Borough properties and parks.

- Completed an extended curbside branch/tree limb pickup throughout the town. Reminder: Residents can bring tree limbs to the DPW yard all year long.
- Patch repairs throughout most of the town (we still have two blocks on Lincoln, and that will be completed this week).
- Crew has been picking up leaf bags throughout the town. (Reminder) leaf bag curbside pickup goes through December.
- Sweep cleaning catch basins prior to and after the storm.
- Assisted in hauling away two truckloads of debris gathered during the Mayor's Alliance for the Green Brook Clean up on October 23rd.

Mayor Cilento:

First and foremost, the election is tomorrow, Tuesday, November 2nd, and the polls are open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm., at Lincoln Middle School. Mail-in ballots should be deposited in the drop box just outside the Library.

Covid-19 Update:

Since my last report on 10/18/2021, we have been made aware of eleven more new cases added to Dunellen's cumulative total of 961. Unfortunately, Middlesex County has reported one more COVID-19 related death. This brings Dunellen's cumulative death total to fifteen.

Dunellen and Middlesex County's cumulative totals can be found at www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub at: www.covid19.nj.gov.

Dunellen Mural Community Presentation and Outreach:

The Rutgers Bloustein School and Mason Gross School of the Arts Mural Study program came to Dunellen on October 28th at 7PM at the Senior Center in Columbia Park for a presentation and outreach program regarding murals and our community's reaction to them for the FA21 class.

He received notification that the Municipal Alliance had received a grant for \$5,914.00.

Thank you to Union Catholic High School to the October 25th ceremony honoring Sydney McLaughlin.

The Green Brook clean up hosted by the Mayors' Alliance for a Clean Brook Waterway had approximately fifty volunteers and thank you to the Lower Raritan Waterway Project for helping organize the event. We will try to do this twice a year. Thank you to the mayors who participated, to Tropical for donating water and Zupkos for donating pizza. Thank you also to Assemblywoman Linda Carter who assisted.

PSE&G has completed installing all new gas mains on High Street and Lehigh Street along with gas service to homes on those streets, and on Walnut Street between Pulaski and South Madison. We hope to have the mill and pave project undertaken in mid-November.

He has been working with Alex Miller and NJ American Water on the utility's projects on the north side and we hope they will pave the roads when they are done. Looking to do mill and pave on Front Street and Dunellen Avenue and First Street between Madison Avenue and Middlesex border get done.

We received \$556,530.00 for a Kline Place Road Improvement project that will also be used for catch basins and improving drainage.

There will be additional trains during peak hours on the Raritan Valley Line. They are replacing the North Portal Bridge.

Mr. Sigmon added that in September and October there were 150 students and faculty who needed to be isolated because of COVID-19 exposure.

Fire Chief Mark Crawford: as of October 26th, the Department was back in service utilizing apparatus on loan from Green Brook. It is being housed in Green Brook. Investigating a loaner from Jackson. Looking to store at our Fire House. Work at the Fire House continues. Asbestos has been found and this might slow work.

Jeff Best, Dunellen Rescue Squad: noted a major increase over the past few months of calls from other municipalities. This is because there are not enough EMTs out there. People are leaving the field. The Squad is having a hard time responding. The members are very stressed out. They have been working with the River Road Rescue Squad.

Public Comment

Chris Mueller, 240 Prospect Avenue: 1) reported a township tree a few houses away; 2) asked the protocol on reporting sewer calls. Notify the Police.

Steve Fucito, 721 Second Street: asked why monies are being spent on committees when the Fire Department is in need? Mayor Cilento responded that some projects are self-funding (Pop-Up Park, monies raised through fundraising); Diversity and Inclusion has no budget, though they are doing fundraisers. Rehabilitating the Fire House is through the insurance to ascertain needs. He explained that we are developing a capital improvement plan to address needed improvements.

Melissa Poltjon, 384 Whittier Avenue: again, asked Jessica Dunne for an explanation, and she (Mrs. Poltjon) denied certain accusations that were made against her. Noted some activities allegedly undertaken by Democratic Committee members. She referenced Councilman Pinder's wife, which he refuted. Mrs. Poltjon also addressed Dr. Dunne, repeating accusations heard in prior council meetings. She renewed her request for an explanation and an apology.

Council President Dunne made the following statement:

As many of you know, at the October 4, 2021, Council meeting, I made a public statement about an incident that occurred on October 2, 2021. I have remained silent since, but tonight, I break my silence because the current discourse is not productive and does not help the people of Dunellen. It should be clarified that the people at the center of these accusations have a personal history with my family and my children, but I can speak for myself in saying that these issues were not a factor in my actions.

For all of you who are still curious to hear my side of the story, here it is:

As some of you know, I am also Chair of the Democratic Committee in Dunellen. Multiple people had remarked or noted that the Paltjons had an Arizona flag in front of their home, and suggested it was because of their support of Trump and the Republican-led audit in Arizona to discount the

election results. Many of them also remarked how it was ironic that someone was relying on an electoral system to get elected to Borough Council while at the same time rejecting the integrity of the electoral system. These same individuals told me about posts on Melissa Paltjon's personal Facebook page with celebrations of Confederate flags and conspiracy theories. They asked my opinion about the flag and the upcoming election. But I wanted to understand what they were talking about before jumping to misguided conclusions.

On the morning of October 2nd, after dropping my eldest child off at Columbia Park for tennis, and with my 9-year-old daughter in the car, we swung around to 384 Whittier. I did not stop my car. I did not get out of the car. I rolled down the window and took a single picture of the flag, proudly displayed on the exterior of their home, so that I could verify when I got home that it was indeed the Arizona flag. There were no children outside. No one ran inside crying and screaming that someone was taking pictures and "stalking" them.

What happened next is the truly terrifying event. Melissa Paltjon put her youngest child in the car and, as she admitted, followed me home. I did not go directly home. Melissa, as she has admitted to, followed me this entire time.

When I did arrive home, Melissa screamed at me. She threatened me. She threatened my family. My own daughter was terrified and ran around the back of the house. Melissa asked me not once, not twice, but three times why I was at her house. And I gave her the same answer the first two times. When she asked a third time why I was there, I simply stated, "You can keep asking me, but the answer is going to be the same. Why don't you answer my question about why you have an Arizona flag outside your home?" At that point, I took out my phone to record her and she sped off. It is simply unintelligible that a woman who declares such false outrage about her own children's safety has zero regard for another woman's children's safety and well-being. And I did what most mothers would do after they felt unsafe, and their children were unsafe. I called the police. I did not get in my car and follow her.

We teach our children not to bully, but what happened over the following few weeks is disgusting and abhorrent and if any of our own children would have done what has happened since, surely, we would all step in, would we not?

I applaud my close friends and confidantes who have remained silent. Who have not reciprocated the bullying behavior. To all of you, and you know who you are, thank you for your unending support. To all the people whom I have spoken to on the campaign trail who have said, "You guys are doing a great job" and asked about food drives, and potholes and traffic and parks and floods—that's why I'm here. In my career, life, and Council, I help people. It's what I do. I have always worked hard for the people of Dunellen and will continue to do so. Being a Councilmember is more than showing up to events. So much of what we do is behind the scenes. Listen to our Council reports, which are only a fraction of what any of us are doing. Ask questions about how we can help. Everyone who has ever reached out to me for help can tell you that is what I do. I help. It's why I'm here.

And, finally, a big thank you to all of you who have been quietly supporting me. It's not easy being in the public eye, especially in a small town. You find out who your real friends are when a challenge hits, and many of you know how hard the past year has been for me. To the people who have shown up for me, who have supported me throughout all of this, thank you.

Steven Fucito, 721 Second Street: questioned why we are hearing a prepared statement on the night before an election when she was asked for one six weeks ago?

Melissa Poljton, 384 Whittier Avenue: never put Dr. Dunne's children in danger. Her own children were having breakfast in a screened-in porch open to the street. Jessica could simply have asked why they had an Arizona flag? They would have answered, end of story. Jessica's actions were "sneaky, creepy and ridiculous."

Tracy Scott, 354 Mountainview Terrace: asked why anyone cares if the Poltjons have an Arizona flag on their house? That is not the kind of town she wants to live in, that everyone is a "busybody" and can call a councilperson to say that "so and so" has a flag.

Mayor Cilento noted that tomorrow you have an opportunity to change the direction.

Dr. Dunne responded that several people had asked her about it.

Jeff Best, 401 Madison Avenue: he grew up Arizona. Asked if there are any statutes or a problem with flying a flag on your house? Curious why this is an issue?

Mayor Cilento responded that it is a free country and it is his understanding that you can fly any flag as long as it is smaller than the American flag, and below it.

Steve Fucito, 721 Second Street: why was it even addressed or of concern of a Councilwoman?

Mayor Cilento: I cannot answer that for you. She has answered in the way she wanted to answer it. And she will have to be held accountable for it by the voters of Dunellen or come January 1st if the Council decides to make a change in Council President.

Hal Vandermark: decided to throw his hat into the ring because he was embarrassed. He has been here 35 years, and this has never before happened, and it should be looked into. But this has to stop.

Sue Connelly, President of Dunellen Fire Company: wants to reassure the public that they are not at the point of demanding a return to the way it was. Insurance is still investigating, and they are down there every night working on the House and progress is being made. We are all very positive about this and taking from it all the good they can. Everybody just needs to support each other.

Joe Poltjon, 384 Whittier Avenue: he appreciates everyone's support. Political parties should not matter. He explained some of his actions regarding Chris Washburn. We need to come together. As a coach, he always says, there is no "I" in team. We should not be concerned with a flag. We should find common ground.

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

11-01-2021: #14

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of November 1, 2021 is adjourned.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYrvT0l1H6w&t=3569s>