

October 4, 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 October 4, 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, Tremayne Reid, Trina Rios and Daniel Sigmon

On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mrs. Burke it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of September 20, 2021.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios and Sigmon
Abstain: Reid, due to his absence

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

10-04-2021: #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, Reid, Rios and Sigmon

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

10-04-2021: #2

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

The resignation of Tremayne Reid from the Dunellen Borough Council is accepted, effective October 4, 2021.

Dr. Robins noted that this resignation would be effective as of midnight tonight.

Mr. Reid thanked the citizens of Dunellen. It is with a heavy heart that he is resigning his position as a Councilman in the borough. It has been his great honor to serve. He appreciates the confidence you had in him in his ability to serve. He thanks all who have supported him.

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

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

10-04-2021: #3

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

Whereas, a request was made by Sheri Muha to hold a block party on Saturday, October 16 (rain date October 23), 2021, on Third Street between Lincoln Avenue and Washington Avenue, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 p.m.

Whereas, the requestor has been notified of the Borough's protocol for block parties which includes notification of all area residents, noise control, access to automobiles and driveways, and the safety of children; and

Whereas, the requestor has notified the Municipal Clerk's Office that she will be in full compliance with the protocol.

Now therefore be it resolved that permission is hereby granted to Sheri Muha to hold a block party; and

Be it further resolved that by virtue of this resolution, the Police Department will be notified of the street closing and the Public Works Department will supply the necessary road barricades.

Sheri Muha
328 Third Street
Dunellen, NJ 08812

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Reid and Sigmon

Abstain: Rios, as she lives on that block

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

10-04-2021: #4

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

Payment to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is authorized in the amount of \$22,000.00 for fees attendant to the remediation of hazardous materials at 500 Mountainview Terrace.

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

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

10-04-2021: #5

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

Raul Pinto is hired as a translator in the Dunellen Municipal Court Administration Office at a salary of \$65.00 per hour (2 hour minimum), with an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, effective October 4, 2021. This is a position without benefits.

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

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

10-04-2021: #6

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

The Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen hereby appoint Alexander Blandon as a Probationary Firefighter, in the Dunellen Fire Department, said probation period to be one-year, effective 29 September 2021.

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

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

10-04-2021: #7

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

The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the attached Indemnification Agreement between the Borough of Dunellen and 216 North Avenue Associates regarding the bonds posted for 216 North Avenue, Dunellen, NJ.

Mr. Bruder explained that this Indemnification Agreement protects the borough from any loss in its expenditure for streetlamps on North Avenue that Advance Auto (Primax) was obligated to install.

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

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

10-04-2021: #8

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:4-48 TO PROVIDE FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND FACILITIES REPAIRS RELATED TO TROPICAL STORM IDA

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen requiring the appropriation of funds of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the "Borough"), in the amount of \$50,000 to provide for equipment replacement and facilities repairs in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ida; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation to be created by this resolution, is \$150,000, and 3% of the total current and utility operating appropriations in the budget for CY 2021 is \$221,476.53; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing emergency appropriation, together with prior emergency appropriations, does not exceed 3% of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for CY 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for equipment replacement and facilities repairs related to Tropical Storm Ida in the amount of \$50,000.00

Section 2. An emergency note not in excess of \$50,000 is hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-51.

Section 3. The emergency note authorized herein, if issued, shall be executed by the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk.

Section 4. The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough is hereby delegated the authority to sell and award the note, if any, and such note, if issued, may be renewed from time to time by the Chief Financial Officer, provided that any such renewals shall be payable on or before December 31, 2022.

Section 5. Two certified copies of this resolution shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dr. Dunne asked if the Finance Committee will be provided with a list of storm related expenditures. Dr. Robins responded that such a list is being compiled and will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

10-04-2021: #9

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

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Dunellen in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of Calendar Year 2021 in the sum of \$50,499.00, which is now available from the Division of New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program, Community Stewardship Incentive Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$50,499.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Community Stewardship Incentive Program; and

10-04-2021: #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):

528 NORTH AVENUE

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
288574	PB227	Engineering Review & Report	\$313.25

150 NORTH AVENUE (COMMUNIPAW)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
286831	PB235	Resolution Compliance Review	\$89.50
28631	PE61	Resolution Compliance Review	89.50
287870	PE57	Resolution Compliance Review	<u>1,096.50</u>
			\$1,186.00

440 NORTH AVENUE (Chelsea Builders)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
287871	PB234	Engineering Review & Report	\$134.25

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

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
288576	PE65	Site Observation	\$1,278.25
287873	PE58	Site Observation	<u>4,901.75</u>
			\$6,180.00

BRUDNER REDEVELOPMENT - FORCE MAIN

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
287872	PE59	Construction Observation	\$3,984.00
288575	PE64	Construction Observation	<u>1,568.25</u>
			\$5,552.25

10-04-2021: #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):

440 NORTH AVENUE (CHELSEA BUILDERS, LLC)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
20210931	PB233	Architectural Review	\$330.00

10-04-2021: #12

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>
63470	PB230	Professional Services	733.53
65090	PB230	Professional Services	<u>1,893.00</u>
			\$2,626.53

440 NORTH AVENUE – Chelsea Builders

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
58005	PB232	Professional Services	\$450.00
59860	PB232	Professional Services	564.00
61261	PB232	Professional Services	<u>1,620.00</u>
			\$2,634.00

528 NORTH AVENUE - Katz

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
65095	PB228	Professional Services	\$828.00

745 BOUND BROOK ROAD (SVR)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
65096	PE67	Professional Services	\$878.04

10-04-2021: #13

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

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

150 NORTH AVENUE – Communipaw

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92062	PE50	Professional Services	\$160.00

370-372 NORTH AVENUE – Yip

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
922732	PB225	Professional Services	\$32.00

390 NORTH AVENUE – Moorehouse 390

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92273	PB224	Professional Services	\$64.00

440 NORTH AVENUE – Chelsea Builders

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92154	PB231	Professional Services	\$1,728.00

100 S. Washington Avenue – Dunellen Stations/Brudner Apartments

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
92275	PB226	Professional Services	\$48.00
92067	PB229	Professional Services	48.00
92184	PB229	Professional Services	<u>\$912.00</u>
			\$1,008.00

10-04-2021: #14

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue checks to NW Financial Group, LLC, from the Dunellen Planning Board Escrow Account(s) listed below, for financial work towards the following application(s):

150 NORTH AVENUE (COMMUNIPAW)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
27941	PE51	Review, Research & Document Prep	\$1,927.50

10-04-2021: #15

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

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

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

120-126 NORTH AVENUE (WOODBURY PORTFOLIOS)

<u>Inv.</u>	<u>P.O. Number</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
182707	PE45	Professional Services	\$75.00
183460	PE55	Professional Services	\$1,350.00
184317	PE62	Professional Services	1,950.00
185050	PE66	Professional Service	<u>375.00</u>
			\$3,750.00

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

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Watering lawns during Emergency Declarations due to storm related events

Dr. Dunne noted that many homes in Dunellen were damaged by water from Tropical Storm Ida. The water table was very high. As soon as the day after, many people were watering their lawns. She inquired what the borough could do about restrictions during such circumstances. She is bringing it to Council Discussion regarding a possible ordinance to address water use during states of emergency due to storms and wet water events.

Mayor Cilento would consider something that was narrow focused on flooding and related to a state of emergency. His concern would be about enforcement. Mrs. Rios asked how long after the storm might such a restriction exist? One week? Two weeks? Dr. Dunne thought during the State of Emergency. Mr. Reid asked if it would be limited to watering lawns, or all use of water that might cover damage cleanups? He would suggest only for watering lawns. Mrs. Burke opined we might first take an educational approach and see how that translates to the public before instituting an ordinance. Dr. Robins noted that every year we distribute through the tax mailings storm water literature. Such an educational handout could be included in this package. Mr. Sigmon asked if there was any documentation or data showing that watering lawn after water events has any deleterious effect? Dr. Dunne is not aware of any other municipalities that have such a restriction (Mr. Reid said that Spotswood does) but she will pursue this with the Green Brook Flood Control Commission.

Reports:

Mrs. Rios: 1) the last Open-Air Market at the Library will be October 17th; 2) the Municipal Alliance will be celebrating Red-Ribbon Week and will host a town hall meeting on the dangers of vaping; 3) the annual HarvestFest 2021 sponsored by the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization will be Sunday, October 10th in Washington Park; 4) one more event at the Pop-Up Park on October 16th consisting of a demonstration by the Fire Department Mobile Unit; 5) the Fire Department will be hosting a car show at Skinner Plaza on October 17th.

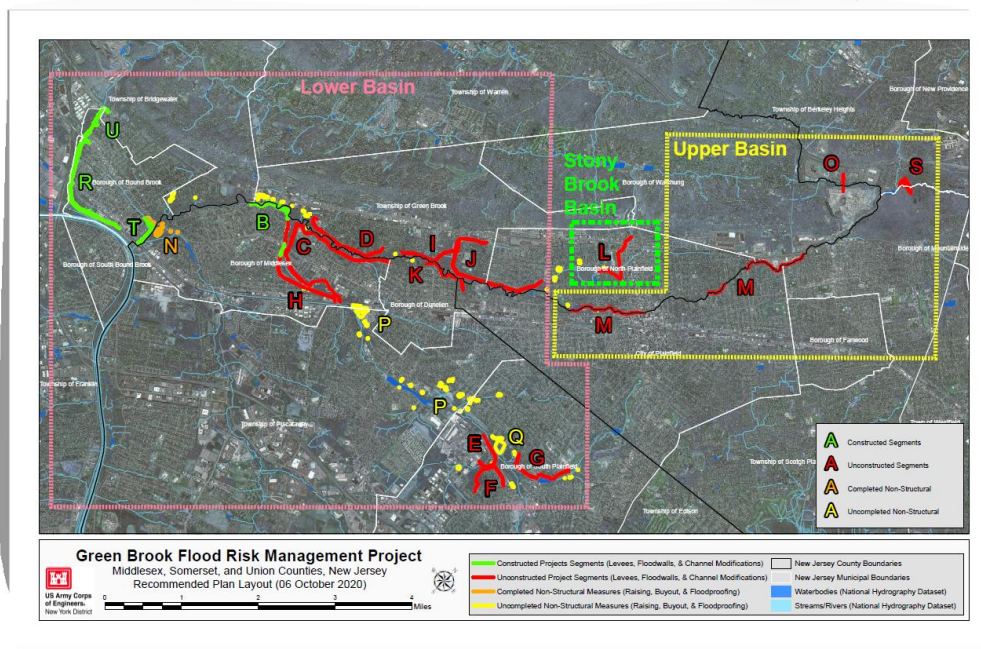
Mr. Reid: 1) Buildings and Grounds thanks the DPW for the improvements to Gavornik Park and McCoy Park;) the Middlesex County Housing Authority is accepting applications for postponements of evictions.

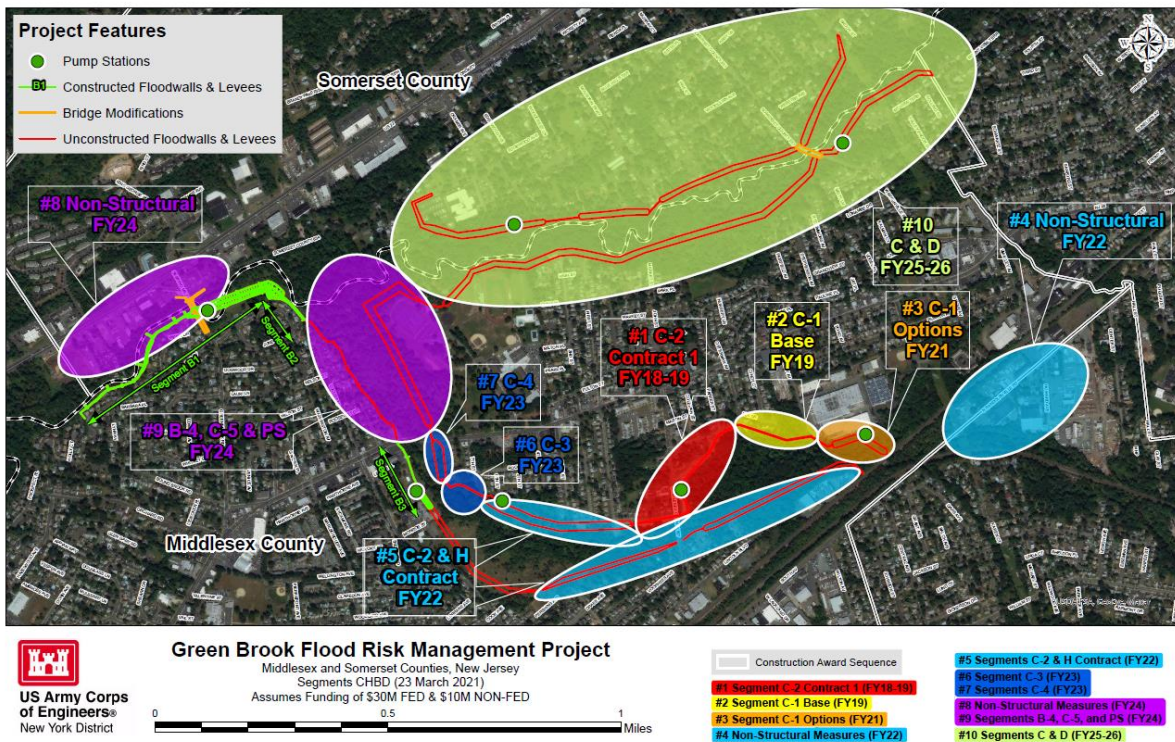
Mrs. Burke: 1) Newspaper - *The Dunellen Report* had over a dozen articles and should arrive in homes by mid-October. Next deadline is December 15th for the January publication, please adhere as observing holidays are a factor for publication. As always, please gather news to share with the community between now and 12/15 and think of anything that occurs from January to March to

include. News should always be informative; 2) OEM - FEMA returned to Dunellen this past Friday to continue registering flood victims of Ida and also surveyed the Borough. Thank you to Coordinator Mosley for continuing to work with FEMA to allow these to happen. It is good to see an active OEM making this possible; 3) Police Department: thank you to the officers that attended the Coffee with a Cop. Our Police Department is receptive to community needs, please reach out and speak to them with concerns; 4) Chief Smith's contract is currently being negotiated. Very close to getting some numbers from the CFO, and hopefully the Committee will have some movement in the next month; 5) Domestic Violence Vigil - Hosted by Women Aware, will be virtual this year, and takes place on Wednesday, October 13th at 7 pm. Sign up through givebutter.com/womenaware2021vigil to gain access to the Zoom link and will also stream from their social media. Any donations the organization receives are used to support individuals and families that are victims to domestic violence; 6) Crossing Guards--Need to increase minimum pay to make it attractive and competitive with surrounding communities; currently down three posts pulling officers from active patrol; risk of children crossing without a guard if an emergent call is received; currently officers are having to delay getting other required tasks, such as reports and detective/investigative work; these delays are causing and do lead to overtime, which is costly to the Borough; and morale.

Thank you to Councilman Reid for his service and accomplishments.

Dr. Dunne: 1) thanked Councilperson Reid for his service; 2) asked Mayor Cilento if he had heard from the Parking Authority on any items they wished to bring to the Council's attention? He has not. She explained that the PA's resources, derived from fees from parking, are diminished and they are running through their surplus fast and may be coming to the Council; 3) the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will have a booth at HarvestFest 2021. They are still trying to get some events on the calendar for Hispanic Heritage Month as well as Native American Heritage Month which is on November 1st; 4) the Finance Committee is trying to set up a meeting; 5) she directed Council to information in their packets regarding the Green Brook Flood Control Commission and the project. The graphics are below:





She described the progress being made and set forth a tentative timetable and budget. The biggest point of contention is real estate acquisition or easements. The full narrative of Dr. Dunne’s presentation on the current status of the work being done by the US Army Corps of Engineers can be found in the YouTube video, <https://youtu.be/gEUbAHMczwU>, minutes 37 – 45.

Dr. Dunne continued with the following statement:

I have hesitated on commenting on what I am going to talk about next, because I didn’t think it was worth commenting on. However, after discussion with several close confidantes, I have decided to make the following brief comments:

Over the weekend, there were at least three Facebook posts about actions I had supposedly taken, and that I was stalking the family of one of the candidates for Borough Council. I can assure you that they are factually incorrect. Furthermore, there were countless comments about how I must be mentally unstable, threats to my safety, comments on how the entire elected Council is unfit to serve, and insinuations that the police were somehow not charging me with offenses because of my position on Council.

I did call the police, twice, to report the actions of others. Because this is an ongoing situation, I will not comment further.

I would simply hope, as voices of reason have on Facebook posts, that we, as a community, don’t jump to conclusions that fit our echo chambers, but take a step back and think like rational human beings and think critically about what is presented to us before jumping to conclusions.

If you don’t like the way the Borough is being run, vote, volunteer, or serve! There are so many ways to get involved in our community. But our community is no place for in-fighting, false accusations or name calling.

Sometimes it’s uncomfortable walking outside your echo chamber. Those of you who have met

me on the porch, at soccer games, backyard parties or stopping me while I'm on my morning runs know this about me: I am always willing to listen and I will always help, no matter what side of the political fence you sit on. Dunellen is better as a community when we all come together, and all of our voices are heard.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) noticed that the mobile option for paying for public parking is no longer there; 2) the Senior Picnic was on September 24th, and it was a beautiful day for a picnic. Thank you to the American Legion and to Councilperson Rios for helping to serve food; 3) the Halloween Parade will be Saturday, October 30th. It will be in Columbia Park and begins at 6:00 pm. More information can be found on the Recreation Department Facebook page.

Mr. Pinder: Department of Public Works:

On September 28th, the DPW crew completed the first round of household debris clean-up that was affected by hurricane Ida on September 1st. They cleaned storm debris from 422 homes and totaled over 230 tons of debris. The past week they have resumed cutting grass at the Borough Parks and properties. We also picked up branches throughout the town. Today (10/4/2021), they started the second round (final pick-up) on the South Side of town and expect to be completed with the south side by Wednesday. Once debris pickup is completed, they will resume branch and leaf pickup) Board of Education met Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Their next meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021, and will be streamed on YouTube. Check dunellenschools.org under Board of Education for details.

Mayor Cilento:

Covid-19 Update:

Since my last report on 9/20/2021, we have been made aware of seventeen more new cases added to Dunellen's cumulative total of 933, which averages 1.2 cases per day. Dunellen's cumulative death total remains at fourteen.

Dunellen Vaccination Statistics:

At Least One Dose
Dunellen Borough
Middlesex County

All Ages:	64%
12 and over:	75%
18 and over:	76%
30 and over:	77%
65 and over:	86%

Vaccine Courses Complete
Dunellen Borough
Middlesex County

All Ages:	58%
12 and over:	68%
18 and over:	69%
30 and over:	71%
65 and over:	82%

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.

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.

DMV Mobile Unit:

I am working with Assemblywoman Linda Carter’s office to set up a mobile DMV unite on October 13th, 10 AM to 2 PM.

South Washington (NJAW):

The work on South Washington Avenue will take place tomorrow and Wednesday between 8am & 4pm. South Washington will be closed between North Avenue and Walnut (any residents that live in the closed section will be able to get in and out of the closed section).

Mill & Pave Project and Various Improvements:

Madison Avenue from North Avenue to South Avenue, South Madison from South Avenue to Walnut (except for the culvert area), High Street, and Lehigh Street are scheduled for early November.

Pedestrian LED signs are going in on South Madison still need solar panel installation and wiring. PSE&G expects to be complete with installing new gas main and services to all the residents on Lehigh Street by Friday October 8th. PSE&G will then tie the gas mains in from High Street to Lehigh Street next week and should be completed next week.

NJAW: has installed new water services lines on South Ave and is now going down High Street. Next, they will install new service lines on Lehigh Street.

ADA sidewalks: we will be installing twenty-two new ADA sidewalks along the Mill & Pave project. Our Contractor started to remove sections of sidewalks on South Avenue (north side of Pulaski), and the South Madison (east side section) & South. While working on the South Madison/South Avenue sidewalks we will maintain that one crossing sidewalk will be walkable (the contractor will also have a police officer with the crew as they work).

Friday Oct 8th & Saturday Oct 9th the contractor will be removing and replacing 8 ADA walks near the Faber driveway and Parking lot entrances, this area will take two days, so we tied that part of the project into a Saturday.

Mayors Alliance for Clean Green Brook Waterway: This initiative will be taking place on October 23rd along with the Mayors, town officials, and volunteers from Bound Brook, Green Brook, Middlesex, Dunellen, Plainfield, and Scotch Plain, alongside the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP).

October 13th will be Walk Your Kids to School Day.

He will be participating in a Meet the Mayors in Piscataway on Thursday, October 7th.

There will be a Borough table at HarvestFest 2021. In the November Message from the Mayor, he will be talking about PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) as an economic tool appropriate for the borough.

Permit fees to date are \$1.131 million.

The following is a report on Stimulus Funding he presented to the Council:



BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
355 North Avenue
Dunellen, New Jersey 08812

TELEPHONE: (732) 882-4551
EMAIL: jciento@dunellen-nj.gov

Proposal to Dunellen Borough Council for the Use of Stimulus Funds

On March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed into law the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package titled the American Rescue Plan Act. Under the law, the U.S. Department of Treasury established Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and provided \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide flexibility for each municipality to meet local needs. In addition to allowing for flexible spending up to the level of their revenue loss, recipients can use funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by – among other uses – funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, mental health and substance misuse treatment and certain public health and safety personnel responding to the crisis;
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including by rehiring public sector workers, providing aid to households facing food, housing or other financial insecurity, offering small business assistance, and extending support for industries hardest hit by the crisis;

- **Aid the communities and populations hardest hit by the crisis**, supporting an equitable recovery by addressing not only the immediate harms of the pandemic, but its exacerbation of longstanding public health, economic and educational disparities;
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service during the pandemic; and,
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, improving access to clean drinking water, supporting vital wastewater and storm-water infrastructure, and expanding access to broadband internet.

The Borough of Dunellen received a total of \$754,000.00 to be divided among calendar year 2021 and 2022; \$377,000.00 each year respectfully. In the course of discussions among Dunellen’s Chief Financial Officer Scott Olsen, Borough Administrator William Robins, Council President Jessica Dunne as Finance Committee Chair and myself, we determined that the Borough had a revenue shortfall of \$69,000.00 in the municipal budget and the Sewer Utility has a shortfall of \$33,500.00 due to COVID-19. In addition, the Borough had approved \$118,000.00 bond to assist in revenue shortfalls. As discussed with Scott Olsen, it may be most prudent to use \$220,500.00 up front to cover the revenue shortfalls and deferred charges from the bond, leaving \$156,000.00 for the first round of stimulus funds.

In addition, I proposed to the Dunellen Borough Council that we use the funds from the stimulus to cover various storm water related project and a facility assessments of our municipal buildings.

1. Various storm Culverts and pipe cleaning and TV:

- a. Scope of Work: Attached is a full proposal. The general scope of work would be to utilize a combined JETVAC to clean and remove silt, sand and other debris from the existing system structures (storm pipe and culverts) located in the Borough of Dunellen, NJ. A TV Rig will then be utilized to pass a CCTV camera through the pipe (location 2,3,4) to record the structural integrity.
- b. Locations Include:
 - i. Grove Street & Prospect Avenue Culvert
 - ii. Prospect Avenue Culvert
 - iii. Gertrude Terrace
 - iv. Whittier Avenue
 - v. South Avenue
- c. Current Total Price: \$263,000.00

2. A Facility Assessment for Various Municipal Buildings:

- a. Attached is a proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers (RVE) for various buildings in the municipality. The proposal costs can change based upon the scope of the assessment.
- b. The assessment currently takes into consideration:
 - i. Structural Evaluations
 - ii. Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Engineering Evaluation

- iii. ADA Compliance Evaluation
- c. As part of a hybrid approach, I have also investigated a program through the NJ BPU – NJ’s Clean Energy Program, an initiative called the Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP):
 - i. Under this program, municipalities can pay for energy-related improvements to their facilities using the value of energy savings that result from the improvements. The ESIP law, enacted in 2009, governs a type of performance contract. It provides all types of government entities – from school boards to municipalities to state governments – with a flexible tool to lessen their environmental impact, save money, and reduce their energy usage for minimal costs.
 - ii. The first step to commencing an ESIP project is to perform an energy audit. This assessment of your facilities allows the auditor to recommend energy conservation measures (ECMs). ECMs have different costs, savings and lifespans, and depending on the budget, the entity can consider any or all of the measures for implementation. Certain ECMs are also eligible for rebates or incentives through New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) or Board-approved utility energy efficiency programs. NJCEP offers a free Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA) that meets the ESIP criteria. Entities can also choose to perform their own ASHRAE Level II audit (Energy Survey and Analysis) and a Level III audit for lighting (Detailed Analysis of Capital Intensive Modifications). Whichever audit the entity chooses, the assessment will be utilized in determining the project’s scope, in both the RFP and eventually in the Energy Savings Plan (ESP), which are both submitted to the NJBPU for approval. Implementation of ECMs from Energy Audit: Is this something your agency can handle itself using an engineer or architect of record (DIY)? Do you need to hire an Energy Services Company (ESCO)? Perhaps a combination of the two (Hybrid)? Whichever path you choose, reach out to NJBPU’s ESIP Coordinator for an initial meeting via email at ESIP@bpu.nj.gov. The ESIP Coordinator will be involved in the process from the RFP to the ESP and through the evaluation, measurement, and verification steps. The Coordinator can also help with resources and answer questions about process. (source: njcleanenergy.com)
 - iii. This program would assist in reducing the price tag of the facility assessment proposed by RVE. That new total would be forthcoming.
 - iv. The current total for the RVE facility assessment is: \$116,000.00 for five buildings, however, I would recommend the assessment for Dunellen’s older buildings; Municipal Building, DPW Building and the Fire House, which would total: \$72,000.00.

If the proposal were to be accepted as it stands without any changes, the full total of stimulus funds used for the two proposed projects after supplementing the revenue shortfall and deferred charges would be: \$355,000.00. Ideally, the \$72,000.00 in facility assessment would be used in 2021 leaving a remaining balance of \$84,000.00 for 2021. The culvert cleaning project would be used for 2022 leaving a remainder balance of \$114,000.00 in 2022. The remaining funds can be kept in reserve for future projects or could possibly be used to partially pay for the Pulaski Street sewer

line repair to avoid added debt to our ceiling. I strongly recommend using these funds for the culvert and pipe cleaning, as well as for the various municipal building facility assessment.

Thank you for taking into consideration this proposal.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Yours very truly,

Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the October 4, 2021, Dunellen Borough Council Meeting was a series of remarks by residents regarding perceived actions taken by Council President Jessica Dunne the prior weekend and also extending back in time to other actions she took concerning other elections and activities.

The comments indicated that residents were concerned with Dr. Dunne's activities. Dr. Dunne declined to comment in response to anything said to or about her.

It is not appropriate to present in the historical record of the actions of the Dunellen Borough Council a verbatim rendition of what transpired during this portion. For anyone interested in the full verbal transcript, please go to the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/gEUbAHMcwzU>

The following are bullet points:

Daryla Drake-Mann, 417 Second Street, thanked Mr. Reid for his service; noted that traffic on Second Street, as the only cut-through street from Washington to Warrenton Road, is experiencing increased traffic which is endangering children. She is asking for traffic calming devices; 3) does not know Dr. Dunne, but what she does know upsets her. She is here in support of Melissa Paltjon.

Melissa Paltjon, 384 Whittier Avenue, asked why Dr. Dunne was photographing her children? And what she will be doing with the photographs? [Mr. Bruder noted that this is a comment section and council members were under no obligation to respond.]

Barbara Mastrian, 241 South Madison Avenue, found her grandchildren (children of Melissa Paltjon) upset by the incident and she categorized it as unacceptable behavior from a councilwoman. There needs to be accountability.

Mayor Cilento acknowledged the public's concern and he stated that he is not in favor of photographing people's homes. The public has the right to make their statements and Council President Dunne has the right not to respond; however, he believes that she owes the public a response.

Steve Fucito, 721 Second Street, asked why she thinks it acceptable to take photographs?

Jeff Best, 401 Madison Avenue, inquired of the procedure for filling the now vacant seat of Councilman Reid? Mr. Bruder responded that the process is set by statute. In this case, as he resigned early in his term, the party committee puts forth three candidates, and the Council selects one of them to fill the term until the next General Election (November 2022). Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Rios asked if the council would have a chance to interview the candidates? The committee has 15 days to put forth three names and the Council then has 30 days to select one of them.

Hal Vandermark, 449 North Avenue, thanked Mr. Reid for his service. Considers what is going on tonight an embarrassment for the town.

Luke Tigue, 605 Third Street, as a resident and father, he found what has been said disheartening.

Melissa Paltjon, 384 Whittier Avenue, asks if there will be a statement from Council and will there be answers from her? Will there be a resolution to this? She does not have the public podium as Dr. Dunne has.

Mayor Cilento responded that it is up to Council President Dunne to respond or make the decision to resign, but the best answer is to vote.

Mr. Bruder stated that Dr. Dunne had asked him if it was appropriate that she comment and he advised her that she could make a statement, so do not blame her for when in the meeting she made her statement, either during the report section or another. He knew it would arise so he will take the responsibility.

Jeff Best, 401 Madison Avenue, asked if Dunellen has an Ethics Board? Mr. Bruder responded that we do not.

Jeff Manna, 326 Whittier Avenue, asked if her actions would not be grounds for dismissal. Mr. Bruder responded there is no statute giving grounds for dismissal.

Trina Rios commented that as a mother of young children, she would not want such photographs taken.

Mrs. Burke commented that assumptions are being made, and as Mayor Cilento said, you have an opportunity at the voting booth to change anything you do not like up here. She believes the parties should sit, as adults, and discuss this, outside the public forum.

Mr. Sigmon, he too would be worried if his children were photographed. He only just learned about the incident but will be having a conversation to learn more.

Homer Mosley, 113 Pearl Place, had not known anything about this, but recommends some kind of investigation before anything is done. As OEM Coordinator, he reports that he is in his 4th CERT lesson, and he hopes to graduate some of the candidates in a few weeks. There was a vaccine clinic in the parking lot last Saturday and twelve people came. Finally, there will be an OEM table at

HarvestFest 2021 which were Ida related.

Jeff Best, Rescue Squad, praised the Fire Department for their work during Tropical Storm IDA.

Mark Crawford, Chief of the Fire Department, reported that last month they had 48 calls, 34 of which were Ida related, many of which involved multiple persons, so in actuality there were closer to 100 calls.

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

10-04-2021: #16

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of October 4, 2021 is adjourned.

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

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

<https://youtu.be/gEUbAHMczU>