

October 5, 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 October 5, 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. Burke and seconded by Mrs. Narvesen it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 2020.

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

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

ORDINANCE 2020-12

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

The 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 September 21, 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 October 5, 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 ordinance have been available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such ordinance follows:

Title: ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$13,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS ON JACKSON AVENUE AND 3RD STREET AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS ON MADISON AVENUE AND MOUNTAINVIEW TERRACE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

Purpose: To appropriate \$13,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey for stormwater improvements on Jackson Avenue and 3rd Street and storm sewer improvements on Madison Avenue and Mountainview Terrace, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

Appropriation: \$13,000

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$0

Grant Appropriated: \$0

Section 20 Costs: N/A

Useful Life: N/A

At this point, Mayor Cilento opened the meeting for public comment on the 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 Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the following:

ORDINANCE 2020-13

NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

The 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 September 21, 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 October 5, 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 ordinance have been available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such ordinance follows:

Title: ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$12,500 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS ON PENFIELD PLACE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

Purpose: To appropriate \$12,500 from the Sewer Utility Capital Improvement Fund of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey for sanitary sewer improvements on Penfield Place, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

Appropriation: \$12,500

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$0

Grant Appropriated: \$0

Section 20 Costs: N/A

Useful Life: N/A

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

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

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

10-05-2020: #1

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

The bills, as per the attached list, are hereby authorized for payment.

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

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

10-05-2020: #2

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
APPROVING DUNELLEN PRISM ASSOCIATES URBAN RENEWAL LLC AS SUB-
REDEVELOPER**

WHEREAS, on or about May 5, 2003, the Borough Council (the “Borough Council”) of the Borough of Dunellen (the “Borough”) designated a certain area of the Borough, including but not limited to Block 85, Lots 1 and 2 as an area in need of redevelopment under N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7, the Borough Council adopted by ordinance on August 9, 2004, the Dunellen Downtown Redevelopment Plan, Phase One, and subsequently amended by ordinance on June 9, 2011, August 5, 2013, November 3, 2014, February 22, 2016, and May 16, 2016 (the “Redevelopment Plan”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 12-02-2017: #3 Borough designated Block 83, Lot 1 as an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2017, the Redevelopment Plan was amended to include Block 83, Lot 1 (which, together with Block 85, Lots 1 and 2 are referred to herein as the “Project Site”); and

WHEREAS, the Project Site is currently owned by Brudner Redevelopment Partners Urban Renewal, LLC, the designated redeveloper (the “Redeveloper”); and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2017, the Borough and Redeveloper entered into that certain Redevelopment Agreement governing the redevelopment of the Project Site, which was subsequently amended on August 5, 2019 by that certain First Amendment to Redevelopment Agreement (together, the “Redevelopment Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 11.04(g) of the Redevelopment Agreement, the Redeveloper is permitted to transfer the rights and obligations as Redeveloper under the Redevelopment Agreement that are applicable to any Component of the Project to a transferee (“Sub-Redeveloper”) provided that certain conditions are satisfied, to wit: (i) no Event of Default under the Redevelopment Agreement or Financial Agreement; (ii) completion of demolition; (iii) completion of pre-construction remediation; (iv) Preliminary and Final Subdivision approval; and provided that the proposed transferee (a) is a reputable homebuilder; (b) has the requisite qualifications and financial responsibility; (c) qualifies and is formed as an urban renewal entity under the Long Term Tax Exemption Law; (d) by instrument expressly assumes the obligations of Redeveloper under the Redevelopment Agreement; (e) by instrument expressly assumes the obligations of Redeveloper under the Financial Agreement; (f) enters into an agreement with Redeveloper and any other Sub-Redeveloper for the shared use of Project infrastructure; and (g) as to such transferee of the Rental Residential Component and Retail/Commercial Component, the Redeveloper has and retains a minimum fifty percent (50%) direct or indirect interest in the transferee until a Certificate of Completion is issued; and

WHEREAS, Dunellen Prism Associates Urban Renewal LLC, a New Jersey limited liability company (“DPA”) is the proposed transferee of the Rental Residential Component and Retail/Commercial Component; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 11.04(g) of the Redevelopment Agreement, DPA was deemed to satisfy the transferee requirements set forth in Section 11.04(g)(i) and (ii); and

WHEREAS, Redeveloper and DPA have provided evidence to the Borough that the other transfer conditions set forth in the Redevelopment Agreement have or will be satisfied at the time DPA takes title to the portion of the Project Site on which the Rental Residential Component and Retail/Commercial Component will be constructed; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen now desires to conditionally approve DPA as Sub-Redeveloper of the Rental Residential Component and Retail/Commercial Component, subject to full compliance with the conditions of transfer set forth in Section 11.04(g) of the Redevelopment Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, acting as redevelopment entity for the Borough of Dunellen, hereby approves DPA as the Sub-Redeveloper for the Rental Residential Component and Retail/Commercial Component of the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approval granted hereunder is specifically conditioned on the completion of all conditions of transfer set forth in Section 11.04(g) of the Redevelopment Agreement and the full execution and recording if required of the documents or instruments necessary to effectuate same.

Dr. Robins informed Council and public that as the Dunellen Stations project advances, the developers are at the point of moving ahead with individual portions and Prism, the entity constructing the retail and apartments, is with this resolution being designated a sub-redeveloper.

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

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

10-05-2020: #3

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize does hereby authorize acceptance of funding for strategic plan for the Dunellen Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 21 (October 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ \$4,506.00
Cash Match	\$ 1,126.50
In-Kind	\$ 3,379.50
2. The Dunellen Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
Jason F. Cilento, *Mayor*

CERTIFICATION

I, William Robins, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Dunellen Borough Council on this 5th day of October, 2020.

William Robins, *Municipal Clerk*

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

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

10-05-2020: #4

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year CY 2019 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Dunellen pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations"; and,

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations," as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and,

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING HELD ON October 5, 2020.

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

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

10-05-2020: #5

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

Whereas, the Chief Financial Officer has prepared a Corrective Action Plan as part of the annual audit process as required by New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services.

Now therefore be it resolved that the attached Corrective Action Plan submitted by the Chief Financial Officer is hereby accepted.

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

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

10-05-2020: #6

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

John E. Bruder, Esq., as Borough Attorney, is hereby authorized to execute such documents as shall be required to settle the matter involving the Tax Sale 17-06, Block 31, Lot 15.01 (458 Front Street) Borough of Dunellen, with the Lien Holder, US Bank Custodian for Blue Virgo (BV002)

Trust & Creditors for the total amount of \$12,890.51, including tax sale redemption plus all fees, premium and other charges.

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

CONSENT AGENDA (Items from General Purpose Bond Ordinance):

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

10-05-2020: #7

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

Stoltzfus Structures, LLC., is awarded a contract for the purchase of a storage shed to house documents for the Municipal Clerk's Office, for an amount not to exceed \$4,540.00. Funds for this purchase will be taken from Account # C-04-20-002-000-610.

10-05-2020: #8

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

Fords Lawnmower of Piscataway, NJ, is awarded a contract for the purchase of a 72" Yanmar Diesel Side-Discharge mower, at a cost not to exceed \$17,704.00, purchased under the Sourcewell Pricing Cooperative Service. Funds for this purchase will be taken from Account # C-04-20-002-000-605.

10-05-2020: #9

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

Storr Tractor Company of Somerville, NJ, is awarded a contract for the purchase of a Sand Pro 5040, at a cost not to exceed \$29,144.00, purchased under state contract ESCNJ CO-OP #65MCESCCP. Funds for this purchase will be taken from Account #C-04-20-002-000-605.

10-05-2020: #10

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

SealMaster Municipal of Manville, NJ, is awarded a contract for the purchase of a Graco Linelazer V 3400 Single Gun paint machine, at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00. Funds for this purchase will be taken from Account # C-04-20-002-000-605.

10-05-2020: #11

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

Gabrielli Kenworth of NJ, LLC., of Ridgefield Park, NJ, is awarded a contract for the purchase of a Kenworth T440 Tandem Axle Chassis with an American Roll-Off Body, at a cost not to exceed \$157,488.12, purchased under the Sourcewell Pricing Cooperative Service, Contract 081716-KTC, Trucks. Funds for this purchase will be taken from Account # C-04-20-002-000-604.

10-05-2020: #12

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

Beyer Ford of Morristown, NJ, is awarded a contract for the purchase of a 2020 Ford F-450 4WD Reg Cab 145" WB 60" CA XL vehicle, at a cost not to exceed \$58,438.00, state contract #A88214. Funds for this purchase will be taken from Account # C-04-20-002-000-604.

Mayor Cilento commented that all these items under the General Purpose Bond Ordinance have been thoroughly vetted and approved by recommending committees. They are all items necessary to the smooth and efficient functioning of the borough. Some are old items in need of replacement with prohibitively high repair costs; other items are ones that will make our borough run more smoothly and will result in better service to the public. It is the obligation of our Council to make sure that the departments operate for the benefit of our residents. That is why we are making these investments into our community.

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

CONSENT AGENDA (Miscellaneous Items):

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

10-05-2020: #13

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 King Moench Hirniak & Mehta, LLP., for legal work done for the Dunellen Planning Board from the Duke Property LLC Escrow Account.

<u>King Moench</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
91559	Duke Property LLC	\$96.00
	Total	<u>\$96.00</u>

10-05-2020: #14

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:

Resolution 09-08-2020: #11 is amended:

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>
0256205	Redevelopment	\$1,203.00
0261181	Redevelopment	\$2,923.50
0262310	Redevelopment	\$5,554.50
0254832	Redevelopment	\$1,956.00
0263775	Redevelopment	\$2,141.50
	Total	<u>\$13,778.25</u>

10-05-2020: #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 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	41593	\$2,322.43
0305764-0000001	42755	\$9,633.00
0305764-0000001	44446	\$7,119.00
	Total	<u>\$19,074.43</u>

10-05-2020: #16

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>
0258725	Redevelopment	\$7,728.50
0260221	Redevelopment	\$6,579.50
0261183	Redevelopment	\$3,797.00
0265792	Redevelopment	\$4,072.75
0267896	Redevelopment	\$771.00
	Total	<u>\$22,948.75</u>

10-05-2020: #17

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	41594	\$1,665.00
0305764-0000004	42756	\$3,195.00
0305764-0000004	44447	\$540.00
	Total	<u>\$2,070.00</u>

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

Reports:

Mrs. Rios: 1) the Dunellen Public Library is doing computer use by appointment only; 2) there is a ballot box at the library, collected daily by County election officials; 3) the Municipal Alliance will be presenting a program on opioid addiction.

Mayor Cilento noted that the election officials are one Democrat and one Republican and that the ballot box is probably the safest way to return your mail-in ballot. Dr. Dunne noted that there is a way to track your ballot.

Mrs. Burke: 1) thanked the Knights of Columbus for a great event honoring the police at the police vigil. We are all very grateful to our first line responders; 2) the Fire Department is coming up with ideas for a Fire Prevention Week. She reminded everyone that one of the major Fire Department fund raisers is the selling of Christmas Trees; 3) she asked about a Fire Department Facebook page – approved by the Social Media Committee; 4) that Committee is still working on the borough Facebook page; 5) OEM is looking for volunteers; 6) the most recent edition of *The Dunellen Report* is due to arrive in homes very soon. The next edition will be in mid-December. She is asking all Councilpersons to submit copy to her; 7) the last day to register to vote is October 13th; 8) she inquired as to the status of the Recreation website page being able to accept payments. Dr. Robins responded that the Committee has been approved and we can move forward.

Mr. Bayer: 1) we have received CARES Act reimbursements and the monies will be put back into their respective departments; 2) he wanted to reiterate what Mayor Cilento said about the bond ordinance expenditures: all items from the general purpose bond ordinance are crucial to the borough’s ability to serve the residents.

Dr. Dunne: 1) thanked the Council for approving the purchases for the Department of Public Works. These items are unrepairable and increasingly unworkable; 2) grateful to Council for hiring a DPW Manager who is very helpful in providing the Council with useful information. He provided a report which she will refer to: over the past two weeks, the DPW has done daily maintenance of the parks and downtown, street sweeping downtown, cleaned the catch basin grates and removed debris, cleared the crosswalks and restriped the library parking lot, trimmed trees as

needed, walked the brooks and streams and cleared debris, cleared out stumps from the storm, conducted roll-off collection on Saturdays, and a reminder that we now have a mechanic who is repairing police vehicles; 3) we will soon have a Facebook page and we will post this information and other announcements there; 4) a resident had inquired about NJ Transit buses parking along South Madison and Grove Street. Mayor Cilento reached out to NJ Transit. Transit came last week but did not see any buses idling in places other than those authorized. If any residents do see buses parking in places they should not, please let us or NJ Transit know with as much information as you can such as bus numbers, times and places; 5) she has been working with members of the community on a Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and she will report to Mayor Cilento their progress; 6) there will be a virtual Green Brook Flood Control Commission meeting this Wednesday; 7) she asked about the process for placing signs over the bridges on Washington Avenue and Madison Avenue. Dr. Robins will inquire of NJ Transit. Mayor Cilento asked about a GBFCC place on the website. Dr. Robins responded that we do not currently have a page but he will construct one for GBFCC as well as one for the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority and the Middlesex County Improvement Authority for recycling; 8) as we get closer to launching our own Facebook page, she wants to remind the public that those sites that cover Dunellen such as Dunellen 411 are not official borough pages. In order to control misinformation, please contact our own website and then borough offices.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) we are meeting to finalize our own social media presence and he wants to avoid any confusion on which sites represent the borough and which do not. Simply put, if the site does not say it is an official borough site, then it is not, even if it has “Dunellen Borough” in its name.

Mrs. Narvesen: 1) for the Recreation Department, we have 70 children grades 3-5 registered for Soccer; 2) the annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for October 31st in Columbia Park; 3) the next Food Drive collections will be Wednesday, October 28 from 10:00 am to 12 noon, and Thursday, October 29th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at the old Whittier School; 4) the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization’s HarvestFest will be Sunday, October 11th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Washington Memorial Park; 5) the next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, October 6th, at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Cilento:

Covid-19 Update:

As of today, we have currently a cumulative total of 238 for Dunellen; that’s an additional fifteen cases since my 9/21/2020 update to the Council, with still only 9 deaths. Dunellen and Middlesex County’s cumulative totals can be found at www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/.

It is unfortunate to see this uptick in cases over the last two weeks, which means we should continue to remain diligent in our response to COVID-19 and decreasing its spread. Please continue to practice social distancing and wearing of a mask. Preventing further spread is going to be a team effort in making sure we move beyond this pandemic and avoid another State shutdown.

I would also encourage everyone to consider getting a Flu Shot this year to assist in reducing the possible burden on our healthcare systems that may need to continue responding to COVID-19. This would save medical resources for the care of COVID-19 patients, and builds your immunity to the Flu, as not to weaken it and increase your chance of getting COVID-19.

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

If you are in need of assistance due to a health crisis, please contact the crisis text line by texting “NJ” to 741741 or call the family helpline at 1-800- 843-5437. We encourage you to utilize these resources during this challenging time. You matter, and we want you to be safe.

Census 2020: U.S. Census was extended again today, now until October 31st. If you haven’t responded to date, please consider doing so, as this impacts our congressional representation and federal funding.

Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission: they will have a booth at HarvestFest and there is only one week left to sign up for their Fall House Decorating Contest. The deadline is October 12th.

Art Color: As noted tonight through our resolution of subdividing the property with Prism, the project is ongoing. Currently, the developer is still obtaining remaining outside agency approvals and addressing redevelopment agreement requirements. All parties are working together, diligently I might add, to move these items along in an appropriate manner. To the members of our community: though it might seem that things are quiet, in actuality much is going on in the background and significant progress is being made. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate authorities such your Mayor and Council, or the Borough Administrator. Please do not rely upon social media which might have misinformation.

Capital Improvements:

- Grove Street – Contractor is obtaining insurance. Construction is anticipated to start prior to the end of the month. Residents will be notified in advance.
- South Madison Avenue – Bids are scheduled to be received on October 14th. After receiving bids, we will award to the most appropriate and most responsible. Together with Alex Miller, I have reached out to residents on that street to explain the current status of the project and address some resident concerns. We are moving in a timely fashion.
- Transportation Alternatives Grant Application – due November 24th. Bill Robins has provided CME information to the portal to apply for the grant.
- 528 North Avenue (Katz)– Redeveloper is finalizing documents associated with NJDOT approval for Streetscape enhancements required by the Planning Board.
- 150 North Avenue (Communipaw) – received Preliminary approval with conditions from the Planning Board meeting on September 29, 2020. Redeveloper is required to resubmit enhanced architectural plans for approval.
- 139 South Washington Avenue (Duke Property) – application deemed incomplete and has not yet been resubmitted; Construction Office has issued a 30-day notice for the house to be torn down.
- Railroad Avenue Sewer Repairs – Contractor is prepared to commence upon receipt of NJ Transit approval.
- Regarding the NJDOT FY21 grant applications, we applied for additional funds for the Lincoln Avenue Roadway Improvement, we added Victorian lighting up and down North and South Washington Avenue, Bike routes in town, and rapid flashing beacons in key locations for pedestrian safety. CME has projected we will hear back from NJDOT once they announce them in November.

Miracle Mile Virtual Concert: sponsored by the Dunellen-Green Brook Rotary Club, will air on October 17th. There is a GoFundMe link so people can donate to support local businesses. There is also merchandise for sale through a local business, Techno-Printing.

Halloween: There have been questions regarding Halloween. To my knowledge, the State of New Jersey has not cancelled it. Therefore, following the State’s guidelines on this topic, Dunellen has not cancelled Halloween. What we have done is worked with the Dunellen PTO to set up key locations for residents who would feel safer doing a trunk or treat in various parks in town. However, the choice is up to the parents in Dunellen in my opinion to choose whether their child should participate in Halloween, going door to door. I would recommend for residents who do not want trick-or-treaters to come to their doors, to turn their porch lights off as a notice to participants to not knock on their doors. Again, everyone is asked to practice social distancing and mask wearing. Under this way of looking at Halloween, everyone is given a choice on how to participate. Please be respectful of everyone’s opinion on this topic.

Dr. Dunne agrees with Mayor Cilento’s guidance. In the absence of direction from the State, we should allow families to do what they think is best. Mrs. Burke concurs. If the State makes a decision prior to Halloween, then obviously we need to follow that. Otherwise, behave responsibly and remember that this year Halloween is on a Saturday.

Homer Mosley: 1) representing the Office of Emergency Management—we have our regular training this Thursday with Eric Martin from the County; 2) we are in part 2 of the CARES Act reimbursement process. We will be inputting COVID-19 expenses incurred from June, July and August; 3) we are working on the Emergency Operations Plans; 4) is interested in an OEM web page; 5) wants to work with the Fire Department on fire prevention.

Liz Lopez, Library Manager: announcing we have a concert coming up “Remembering Pete Seeger” on Friday, October 16th in Washington Park at 4:00 pm, funded by a grant from the Middlesex County Arts and Cultural Trust Fund.

PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public spoke.

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

10-05-2020: #18

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of October 5, 2020 is adjourned.

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