

November 15, 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 15, 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, Trina Rios, Daniel Sigmon and Harold Vandermark

Absent: Richard Pinder

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On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mr. Sigmon it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 1, 2021.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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Mayor's Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities

Appoint the following member to the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization: Jeremy Rettig

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

**11-15-2021: #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, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

**11-15-2021: #2**

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

Debbie Stasium and Lawrence Miller are hereby hired as Substitute School Crossing Guards, effective November 15, 2021, at an hourly salary of \$12.00. This is a position without benefits.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

**11-15-2021: #3**

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

WHEREAS, Dunellen Municipal Code Section 211, et. seq., permits application for a Solicitor's License; and

WHEREAS, petitioner has requested a Solicitor's License from the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the petitioner has satisfied all permit application requirements, including the payment of the appropriate fees; and

WHEREAS, a criminal background check on all individuals designated as solicitors for the company has been conducted, with results of "No Record" being returned; and

WHEREAS, petitioner will be permitted to do business during normal business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and to do business Monday through Saturday.

The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Solicitor's License to:

Power Home Remodeling, for the purposes of soliciting services by traveling from house to house.

Dr. Robins explained the protocol for Solicitors. Power Home Remodeling has three salespersons who underwent criminal background checks. Notice of their presence will be on our website. They have one year to finish their solicitations, though this organization, based on past experience, will come in for a few days only. There is no opt-out for solicitors, but residents do not need to answer their doors.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

**11-15-2021: #4**

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

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

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

The Governing Body of the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$50,499.00 to fund the following project:

Reforestation/Tree Planting—Shade Trees for Dunellen 2021

Therefore, the governing body resolves that William Robins, Borough Business Administrator, is authorized (a) to make application for such a grant, (b) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the state for a grant in an amount not less than \$0 and not more than \$50,499.00, and (c) to execute any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations.

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

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**11-15-2021: #5**

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

The Dunellen Defender Fire Co. #1 is hereby granted permission to run a penny drive (canning) fund raiser on Saturday, November 27, 2021, on the corners of North Avenue and Washington Avenue, and outside business establishments (with retailers' permission) in downtown Dunellen, for the purpose of raising funds for the organization's supported charities.

The Dunellen Defender Fire Co. #1 has been notified that they must also apply to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a permit to fund raise on state roads, and to the County of Middlesex for a permit to fund raise on county roads, and that this Dunellen Borough Council

approval is granted subject to the final approval of the NJDOT and the Middlesex County Department of Transportation.

**11-15-2021: #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 refund the following tax overpayment(s):

Block	34	Lot	20	Address	316-318 Front Street	
Assessed to				Anthony DiMaggio		
				Amount		\$7,157.72

Total Refunded \$ 7,157.72

**11-15-2021: #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 US BANK CUST FRO PRO CAP 8

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
19-21	80	11	MARILYN MAIZONET 235 SO WASHINGTON AVENUE	1558.97	98.60	1400.00	\$3057.57

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$3057.57**

**11-15-2021: #8**

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue checks to King Moench Hirniak & Mehta LLP, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account(s) listed below, for legal work towards the following application(s):

**545 FOURTH STREET - Switzer**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92376	PB	Professional Services	\$144.00

**370-372 NORTH AVENUE – Yip**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92375	PB	Professional Services	\$624.00

**100 S. WASHINGTON AVENUE – Dunellen Stations/Brudner Apartments**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92377	PB	Professional Services	\$1,360.00

**GENERAL REDEVELOPMENT**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92378	21-	Professional Services	\$400.00

**11-15-2021: #9**

**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):

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

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
290000	PE75	Site Observation	\$4,603.50

**BRUDNER REDEVELOPMENT - FORCE MAIN**

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
292221	PE74	Construction Observation	\$6,472.00

**11-15-2021: #10**

**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	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
20-110-001	Mayor & Council	\$1,000	
25-240-101	Police	10,500	
	Subtotal	\$11,500	
	Total	<b><u>\$11,500</u></b>	

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

To:

Account	Title	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
20-100-003	Legal Advertising		\$1,000
36-475-000	Police & Fire Retirement System		10,500
	Subtotal		\$11,500
	Total	<b><u>\$11,500</u></b>	

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

Reports:

Mr. Vandermark: 1) no formal report, but he would like to set up a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting; 2) and a thank you to Mayor Cilento regarding his work with the NJ Television Commission and the production of the movie *Eileen* in Dunellen.

Mrs. Rios: 1) the Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission’s Art Show at the Dunellen Public Library was a huge success; 2) we are getting ready to paint the downtown with Winter Scenes. Interested businesses can sign up on the DACC website; 3) at the Library, the ESL Café continues on Wednesdays; 4) there are story times for children—please check the Library’s website; 5) the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization is having “Dining to Donate” on behalf of the Dunellen Fire Department; 6) Dunellen Fire Company No. 1 is having their annual Christmas Tree sale; 7) volunteer applications for commissions and organizations can be found on the borough’s website.

Mrs. Burke: 1) she and Mayor Cilento met with the Dunellen Rescue Squad to discuss a potential partnership with the River Road EMT; 2) submit *Dunellen Report* articles by December 15<sup>th</sup>; 3) the Dunellen Police Department is participating in No-Shave November to raise funds for the Chief Cappella Scholarship Fund; 4) the PBA is bringing back the Polar Express Toy Drive at the Dunellen Theater on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>; 5) all officers have been fully trained on wearing body-worn cameras; 6) there have been 4 Substitute Crossing Guards hired. These are not full-time Crossing Guards so additional Crossing Guards are needed.

Mayor Cilento explained that all persons whose terms are expiring by the end of the year for commissions and organizations need to re-apply by submitting a Volunteer Application and indicating their desire to be re-appointed. He interviews all prospective members.

Dr. Dunne: 1) the next Green Brook Flood Control Commission meeting is on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm. Flood damage photographs have been submitted to Dr. Robins who forwarded them to the GBFCC Chairman; 2) information on the Blue Acres flood area home purchase program is on the borough's website; 3) the Diversity and Inclusion Committee met last week. Stay tuned for a Survey which will be shared first to Council. The Committee is looking for new members; 4) Finance Committee meeting will be next week, and we will be reviewing open bonds and we will discuss proposals for Stimulus Funds; 5) she met with Councilman Sigmon regarding a Community Garden and they hope to come to Council with some ideas before the end of the year.

Mr. Vandermark asked if the Community Garden would be a new committee? Dr. Dunne responded that various organizational ideas have been discussed but it is still early in the process and no recommendations are yet being made; 6) she noted some graffiti and damage to playground equipment in Morecraft Park, the repairs of which took the DPW crews off their regular duties. Such vandalism hurts everyone.

On behalf of Councilman Pinder, she read his DWP Report:

DPW crew has been maintaining daily cleaning of the downtown and all our parks.

- Cutting grass on all borough properties and parks.
- Continuing to pick up leaf bags throughout the Borough, along with leaf clean up in the parks. Remember we will be picking up leaf bags through December.
- Finished patch repairs throughout the Borough.
- Reset a manhole on Sanford Ave.
- Started fall cleanup of catch basins and storm pipes.
- Wednesday November 17th, and November 24th will be the last night of leaf bag pick-up @ the Library from 6-8pm.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) Recreation Soccer season ended on the 13<sup>th</sup>. This was the largest enrollment with 163 children. The Recreation Department is thankful to all the coaches for their dedication to the program; 2) the Recreation Department was honored to institute the Hometown Heroes program. There are now fifty-one banners installed on downtown light poles; 3) the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Program will be on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, in Washington Memorial Park. There will be a brass band, caroling, hot chocolate provided by the Dunellen-Green Brook Rotary Club, and Santa.

Mayor Cilento:

Covid-19 Update:

Since my last report on 11/1/2021, we have been made aware of eighteen more new cases added to Dunellen’s cumulative total of 979. This averages 1.2 cases per day. Dunellen’s cumulative death total is fifteen.

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

**At Least One Dose**  
**Dunellen Borough**  
Middlesex County

All Ages:	67%
12 through 17:	65%
12 and over:	78%
18 and over:	80%
30 and over:	80%
65 and over:	90%

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

All Ages:	60%
12 through 17:	56%
12 and over:	70%
18 and over:	72%
30 and over:	73%
65 and over:	83%

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

If you are in need of assistance due to a mental health crisis because of the impact of COVID-19, please text the crisis line by texting “NJ” to 741741, call the family helpline at 1-800-843-5437 or call the mental health line at 1-866-202-4357.

**Middlesex County 2021-2022 Flu Shots:**

We are working with Middlesex County to schedule an Influenza (flu) shot vaccine site in Dunellen at the Senior Center for Dunellen and Middlesex County residents ages 6 months and older. We are working on dates and times for the FREE flu shot and will update the public in the near future.



To receive your free flu shot through Middlesex County either in Dunellen when listed or elsewhere:

1. Complete the form located at <http://middlesexcountynj.gov/dispenseassist>
2. Print the completed Dispense Assist voucher. Staff will be available to help residents with no access to print the voucher.
3. Arrive at your choice of location within the designated time with a photo ID and your dispense assist voucher printout

For additional information please call the Middlesex County Office of Health Services at 732-745-3100.

### **Veterans Day Ceremony:**

On Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Recreation Department supported the Dunellen American Legion and the Dunellen VFW for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony. We are thankful to the support and presence from our emergency services: Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and OEM and Dunellen's CERT Team. Thank you to all in attendance and of course, thank you to our Veterans. And thank you to Alex Miller.

### **2021 Mill & Pave Project:**

The mill and pave program is scheduled to start Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The County will be milling and paving the following streets:

- Madison Ave from North Avenue to South Avenue.
- South Avenue from Grove to Middlesex Border
- Grove Street from Prospect Avenue to South Avenue
- South Madison from Walnut to South Ave (except the newly paved culvert section)
- All of High Street and Lehigh Street.

We are working with Middlesex County to apply for mill and pave streets for 2022 and will look to have an inter-local agreement to vote on at a December meeting, at the very latest, January 2022.

### **Town Hall on Redevelopment in Dunellen:**

Please consider joining us on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 7pm as we host a Town Hall Meeting on *Understanding Redevelopment in Dunellen* where we will discuss various topics such as recent redevelopment plan updates, affordable housing, school aged children, PILOTs and provide a Q&A session. Guest speakers will include myself, Dr. David Listokin of Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Charles B. Liebling, Esq., and Sandy L. Galacio of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP, Matthew D. Jessup, Esq. of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, and Gabriel Bailer, PP, AICP of DMR Architects. This will be an in-person event at the Dunellen Senior Center with a live stream capability for those who cannot attend in-person.

**AMEX’s Small Business Saturday, Shop Local:**

We will participate again this year. We received the marketing material, and we will work through Dunellen Downtown Management Organization for this shop local campaign.

**2022 Volunteer Application:**

The Borough of Dunellen’s 2022 Volunteer Form is currently live and will be accepting applications up until Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. New volunteers are welcomed to apply, and I will be reaching out to members of committees, commissions and boards whose positions are up for reconsideration to discuss their interests in continuing to serve. All new and current members up for re-appointment are required to apply online or by hard copy that can be found at Borough Hall. The volunteer application can be found here: [https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/news\\_detail\\_T30\\_R26.php](https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/news_detail_T30_R26.php)

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Public Comment

Liz Lopez-Velez, 416 Madison Avenue, as a volunteer on the Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission, she welcomes more volunteers and is happy to see that all commissions are working collaboratively, and she is glad to see the newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

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

**11-15-2021: #11**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of November 15, 2021 is adjourned.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Rios, Sigmon and Vandermark

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

<https://youtu.be/YronsDGbLoI>