

**May 5, 2025**

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on May 5, 2025.

Mayor Cilento called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Municipal Clerk Lauren Staats read the Sunshine Statement and called the Roll.

Present: Mayor Jason F. Cilento, Council President Daniel Cole Sigmon, Teresa Albertson, Crisol-Iris Lantz, Trina Rios, and William Scott.

Absent: Harold VanDermark

Municipal Clerk Lauren Staats and Municipal Attorney William Robertson were also present.

---

**Proclamations**

1. Recognizing National Police Week 2025- Read by Mayor Cilento

**Proclamation**

**Recognizing National Police Week 2025 in the Borough of Dunellen**

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the Dunellen Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, since the first recorded death in 1786, there are currently 26,950 law enforcement officers in the United States who have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty, including 2 members of the Dunellen Police Department, Patrolman William Shields and Chief Patrick Tarpey; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> National Police Week, and since then, tens of thousands of police officers and their families, including Dunellen, New Jersey, travel to Washington, D.C. every year to celebrate law enforcement and pay tribute to their fallen brothers and sisters; and

**WHEREAS**, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC; and

**WHEREAS**, 345 new names of fallen heroes are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring, including 148 officers killed in 2024 and 197 officers who died in previous years; and

**WHEREAS**, May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families, and U.S. flags should be flown at half-staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dunellen Police Department, formally organized in August of 1924, has served the residents of Dunellen for 100 years and has seen the tenure of 14 Chiefs of Police and many more patrol officers, protecting and serving the community to keep the peace, protect life and property, and serve all those who call the “Miracle Mile” home; and

**WHEREAS**, on Monday, May 26, 2025, the Borough of Dunellen and the Dunellen Police Department will honor their fallen heroes with a ceremony at Washington Memorial Park in observance of Memorial Day.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that, I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, Mayor of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, declare that all in the Borough of Dunellen observe May 11-17, 2025, as National Police Week, and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.

**Mayor Cilento:** Thanked the officers for protecting and serving the Borough.

2. Recognizing May as Military Appreciation Month- read by Council Member Sigmon

**Proclamation  
Military Appreciation Month May 2025**

**WHEREAS**, in 1999 the United States Congress passed a resolution proclaiming May as National Military Appreciation Month, encouraging all Americans to remember all those who gave their lives in defense of our freedom and to honor all the men and women who have served and are serving our country today, along with the families of these service members for their sacrifices, in our Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to acknowledge our military’s achievements, including Loyalty Day established in 1921, Victory in Europe (VE) Day commemorating the end of WWII in Europe in 1945, and Children of Fallen Patriots Day. May also includes Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Armed Forces Day, and before ending the month, we pause to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day; and

**WHEREAS**, during Military Appreciation Month, we are reminded that the freedom and security that the citizens of the United States are afforded today are a direct result of the sacrifices made and continued vigilance demonstrated by our United States Armed Forces over the history of this Great Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, this observance is the perfect opportunity to show thanks and express gratitude to those who have previously served or are currently serving in the U.S. military and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, many men and women from our community have served in the United States Armed Forces, and their service and sacrifice have made our community and the United States and the world more secure by preserving liberties that have enriched our community and nation, making it the greatest nation in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, our Dunellen American Legion Post 119 and Tri-Boro Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5479 are comprised of active members who support and are dedicated to serving the Borough of Dunellen and surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS**, these organizations are committed to enhancing the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by their devotion to mutual helpfulness, making certain that our local veterans organizations pay perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, and members of the Dunellen Borough Council, do hereby proclaim that May 2025 will be recognized as Military Appreciation Month. Residents are encouraged to recognize and honor the valor of our veterans and the sacrifices made by our United States Armed Forces members currently serving and their families to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today and tomorrow.

**Mayor Cilento:** Stated he hopes everyone can make it to the Memorial Day Parade to honor those men and women.

3. Declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Month- read by Council Member Rios

### **Proclamation**

#### **Declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Month**

**WHEREAS**, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illnesses affect almost every family in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses often recover if given the necessary services and supports in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and

**WHEREAS**, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Jason F. Cilento, on behalf of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2025 as Mental Health Month. As the Mayor, I also call upon all Dunellen citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

4. Recognizing The Significance Of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, And Pacific Islander (Aanhpi) Heritage Month- read by Council Member Albertson

**Council Member Albertson:** Stated that she reads this in honor of her granddaughter, Sky, who was born in the Hunan Province in 2009 and came to the United States and was adopted by my daughter and son-in-law

### **Proclamation**

**Recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.**

**WHEREAS**, the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for the observance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May 2025 is “A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience”; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme was selected by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), which is celebrating four decades of service to the AANHPI community in 2025. This year’s theme honors the hard work of AANHPI leaders who established a foundation for future generations to thrive and adapt to change and adversity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that in the Month of May we recognize the history, achievements, and diversity of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and further acknowledge the substantial contribution to the American experience brought by our Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community.

---

#### **Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Mr. Sigmon and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of April 21, 2025.

There were no comments or additions to the minutes.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

#### **Introduction of Ordinances**

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

## **BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN ORDINANCE # 2025- 12**

The following ordinance is being introduced for its first reading on May 5, 2025. A second reading and public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Dunellen Borough Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, on May 19, 2025, and copies of this Ordinance shall be posted on the public bulletin board prior to the date for second reading and final passage and copies of this Ordinance shall be available at the Office of the Borough Clerk for any interested members of the public

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 39” MUNICIPAL FLAG LOWERING POLICY” TO PART I “ADMINISTRATIVE LEGISLATION” OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1.

39-1. TITLE.

This chapter shall be known as the “Municipal Flag Lowering Policy” of the Borough of Dunellen.

39-2. FLAG LOWERING POLICY.

Dunellen Borough Municipal Building and Library flags shall be lowered to half mast in accordance with the US Flag Code and upon receipt of official notice of the Governor of the State of New Jersey. It shall also be the policy of the Borough of Dunellen that the Dunellen Borough Municipal Building and Library flags shall be lowered to half mast for seven (7) days from the day of death for members of:

1. Governing Body
2. Borough employees
3. Borough volunteers currently serving the Borough

Dunellen Borough Municipal Building and Library flags shall be lowered for three (3) days or from the time of death through the date of burial, whichever is longer, for:

1. Past members of the Governing Body
2. Retired Borough employees
3. Volunteer members of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad

Section 2. SEVERABILITY.

In the event that any provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect any other provision of application of this ordinance which may be

given effect, and to realize this intent, the provisions and applications of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

### Section 3. INCONSISTENCY WITH OTHER ORDINANCES.

Should any provision of this ordinance be inconsistent with the provisions of any other prior ordinances, the inconsistent provisions of such other prior ordinances are hereby released but only to the extent of such inconsistencies.

### Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall be effective upon final approval and publication in accordance with law.

**Mr. Miller:** Stated that it has come to our attention that we do not have a flag ordinance on record and over the past year we have lost some key members to the community. This ordinance will be a guide to go by when someone who has worked or volunteered here passes away.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

### **Budget**

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

**05-05-2025: # 199**

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CY 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, that, as attestation of compliance, has been provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 (1a) and (1b), the 2025 Municipal Budget may be read by title.

**Mr. Robertson:** Stated that this is a matter that has been discussed in more detail at earlier meetings involving the introduction of the budget due to the absence of Council Member VanDermark and the budget law that requires a majority vote of the governing body. I have reviewed the circumstances, and in my opinion, this situation would be governed by the doctrine of necessity. Stated the difference between Council Member Rios and Scott's involvement in the Fire Department and Council Member Rios should vote on these matters.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, and Sigmon  
Abstain: Scott

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 200**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, that the budget herein set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$6,390,045.00 (Item 2 below) for Municipal Purposes
- (e) \$336,445.00 (Item 3 below) Minimum Library Tax

**SUMMARY OF REVENUES**

|                                                                                |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. General Revenues                                                            |                         |
| Surplus Anticipated                                                            | \$ 995,000.00           |
| Misc. Revenue Anticipated                                                      | \$ 3,102,225.00         |
| Receipts from Delinquent Taxes                                                 | \$ 220,000.00           |
| 2. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Mun. Purposes<br>(Item 6 {a}, Sheet 11) |                         |
|                                                                                | \$ 6,390,045.00         |
| 3. Amt. to be Raised by Taxation Min. Library Levy                             | <u>\$ 336,445.00</u>    |
| Total Revenues                                                                 |                         |
|                                                                                | <u>\$ 11,043,715.00</u> |

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

|                                            |                        |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. General Appropriations                  |                        |
| Within "CAPS"                              |                        |
| (a&b) Operations Including Contingent      | \$ 7,143,267.00        |
| (e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Charges | \$ 1,154,591.00        |
| Excluded from "CAPS"                       |                        |
| (a) Operations                             | \$ 877,786.00          |
| (c) Capital Improvements                   | \$ 100,000.00          |
| (d) Municipal Debt Service                 | \$ 1,143,071.00        |
| (e) Deferred Charges – Municipal           | \$ 35,000.00           |
| (m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes          | <u>\$ 590,000.00</u>   |
| Total Appropriations                       |                        |
|                                            | <u>\$11,043,715.00</u> |

**SEWER UTILITY FUND**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Operating Surplus Used | \$ 243,299.00          |
| Sewer User Fees        | <u>\$ 1,066,900.00</u> |
| Total Revenues         |                        |
|                        | <u>\$ 1,310,199.00</u> |



Total Appropriations

\$ 1,310,199.00

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 5th day of May 2025. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2025 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

---

Borough Clerk

**Mayor Cilento:** Opened the floor to members of the public.

**Dave Morgan, 805 Front Street:** Asked what the total budget was. Mr. Olsen stated that it was \$11,043,715.00. The amount to be raised by taxes is 6,390,045.00. Mr. Olsen stated that the average impact per household would be \$46.00 if the assessment remained the same from the prior year.

There were no comments from any other members of the public or council.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, and Sigmon

Abstain: Scott

---

**Resolutions (201 - 204)**

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

**05-05-2025: # 201**

**RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS**

**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: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 202**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF ENERGY TAXES TO MUNICIPALITIES**

**WHEREAS**, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

**WHEREAS**, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities; the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, for years, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

**WHEREAS**, while the State may need to have the right to override the statutory dedication of these revenues to local governments, in order to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur; current State policymakers should not exercise that right automatically; and

**WHEREAS**, while that right should be the exception, it has become the rule; and

**WHEREAS**, by keeping flat funding of the appropriation for CMPTRA year-over-year, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2023, the State did provide some much-needed relief in the allocation of \$75 million of new funds identified as the Municipal Relief Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2024, the State allocated \$150 million in Municipal Relief Funds, however, in SFY 2025 and, as proposed in SFY 2026, no allocation will exist; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2024, the Energy Tax Receipts Program should have received over \$350 million to restore municipalities back to 2008 levels, however, the State's diversion of Energy Taxes has continued to grow, causing more of a financial gap; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of years of flat funding and underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Dunellen, in the county of Middlesex, calls for the immediate restoration of funding diverted from Energy Taxes intended for local use; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we, respectfully, call on State policy makers to end the diversion of our municipal resources to cover State spending and to provide us with this important tool to relieve the worst-in-the-nation property tax burden borne, for too long, by the people of New Jersey; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to the Borough of Dunellen's representatives in Legislative District 21 including Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz, and Senator Jon Bramnick, as well as Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs Jacquelyn Suárez, the State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio, the Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

**Mayor Cilento:** Stated as we noted in the budget presentation, and Mr. Olsen did a really good explanation of the history of the energy tax receipts and what they historically called the poison pill when it was taken from us. It was referenced in the presentation where we were getting around \$600,000.00 in municipal aid, but if we were receiving the energy tax receipts, we would have been over a million dollars these past several years. The state over the year the with the exception of last year and the year before, where it was possibly 75 million statewide and then 150 million. The budget that the governor has proposed is that they are not proposing anything. There are various organizations, such as the League of Municipalities and the Conference of Mayors, that are fighting the legislature through their organizations to get funding back. Working with the Conference of Mayor,s we are working on a plan to get us back to full funding.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 203**

## **RESOLUTION TO APPOINT FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS**

**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 Jaxon Rios, transferring from a Junior Firefighter to a Probationary Firefighter (probationary period: 6 months), and Connor Costa as Probationary Firefighter (probationary period: 1 year), effective May 5, 2025.

**Mayor Cilento:** Extended a thank you to Mr. Rios and Mr. Costa for stepping up to the plate and volunteering for the Fire Department and encouraged all to step up and volunteer.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, and Sigmon  
Abstain: Rios, and Scott

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 204**

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE ERICA TROJANOWSKI AS DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Erica Trojanowski is hired as Deputy Court Administrator at an annual salary of \$55,000.00, terms of the hire per the signed offer letter dated May 2, 2025. The effective date of hire will be on a date mutually agreed upon by the Borough Administrator and Ms. Trojanowski in May 2025.

**Mayor Cilento:** Stated that Denise Donato moved up to the Court Administrator and now we needed a deputy to fill her place.

**Mr. Miller:** Erica was one of multiple candidates that we interviewed. The interview process was myself, Clerk Lauren Staats, Judge Howes, Denise Donato and Laura Schweitzer. After interviewing all of the candidates, Erica was the best fit for the Borough. She was a violations clerk for two years and then a deputy this past year.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

**Consent Agenda (Resolutions 205 - 210)**

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

**05-05-2025: # 205**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SOLICITOR'S LICENSE FOR XFINITY COMCAST**

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, the petitioner is exempt from payment of the permit application fee pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-(30(d)(1); 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:

Xfinity Comcast, for the purposes of soliciting services by traveling from house to house, commencing on May 5, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 206**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 801 DUNELLEN AVENUE**

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

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

Payable to      PROCAP8 LLC

| <u>TSC</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>Lot</u> | <u>Owner/Address</u> | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest</u> | <u>Premium</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 24-39      | 75           | 1.04       | ANDREW,<br>TRISHA    | 886.44           | 11.46           | 500.00         | 1397.90      |

|  |  |  |                    |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | 315 OAK<br>PARKWAY |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$1397.90**

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 207**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 423 HIGH STREET**

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

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

Payable to      PROCAP8 LLC

| <u>TSC</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>Lot</u> | <u>Owner/Address</u>                     | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest</u> | <u>Premium</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------|--------------|------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 24-31      | 57.02        | 26.02      | VILLANUEVA,NANCY<br>C<br>423 HIGH STREET | 697.82           | 11.46           | 500.00         | 1209.28      |

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$1209.28**

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 208**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 405 HIGH STREET**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF**

**DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

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

Payable to      PROCAP8 LLC

| <u>TSC</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>Lot</u> | <u>Owner/Address</u>                                                   | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest</u> | <u>Premium</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------|--------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 24-30      | 57.02        | 24.0<br>3  | HENRIES, RICHARD &<br>KRYSTAL<br>405 HIGH STREET<br>DUNELLEN, NJ 08812 | 697.45           | 11.46           | 500.00         | 1208.91      |

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$1208.91**

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 209**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 819 NORTH  
WASHINGTON AVENUE**

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

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

Payable to      PROCAP8 LLC

| <u>TSC</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>Lot</u> | <u>Owner/Address</u>                                         | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest</u> | <u>Premium</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 24-08      | 17           | 5          | GONZALEZ, PAOLO & LAZO,<br>JEFFERSON<br>819 N WASHINGTON AVE | 692.69           | 11.46           | 500.00         | 1204.15      |

**TOTAL REFUNDED \$1204.15**

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

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

**05-05-2025: # 210**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TRI BORO MEMORIAL POST 5479 VFW FOR AN INSTANT RAFFLE LICENSE FOR APRIL 26, 2025 TO APRIL 25, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, an application was made in accordance with the State Regulations for a license to be issued, and

**WHEREAS**, after proper investigation, it was determined that all requirements of the State Regulations have been met.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body authorize the issuance of a Raffle License to the Tri Boro Memorial Post 5479, VFW for an Instant Raffle for April 26, 2025 to April 25, 2026.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that these licenses will be issued pending final approval by New Jersey State Legalized Games of Chance Commission.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

**Council Reports**

Council Member Albertson

**Fire Department**

The Fire Department responded to 26 calls for service in April.

o Total calls for 2025: 130 to date

Incident Type Group

April 2025

400 - HAZMAT

4

700 - False Alarm

14



600 – Good Intent

4

300 - EMS

1

500 - Service Call

3

Monthly Total

26

In addition to emergency responses, the Fire Department attended several events and held several drills during April:

4/13 attended the Recreation Easter Egg Hunt

4/14 held monthly Officers Meeting and Work Drill

Service

4/16 Attended a HazMat Drill at our firehouse conducted by Middlesex County HazMat

4/23 Attended the Mayors Volunteer Town Hall

4/27 Held our annual Firefighter Memorial Service

4/30 held the Monthly Fire Company Meeting

We are happy to see a number of residents continue to join the Department of the past few months. The new members will be attending Fire School in the upcoming months. The Fire Department is still looking for new members to join our department. Membership is open to anyone 16-18 as a Junior Member, and full member is open to anyone over 18. Visit our website: [www.dunellenfd.com](http://www.dunellenfd.com) or email [joindfd@dunellenfd.com](mailto:joindfd@dunellenfd.com) for more information.

### **Friends of the Dunellen Public Library**

Their Murder Mystery Dinner is on Saturday, May 10th at the George W Hodulik Firehouse. Enjoy delicious food as you help solve the Murder of a Gangster. There will be raffle baskets and a 50/50. All proceeds help the Friends support the Dunellen Public Library. Follow us on our Facebook page, Instagram. The Friends Open-Air Market begins on May 18th at Washington Memorial Park. It will be the first and third Sundays from May until October. Please come and enjoy the market.

## Council Member Rios

### **Buildings and Grounds Report**

Dunellen proudly continues its tradition of honoring the brave men and women who have served our country. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has begun installing the Hometown Heroes banners downtown, with completion expected by the end of this week. Once finished, the DPW will follow up with the installation of American flags. Additionally, the DPW has installed two more block-trim planters—one at Washington Memorial Park and another at the Fire Department and Rescue Squad monuments—further enhancing these important community spaces.

### **PARSA Report**

Comcast recently caused damage to a section of the sewer main near Kline Place. PARSA supervised the repair process to ensure it was completed properly and met all necessary Standards.

### **Board of Education**

Spring sports are underway, with both the softball and baseball seasons in full swing.

Upcoming Events:

- May 7: Bike to School Day
- May 7: Faber School Band and Choir Concert
- May 9: Dunellen High School Dunellies

Next Board of Ed Meeting: May 20

Be sure to visit the Dunellen Public Library's Facebook page and website to explore all of our exciting upcoming programs and events.

I just want to say that I am so proud of my son Jaxon for pursuing a career as a firefighter, and on that note, happy International Firefighter Month.

## Council Member VanDermark

Absent

## Council Member Lantz

### **Spring Sports and Upcoming Events**

All Recreation spring sports are in full swing, including tennis, soccer, baseball, and softball. The Recreation Department is sincerely grateful to our coaches for their hard work and commitment.

### **Coaching Opportunities**

We are still seeking coaches for open soccer at the Pre-K/K level, with practices scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in coaching, please reach out to Recreation Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com).

## **Hometown Heroes**

We are pleased to share that nine additional banners have been added to our display of Hometown Heroes this spring, bringing our total to 119 banners. Thanks to the DPW, these banners were hung last week just in time for our upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

## **Memorial Day Parade**

The Memorial Day Parade is set for May 26 at 10:00 AM. If you would like to participate in the parade or have a float, please contact Recreation Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com). We look forward to gathering together to honor those who have served.

## **Summer Camp Registration**

Finally, registration for Dunellen's Summer Camp is now open! If you're interested, please visit the Recreation Website to sign up. The camp is designed for children aged 5 to 12 years and runs from June 16 to August 15. This nine-week camp is filled with lots of fun, including field trips, daily outdoor and indoor activities, and water games! Register today, as spots are filling up fast!

## **Council President Sigmon**

Encouraged all to volunteer coach recreation sports.

## **Council Member Scott**

The DPW crew has routinely cleaned the downtown area and all our borough properties and parks

- Weekly lawn and landscape maintenance to Borough Properties and Parks..
- Maintaining the ball fields.
- Continuing to inspect and clean out the catch basins throughout the Borough.
- Started the installation of the Hometown heroes banner in the downtown.
- Added mulch to the parks and playgrounds.
- Cleaned out the trash trap.
- Continually picked up bags and branches around town, reminder May is the last month of leaf bag pick up.
- Maintaining the Street sweep schedule, although right now the sweeper is being serviced.

#### Mechanics Division:

- Service Police fleet vehicles as they come due for maintenance or as breakdowns arise
- Service DPW fleet vehicles as they come due for maintenance or as breakdowns arise
- Working on the installation of a new motor in one of the Police Cars.
- Installing a water tank on one of the mason trucks to water the new trees.
- Service lawn equipment.

#### Mayor Cilento

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** I'd like to wish a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to all of our educators. Teachers shape the lives of countless students, and their passion, patience, and commitment to the next generation are truly commendable. We are grateful for all of our teachers in the Dunellen community and beyond.

**Green Brook Clean Up:** This Saturday, May 10, Dunellen will be participating in an annual multi-town clean-up of the Green Brook at McCoy Park from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. This is a yearly collaborative effort between Dunellen, Green Brook, Middlesex, Plainfield, Watchung, and Bound Brook through the Mayor's Alliance for a Cleaner Green Brook Waterway. You can register to volunteer online at [lowerraritanwatershed.org](http://lowerraritanwatershed.org).

**Fire Hydrant Flushing:** New Jersey American Water will be conducting its annual flushing of Dunellen's water distribution system until May 23 from approximately 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Annual flushing is conducted by water providers throughout each municipality to test and maintain fire hydrants and the quality of drinking water.

When crews are working in your area, you may notice reduced pressure or discolored water. If your water is discolored, run the cold water taps only, at the lowest level of the house, for about 3 to 5 minutes until the water runs clear. If discolored water occurs, please also refrain from doing laundry during that time.

You can find more information and a map of the affected area at [amwater.com/njaw/alerts](http://amwater.com/njaw/alerts).

#### **NJAW Projects:**

**Prospect Ave & Whittier Ave Projects:** The main water system has been installed on both Prospect Ave. and Whittier Ave. The next step is to replace all residential water services from the main to the new water box for each home. NJAW will also install new fire hydrants on each street. There will be spot checks throughout the entire process.

#### **Grove Street and South Ave Water Main Project:**

NJAW started working on this street this past week and will continue to do so. They will be digging test pits and beginning to cut the road for the main water replacement.

**Second Street Phase 1 DOT project and Mill & Pave Project (from the Dunellen/Middlesex border to Madison Ave):**

The project is scheduled to start this week, weather permitting. The first step will be removing and replacing severely damaged curbs and installing new ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps, one at the Schwartz Place intersection and the other at the Sanford Ave intersection.

The contractor will inform the residents when they replace damaged curbs at their driveway entrances. During this time, the residents will not be able to drive in and out of their driveways for a few days.

**RRFB Projects:**

Madison Ave & First Street, Madison Ave & Dunellen Ave

Washington Ave & First Street, Washington & Dunellen Ave

South Washington Ave & Orange Street, and New Market & Grove Street

CME is expecting the projects to be completed by the Fall. CME is aware of the NJAW project on Grove Street and that this intersection is time sensitive.

**Wayfinding Signage** — CME Associates has received review comments from the NJDOT. The Highway Occupancy Permit Application has also been submitted. CME and I met with DOT representatives on April 28th to discuss their comments. Per the discussions during the meeting, we are preparing a response to their comments.

This is an NJ Transit village grant that we received, and NJ DOT said, well, we can't direct people to our train station on the signage that they are funding through a transit village grant. I want to give kudos to Senator John Bramnick because when I brought this to his attention, the hypocrisy of giving us a grant for wayfinding to find public parking and transit destinations. We can't direct people to our main transit destination, the train station. He connected me to the director of NJDOT and they think they may be able to accommodate our request that there are some creative ways to make this work.

---

**Council Discussion**

None.

---

**Department Head Reports**

Legal

No Report

Clerk

To register in New Jersey, you must be:

A United States citizen

At least 17 years old, though you may not vote until you have reached the age of 18

A resident of the county for 30 days before the election

The registration deadline to vote in the next election is 21 days prior to the election day.

May 20 – Voter Registration Deadline

May 28 – Mailing of Sample Ballots for Primary Election

We sent out a letter along with a district map to all of the affected registered voters. Districts 1 & 2 Senior Center, 3 & 6 Fire House, and 4 & 5 Library. We put the information on our website, email blasts and on election day, there will be signs posted at the school and a map directing residents to their new polling location.

IT

No Report

OEM

No Report

Police

No Report

Fire

No Report

Library

No Report

Admin

No Report

Rescue

May is a busy month with a lot of appreciation, with EMS Week being May 18 -24th. This year theme is We Care. For Everyone. We are continuing to work with the Borough for our relocation project.

---

### **Public Comment**

There was no comment from the public in chambers or online.

---

### **Adjournment**

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

**05-05-2025: # 211**

### **RESOLUTION OF ADJOURNMENT**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Regular Meeting of May 5, 2025 is adjourned.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, Rios, Scott, and Sigmon

---

**Meeting Ended:** 7:48 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

**YouTube link:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/3mrWqunOztI?feature=shared>

*Lauren Staats*

---

**Lauren Staats, RMC, CMR**  
**Municipal Clerk**

**Minutes Approved:** May 19, 2025