

April 21, 2025

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on April 21, 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.

Moment of Silence for the death of Pope Francis.

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 7, 2025.

There were no comments or additions to the minutes.

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

Adoption of Ordinances

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

BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

ORDINANCE # 2025- 09

The following ordinance was Introduced for its first reading on April 7, 2025. A second reading, public hearing and adoption is being held at 7:00 p.m. in the Dunellen Borough Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, on April 21, 2025, and copies of this Ordinance have been posted on the public bulletin board prior to the date for second reading and final passage and copies of this Ordinance have been available at the Office of the Borough Clerk for any interested members of the public

CALENDAR YEAR 2025

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$78,673.87 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Dunellen shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$275,358.55 and that the CY 2025 municipal budget for the Borough of Dunellen, be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed via the Financial Automation System Tracking (F.A.S.T.) system with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance, upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed via the F.A.S.T. system with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

There were no comments from the public or council.

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:

BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

ORDINANCE # 2025- 10

The following ordinance was Introduced for its first reading on April 7, 2025. A second reading, public hearing and adoption is being held at 7:00 p.m. in the Dunellen Borough Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, on April 21, 2025, and copies of this Ordinance have been posted on the public bulletin board prior to the date for second reading and final passage and copies of this Ordinance have been available at the Office of the Borough Clerk for any interested members of the public

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GENERAL LEGISLATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 204, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS, SECTION 4, SPORTING EVENTS AND WATER ACTIVITIES; USE OF VEHICLES

Section 1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen in the County of Middlesex as follows that the Dunellen Municipal Code, Chapter 204, Parks and Playgrounds Section 4, Sporting and Water Activities; Use of Vehicles, is amended to read as follows:

Section 204-4. Sporting and water activities; use of vehicles.

- A. No person on or within a park or playground shall, except in a place provided therefor and only at such times and under such regulations as the Department of Recreation may prescribe, bathe, skate or fish or place in the water a boat or raft or place, throw or drain any offensive substances into the water.
- B. No person shall ride a bicycle in any park or athletic field except upon a path or paved area nor in such a manner as to interfere with another's enjoyment of the facilities of the park or playground.
- C. No person, except an authorized employee of the Department of Recreation or Department of Public Works, shall drive any motor vehicle, wagon or cart upon paths, driveways or roadways within any park or playground.
- D. No person shall coast with a sled, cart or other vehicle in any park or playground, except in places especially designated therefor by the Department of Recreation.
- E. No person shall fly a model airplane without the written permission of the Director of Recreation and in an area other than that specified by the Department of Recreation.
- F. No person shall play any sport or take part in any activity in such a manner as will cause physical damage to the grounds, park facilities or adjacent property, or place any persons at risk of harm or injury due to such activity. The playing of golf, archery and the use of boomerangs is expressly prohibited.
- G. **No person shall ride or drive E-bikes, motorized scooters or other motorized vehicles within any park or playground. This prohibition shall not apply to the use of motorized scooters or vehicles by persons with disabilities.**

Section 2. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of Dunellen, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern, and the inconsistencies of the prior ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

Mayor Cilento: Stated that this is an ordinance that prohibits motorized or electronic bikes/scooters with the exception of those who are disabled.

There were no comments front the public.

Council Member Lantz: Asked if there are any penalties and should they be added to the language here in the case that someone does violate this ordinance. Mayor Cilento stated that this is just an amendment and the original ordinance should have penalties. Mrs. Staats found the violation section in the code online and Mayor Cilento read it aloud 204-12.

Council Member Rios: Asked if signage will be placed there. Mayor Cilento stated it does say on the sign that is currently there no bikes and it could be broad enough possibly. Mayor referred to the Lieutenant. Council member Rios stated that there was someone there with a 4 wheeler the other day. Lieutenant stated that is another issue and would be handled separately. Mayor stated that Mr. Herkert will take an inventory of the signs at the park and what is not there we will add. Council member Sigmon stated there are other things like one wheel motorized skateboards is that going to be on the sign. Mr. Robertson stated that whatever is listed on the ordinance should be on the sign.

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:

BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

ORDINANCE # 2025- 11

The following ordinance was Introduced for its first reading on April 7, 2025. A second reading, public hearing and adoption is being held at 7:00 p.m. in the Dunellen Borough Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, on April 21, 2025, and copies of this Ordinance have been posted on the public bulletin board prior to the date for second reading and

final passage and copies of this Ordinance have been available at the Office of the Borough Clerk for any interested members of the public

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,338,700 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,380,440 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

BE IT ORDAINED 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. The several improvements described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are hereby respectively authorized to be undertaken by the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the "Borough") as general improvements. For the several improvements or purposes described in Section 3, there are hereby appropriated the respective sums of money therein stated as the appropriation made for each improvement or purpose, such sums amounting in the aggregate to \$3,338,700, including a \$496,620 grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation for the purpose described in Section 3(a), a \$529,000 grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation for the purpose in described in Section 3(b) and a \$170,000 grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation for the purpose described in Section 3(i) (collectively, the

“State Grants”) and further including the aggregate sum of \$61,545 as the several down payments for the improvements or purposes required by the Local Bond Law. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-11(c), no down payments are provided for the costs of the improvements or purposes in Sections 3(a) and 3(b) since the improvements or purposes are being partially funded by applicable State Grants and a down payment in the amount of \$7,060 is provided for the improvement or purpose in Section 3(i) that is not being funded by the applicable State Grant. The down payments have been made available by virtue of provision for down payment or for capital improvement purposes in one or more previously adopted budgets.

Section 2. In order to finance the cost of the several improvements or purposes not covered by application of the several down payments in the amount of \$61,545 and an amount equal to 75% of the aggregate amount of the State Grants (in the amount of \$896,715), negotiable bonds are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$2,380,440 pursuant to the Local Bond Law. In anticipation of the issuance of the bonds, negotiable bond anticipation notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

Section 3. The several improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for which the bonds are to be issued, the estimated cost of each improvement and the appropriation therefor, the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for each improvement and the period of usefulness of each improvement are as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>		<u>Appropriation & Estimated Cost</u>		<u>Estimated Maximum Amount of Bonds & Notes</u>		<u>Period of Usefulness</u>
a) Improvements to Second Street (Phase 2), including, but not limited to, removing/replacing curbs, the installation of ADA sidewalks and paving, and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$1,249,000 (includes a \$496,620 State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Grant)		\$876,535		10 years
b) Bound Brook Road streetscape improvements, including, but not limited to, the installation of lights, and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$731,300 (includes a \$529,000 State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Grant)		\$334,550		10 years

c) Various road improvements, including, but not limited to, milling and paving of various streets, the installation of street signs, streetscape improvements, concrete work, belgium, road striping, streetscape improvements and basin blocks and catch basin castings to various roads, including, but not limited to, Jackson Avenue and Second Street, and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$590,200		\$560,690		10 years
d) Infrastructure map and watershed inventory, including a report describing stormwater outfalls, drainage areas for outfalls, water quality classification and stormwater drains, and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$72,500		\$68,875		30 years

e) The beautification of Washington Avenue, including, but not limited to, streetscape improvements and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$41,000		\$38,950	15 years
f) The assessment plan of the Maurer House, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$22,000		\$20,900	20 years
g) The assessment of the parking lots at Borough Hall and Skinner Plaza, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$16,000		\$15,200	20 years
h) Borough hall parking lot environmental testing, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$120,000		\$114,000	15 years

i) The installation of flashing beacons at South Washington Avenue, Orange Street and Market Street, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$268,700 (includes a \$170,000 State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Grant for South Washington Avenue and Market Street)		\$134,140	10 years
j) The acquisition of equipment for the Department of Public Works, including, but not limited to, a dump truck, sidewalk plow and a storage container and further including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.		\$115,000		\$109,250	10 years
k) The acquisition of a storage container for the Parks and Recreation Department, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.		\$7,000		\$6,650	15 years

l) Information technology upgrades for Borough Hall and Police Departments, including but not limited to, server and computer upgrades, and further including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.		\$68,000		\$64,600		5 years
m) The acquisition of pagers for the Fire/Office of Emergency Management Departments, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.		<u>\$38,000</u>		<u>\$36,100</u>		5 years
Total		<u>\$3,338,700</u>		<u>\$2,380,440</u>		

The excess of the appropriation made for each of the improvements or purposes aforesaid over the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor, as above stated, is the amount of the down payment for each purpose, as applicable.

Section 4. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer; provided that no bond anticipation note shall mature later than one year from its date, unless such bond anticipation notes are permitted to mature at such later date in accordance with

applicable law. The bond anticipation notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the chief financial officer. The chief financial officer shall determine all matters in connection with bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the chief financial officer's signature upon the bond anticipation notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of the Local Bond Law or other applicable law. The chief financial officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the bond anticipation notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The chief financial officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the bond anticipation notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the bond anticipation notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 5. The Borough hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 6. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are not current expenses. They are all improvements or purposes that the Borough may lawfully undertake as general improvements, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

(b) The average period of usefulness, computed on the basis of the respective amounts of obligations authorized for each purpose and the reasonable life thereof within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, is 10.85 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Clerk, and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided in this bond ordinance by \$2,380,440, and the obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by that Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$400,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20 is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the purposes or improvements.

Section 7. The Borough hereby declares the intent of the Borough to issue bonds or bond anticipation notes in the amount authorized in Section 2 of this bond ordinance and to use the proceeds to pay or reimburse expenditures for the costs of the purposes or improvements described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance. This Section 7 is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for purposes of the Treasury Regulations.

Section 8. Any grant moneys received for the purposes or improvements described in Section 3 hereof shall be applied either to direct payment of the cost of the improvements or, if other than the State Grants referred to in Section 1 hereof, to payment of the obligations issued pursuant to this bond ordinance. The amount of obligations authorized but not issued hereunder shall be reduced to the extent that such funds are so used.

Section 9. The chief financial officer of the Borough is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Borough and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Borough. The chief financial officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Borough pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Borough and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that the Borough fails to

comply with its undertaking, the Borough shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

Section 10. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall be obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable property within the Borough for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 11. This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Mayor Cilento: Stated that this is the funding for various capital improvement projects during the year. Many of which will be covered by grants when completed.

There were no comments from the public or council.

Mr. Robertson: Stated that he spoke to Council Member Rios and that he researched the issue and in his opinion is authorized to vote on this ordinance which requires $\frac{2}{3}$ of the full governing body to vote. This will be governed by the doctrine of necessity as would resolution number 183. Explained the doctrine of necessity. There is no personal or financial involvement in any of the matters. Mayor Cilento stated it was due to her association with being a firefighter.

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

Resolutions

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

04-21-2025: # 180

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. Albertson it was moved to accept the following:

04-21-2025: # 181

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN AUTHORIZING
REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR THE DEMOLITION AND SITE REMEDIATION
OF FORMER STRIP JOINT SITE, 635 BOUND BROOK ROAD, AND
READVERTISING THE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen, duly advertised and received bids for the demolition and Site Remediation of Former Strip Joint Site, 635 Bound Brook Road, and;

WHEREAS, the initial bid specifications were issued and advertised on February 18, 2025, with Addenda #1 and Addenda #2 issued on February 25, 2025, and March 4, 2025, respectively; and

WHEREAS, both Addenda #1 and Addenda #2 were provided to all prospective bidders who picked up a bid package by facsimile transmission and by email; and

WHEREAS, Addenda #3 was issued on March 17, 2025, and transmitted to all prospective bidders who had picked up a bid package by facsimile transmission and by email; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2025, seven bids were received for the Demolition and Site Remediation of Former Strip Joint site, 635 Bound Brook Road, with Caravella Demolition, Inc, the apparent low bidder; and

WHEREAS, the facsimile transmittal to Caravella Demolition, Inc. was sent to an incorrect facsimile number and the Borough has no receipt indicating a successful transmission; and

WHEREAS, the bid proposal submitted by Caravella Demolition, Inc. includes an Acknowledgement of Receipt of Changes to Bid Documents for Addenda #1 and Addenda #2; and

WHEREAS, the bid submission of Caravella Demolition, Inc., does not acknowledge receipt of Addenda #3; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23c(2) provides, in relevant part, that: “[F]or all contracts for construction work, notice shall be provided no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays or holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of bids, to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package in any of the following ways; i) in writing by certified mail or ii) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender’s facsimile machine

produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or iii) by delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender;” and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23d provides that: “Failure of the contracting unit to advertise for the receipt of bids or to provide proper notification of the revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as prescribed by this section shall prevent the contracting unit from accepting the bids and require the readvertisement for bids pursuant to subsection a. of this section. Failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone facsimile number on file with the contracting unit shall not be considered failure by the contracting unit to provide notice.” and

WHEREAS, it appears that proper notice as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23c(2) was not provided because the facsimile transmission was not a “certified facsimile transmission” meaning that the sender’s facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that transmission was successful; and

WHEREAS, although N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23d appears to contain a saving clause that provides that failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone number on file with the contracting unit shall not be considered a failure by the contracting unit to provide notice, in this case the facsimile transmission was not sent to the address or telephone number on file with the Borough and, significantly, the bidder failed to acknowledge receipt of Addenda #3; and

WHEREAS, the clarification of bid specifications contained in Addenda #3 is not simply informational but contains information that would have a material and substantive impact on the bid submission and the failure to acknowledge receipt of Addenda #3 suggests that the bid proposal of Caravella Demolition, Inc. did not incorporate the clarified bid specifications into the bid proposal and constitutes more than a technical or unimportant matters that may be waived or overlooked; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23d, the Borough Council concludes that the failure to provide proper notice of Addenda #3 prevents the Borough from accepting the bids and requires rejection of all bids and readvertisement for bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23a.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Borough hereby rejects all bids for the Demolition and Site Remediation of Former Strip Joint, 635 Bound Brook Road, and that the project be readvertised pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-23a.

Mayor Cilento: Stated that the bids were recieved on March 27th in these chambers at 11 am and due to irregularities with the low bid and local public contracts law requirements with the one that was chosen it appears that the project needs to be rebid. Mr. Miller has spoke with the Rescue Squad on this topic.

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:

04-21-2025 # 182

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO
EXECUTE A RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT FOR SURVEY AND
EXPLORATION GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, in June 2022, the BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN (“Borough”) executed a Right of Entry Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) authorizing access to certain properties owned by the Borough of Dunellen to perform survey work associated with the Green Brook Flood Control Project; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Right of Entry Agreement authorized the USACE and its contractors to perform the required survey work for a period of 36 months; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Right of Entry expires in June 2025 and the USACE has requested that the Borough execute a Right of Entry extending the access period to conduct the required survey work for a further five-year period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council acknowledges the need to complete the required survey work associated with the Green Brook Flood Control Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Borough Council hereby authorize the Mayor and/or Borough Business Administrator to execute the Department of the Army Right-of-Entry for Survey and Exploration Green Brook Flood Control Project for the properties listed in the attached Right-of-Entry Agreement.

Mayor Cilento: Stated that this is an ongoing project and process since 1973. The Army Corps needs access to the properties again to do some reexamination and studies based up on some of the new mappings that they are doing. This agreement give them permission

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:

04-21-2025: # 183

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 04-07-2025: # 161 INTRODUCING THE
2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

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

Resolution 04-07-2025: # 161 is amended as follows:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey wish to introduce the 2025 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Municipal Budget shall be published in The Courier News in the **April, 11, 2025**, issue; and

WHEREAS, the final adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget is scheduled to take place on May 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, May 5, 2025, a public hearing on the Budget will take place in the Municipal Building, 355 North Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey, 08812, at 7:00 p.m., at which time and place objections to the Budget for the year 2025 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Borough Council of the Borough Dunellen that the 2025 Municipal Budget is hereby introduced.

Mrs. Staats: This change is only amending the date of the advertisement from April 10th to the 11th.

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

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

04-21-2025: # 184

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR THE SALE OF THE BOROUGH'S WASTEWATER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the "Borough") owns, operates and maintains the Borough's wastewater system (the "System"); and

WHEREAS, after analyzing the operations, finances, and future needs of the System, the Borough has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to consider the sale of the System to an experienced and qualified entity to take over the ownership, operation and maintenance of the System; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to solicit bids for its consideration to sell the System, the description of which is included within the bid documents on file with the Borough Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Dunellen, as follows:

1. The aforementioned recitals hereof are incorporated herein as though set forth at length herein.
2. The Borough is authorized to solicit bid proposals for the sale of the Borough's System in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40:62-3 et seq.*
3. The bid solicitation shall be as outlined in the bid documents on file with the Borough Clerk which, by this reference, is incorporated herein.
4. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with applicable law.

Mayor Cilento: Stated that he would like to speak to Resolution 04-21-2025, #184 on tonight's agenda. As you may recall, at our March 3rd meeting, we had a brief presentation exploring the potential sale of the wastewater system. As was made clear then—and remains true now—this is purely exploratory. No decision has been made.

Our goal is to conduct a full, detailed analysis to ensure we're making the best possible choice for the residents and the future of Dunellen. Taking this next step does not commit us to any action—it simply allows us to get a complete and accurate understanding of our options.

Over the past month, our borough professionals have drafted the bid specifications, which are now on file with the Clerk's Office. Tonight's resolution would authorize us to request bids based on those specs.

We remain fully committed to transparency and to keeping an open dialogue with the community throughout this process.

Mayor Cilento: Stated as you may recall on March 3rd at our council meeting we had a presentation exploring the potential sale of the wastewater system. As we made clear then and remains true now this is purely exploratory and no decision has been made. Our goal is to conduct a full detailed analysis to ensure we are making the best possible decision for the residents and the future of Dunellen. Taking this next step does not commit us to any action. It allows us to get a complete and accurate understanding of what our options are. Our professionals have drafted the bid specifications which are now on file with the clerk's office. This process is fully transparent with public input and feedback and at the end of this would be a referendum. So the public would ultimately choose if that is the path that we would go down.

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:

04-21-2025: # 185

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2025

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

WHEREAS, emergent conditions have arisen with respect to either funds being needed for salaries and wages and/or payments being due to various vendors, and

WHEREAS, adequate provisions were not made in the 2025 Temporary Budget, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for creation of emergency temporary appropriations, and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriations adopted in the year 2025 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 as amended), including this resolution, total \$2,970,350 for the Current Fund and \$186,600 for the Sewer Utility,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmingly concurring):

Then, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. The emergency temporary appropriations listed below will be provided for in the 2025 budget under the titles shown and for the amounts given be and the same are hereby made as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
Administration and Executive	20-100-000	5,600	
Legal Advertising	20-100-003		2,000
Telephone	20-100-004		10,000
Financial Administration	20-130-000	30,000	
Assessment of Taxes	20-150-000	5,700	
Collection of Taxes	20-145-000	29,700	8,000
Legal Services	20-155-000		25,000
Borough Clerk	20-120-000	21,100	
Community & Economic Development	20-170-000		
Engineering Services	20-165-000		
Municipal Planner	21-181-000		10,000
Public Buildings & Grounds	26-310-000	6,600	10,000
Electric & Gas	31-461-000		55,000
Planning Board	21-180-000	4,100	3,000
Group Health Insurance	23-220-000		200,000
Other Insurance	23-210-000		
Mayor & Council	20-110-000	5,600	3,000

Gasoline	31-460-000		15,000
Water	31-445-000		2,000
Postage	20-100-001		3,000
Information Technology	20-140-000		20,000
Internet Service Provider			3,500
Fire	25-265-000		5,000
Fire Hydrant Service	25-265-001		25,000
Rescue Squad	25-265-002		6,000
Police	25-240-000	760,000	27,000
Police - Overtime	25-240-001	14,700	
School Crossing Guards	25-240-002	33,900	
Emergency Management	20-252-000	2,400	
Emergency Vehicle Lease	25-240-004		100,000
Road Repairs	26-290-000	175,700	
Tree Maintenance	26-290-002		
Shade Trees	26-290-003		
Transit Village	26-297-000		
Garbage & Trash	32-465-000		6,000
Board of Health	27-330-000	10,800	10,000
Recreation	28-370-000	40,300	
Senior Citizen Activities	28-370-001		1,000
Construction Code	22-195-000	45,300	2,000
Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)	36-471-000		217,705
Social Security	36-472-000		53,000
Police and Firemen's Retirement Syst (PFRS)	36-475-000		717,145
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	36-477-000		15,000
Municipal Court	43-490-000	55,100	6,000
Free Public Library	29-390-000	69,900	10,000
Public Defender	43-495-000	2,600	
Municipal Prosecutor	25-275-000	13,900	
Intergovernment/Dispatching	42-305-001		35,000
Intergovernment/Recycling	42-305-000		
Intergovernment/Middlesex Health Services	42-305-002		12,000
Capital Improvement Fund	44-901-299		
Subtotal		\$1,353,000	\$1,617,350
Grand Total Current Fund		<u>\$2,970,350</u>	

Sewer – Telephone	55-500-202	200
Sewer - PARSA Maintenance	55-500-205	4,500
Sewer – Stationery	55-500-206	700
Sewer - Postage	55-500-212	3,000
Sewers - PARSA	55-500-235	170,000
Sewers – PARSA Management Fee	55-500-238	3,200
Sewers – Public Employees Retirement Syst.	55-500-299	5,000
Subtotal		186,600
Grand Total Sewer Utility		<u>\$186,600</u>

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

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

04-21-2025: # 186

RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 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 2024 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.

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:

04-21-2025: # 187

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CY 2024
AUDIT**

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

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

04-21-2025: # 188

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM R. SCOTT, CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AS AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY FOR ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN THE BOROUGH

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

WHEREAS, the state has created a voluntary program to certify firefighters, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen has reviewed, discussed and voted to participate in the program, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen appoints William R. Scott, Chief, as the Authorized Signatory to sign any documents necessary to implement the Firefighter Certification Program in Dunellen.

Yes: Albertson, Lantz, and Sigmon

Abstain: Rios, and Scott

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

04-21-2025: # 189

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FRIENDS OF THE DUNELLEN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR A BASKET RAFFLE LICENSE ON MAY 10, 2025

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 Raffle Licenses to the Friends of the Dunellen Public Library for a Basket Raffle (Tricky Tray) for Saturday, May 10, 2025.

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

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

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

04-21-2025: # 190

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FRIENDS OF THE DUNELLEN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR AN ON-PREMISE 50/50 RAFFLE LICENSE FOR MAY 10, 2025

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 Friends of the Dunellen Public Library for an On-Premise 50/50 Raffle for Saturday, May 10, 2025.

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

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

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

04-21-2025: # 191

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTIAL REFUND OF PERFORMANCE BOND TO VISION DUNELLEN URBAN RENEWAL LLC, 528 NORTH AVE

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

Per recommendation of the Municipal Engineer in a memo dated April 8, 2025, the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund a portion of the performance guarantee posted for Block 34, Lot 31.01, whose street address is 532 North Ave, under Project #PER-22-002, to Vision Dunellen Urban Renewal LLC, 3096 County Road 516, Suite 106, Matawan, NJ 07747 in the amount of \$4,906.67.

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

Consent Agenda (192-197)

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

04-21-2025: # 192

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A REFUND FOR AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN ESCROW TO 501 NORTH AVE. PORTFOLIOS

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

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the unexpended balance of \$4,857.20 in Developer's Escrow account #DEV-022-01, Project #101 to 501 North Ave Portfolios, 5 Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Central Valley, NY 10917.

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:

04-21-2025: # 193

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 325 ORANGE 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>
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24-37	72	5	CALIBER HOME LOANS 325 ORANGE STREET DUNELLEN NJ 08812	23,478.44	1,144.22	500.00	25,122.66
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TOTAL REFUNDED \$25,122.66

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:

04-21-2025: # 194

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 742 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 RTLJF-NJ II 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>
24-00020	45	13. 02	CUSUMANO, CHRISTOPHER V 742 DUNELLEN AVE DUNELLEN NJ 08812	886.36	10.41	500.00	1396.77

TOTAL REFUNDED \$1396.77

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:

04-21-2025: # 195

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 533
MOUNTAINVIEW TERRACE**

**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>
24-19	40	5	WALLACE, CORRINE 533 MOUNTAINVIEW TERRACE DUNELLEN NJ 08812	692.69	10.33	500.00	1203.02

TOTAL REFUNDED \$1203.02

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:

04-21-2025: # 196

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TAX SALE REDEMPTION FOR 269 MAPLE
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 BALA PARTNERS

<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>
23-08	78	26	SCHAFER, MICHELLE 269 MAPLE AVE DUNELLEN NJ 08812	14,459.79	2,985.35	29,000	46,445.14

TOTAL REFUNDED \$46,445.14

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:

04-21-2025: # 197

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, for a total of one year, commencing on April 21, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025.

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

Council Reports

Council Member Albertson

Friends of the Dunellen Public Library

Join us for our Murder Mystery Dinner on May 10th at the George W Hodulik Firehouse. We invite the public to join us. Follow us on our Facebook page, Instagram and there are posters around town. Our Open-Air Market begins on May 4th at Washington Memorial Park. It will be the first and third Sundays from May until October. Please come and join us.

Council Member Rios

Buildings and Grounds Report

Most of the replacement trees have been planted in the downtown area this past week. The DPW is currently working on ordering plants to be placed around the trees and will also be installing mulch. DPW, in collaboration with the school groundskeeper, has also been maintaining the ball fields.

PARSA Report

PARSA was on-site on April 18th to complete a sewer lateral repair on Penifield Place. The repair was necessary due to an improper connection made when a contractor working on the 2024 NJ American Water project had to cut the lateral line.

Board of Education

Kindergarten registration is now open for Dunellen residents whose children will turn five years old on or before October 1, 2025. Families may register their children for the 2025–2026 kindergarten program at Faber Elementary School.

- Kindergarten Parent Orientation: May 21 at 6:00 PM
- Kindergarten Student Orientation: June 10, 11, and 12
- Registration will also be available during the parent orientation session.

Upcoming School Events:

- May 2: Lincoln Middle School Spring Dance
- May 7: National Bike to School Day

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on May 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Dunellen Public Library

- April 23 at 3:30 PM: Fairy Terrarium Craft with Mrs. Jessie (Ages 6+) – Please call to register.
- April 30 at 3:30 PM: Butterfly Tea Craft (Ages 9+)
- Every Saturday at 10:30 AM: Storytime (Ages 3+)
- Every Friday at 3:15 PM: Family Movie Day

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and check our website for more exciting upcoming events!

Council Member VanDermark

Absent

Council Member Lantz

Last Sunday, April 13th, the Dunellen Recreation Department held its annual Easter Egg Hunt, which turned out to be a tremendous success with a fantastic turnout! All four hunts were conducted on the football field, with children from Pre-K up to 3rd grade taking turns racing across the field to fill their baskets with Easter eggs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Mayor and Council for their unwavering support of our events. A special thank you goes to our Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and Police Department for their assistance. We appreciate the Fire Department for providing a special escort for our guest of honor, the Easter Bunny, making it a memorable experience for the kids. We would also like to acknowledge Dunellen High School volunteers who helped fill eggs throughout the week and assisted on the day of the hunt. Lastly, we thank the Recreation Commission for their commitment to helping make this event unforgettable.

Tonight marks an exciting evening for our recreation kids as coach pitch games kick off, our minor league softball team plays their first home game, and Youth Spring Tennis begins tonight! Tennis for ages 6-17 starts this evening and will run for five weeks. There is still space available in the program for more young players! Best of luck to all our spring athletes!

Play Ball

Our Opening Day parade and ceremony is set for this Saturday, April 26th, at 10:00 AM. Teams will gather at Washington Park at 9:30. The parade will start at Washington Park and proceed north on Washington Avenue to McCoy Park, where the opening ceremony will be held. Stick around after the ceremony for our Volunteer Picnic, which coincides with Opening Day. Join us

for games, music, food, softball, and more! This is also a great opportunity to meet our town's volunteers. Interested in volunteering? This is the perfect chance to learn more.

Hometown Heroes

We have ordered nine additional banners for the spring, which will be displayed downtown in May, bringing our total to 119 banners. These banners are expected to last at least three years. Thanks to the new banners, last year the DPW started hanging banners further north on Washington Avenue and on the east side, adding a lovely touch to that area of town.

Council President Sigmon

Stated that this volunteer picnic is a great opportunity for people to get to understand what you have the option to do to help out in town. We have a great group of people that will be there and lots of information and fun things to do.

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..
- Continuing to inspect and clean out the catch basins throughout the Borough.
- Prepped baseball fields for weekend tournaments
- Cleaned out the trash trap.
- Continually picked up bags and branches around town.
- Assisted PSEG with the removal of two borough trees.
- Fixed potholes in the DPW yard and the Fire Department parking lot
- Ran 30 tons of street sweepings to land fill

The street-sweeping schedule has started. Please remove vehicles from the street

- 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
- Orchestrated retrieval of credits to the Dpw NAPA account, with over \$1,500 worth of store credit from new old stock items, dating back to older vehicles the borough no longer owns.
- Service Borough's Senior Bus, full maintenance on the bus, service the wheelchair lift of the bus, clean inside of the bus, old stains on the walls and floors. Maintain a clean and welcoming visual for riders of the bus. To include stripping, cleaning, priming and painting wheels for an updated clean appearance to the bus.
- Maintain all records of borough equipment, ensuring all units' registrations are up to date.

Mayor Cilento

Hoped everyone had a nice blessed Easter and Passover with their families. The Easter Egg Hunt was a great time.

National Volunteer Month Activities: April is National Volunteer Month in the Borough of Dunellen, and we have two events coming up this week to celebrate. First, on Wednesday at 7:00 PM, we will be hosting a Mayoral Town Hall on Volunteerism at the George W. Hodulik Firehouse. Our volunteers will be joining us to talk about their board or commission, what they do, and how you can get involved. You can attend in person or join us online via Zoom or live on YouTube.

Then on Saturday, April 26, our 2nd annual Volunteer Picnic Day will immediately follow Opening Day at McCoy Park. This free event is a community celebration of our dedicated volunteers who work each and every day for our Borough.

Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony: The Borough of Dunellen will be holding our annual Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. We invite all members of the community to join us as we commemorate the fallen heroes of our great nation. All scouts, recreation sports teams, youth organizations, and high school athletes are invited to march. Those interested in having a float in this year's parade should contact Recreation Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com by Monday, May 12.

Army Corps of Engineers Green Brook Survey Work: The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has reached out to the Borough of Dunellen requesting rights of entry to Borough-owned properties along the Green Brook. USACE, in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), will be performing survey work over the next three years associated with the Green Brook Flood Control Project to analyze River Channel Cross Sections that may have been affected or changed by Tropical Storms Irene and Ida.

Although a specific start date has not yet been provided, USACE will notify the Borough in advance of any planned activity. The Borough will then inform residents of when survey teams are expected to be present along the Green Brook. These teams may be visible while conducting their assessments, however, no disruptions to residential properties are expected.

Anticipated locations include sections of Fourth Street, Jackson Avenue, Mountainview Terrace, Lincoln Avenue, North Washington Avenue, Third Street, and Sixth Street in Green Brook.

This work is essential to ensuring the effectiveness of ongoing and future flood mitigation efforts in the Borough of Dunellen.

2024 NJ American Water Project: On April 18th, a sewer lateral issue from an improper connection was discovered by our DPW and PARSA on Penfield Place. Business Administrator Alex Miller will meet with an NJAW representative about this issue this week. NJAW will be responsible for fully repairing the street according to our 5-year moratorium.

CME Report:

- **Kline Place** – The infrared pavement repairs were performed, and CME is investigating recent concerns raised about chipped curbs and pavement cracks.
- **Washington Avenue Streetlighting** - A preconstruction meeting was held on March 6th. CME is in the process of working out issues with PSEG.

- **Second Street Phase 1** – A preconstruction meeting was held on March 6th, and a notice to proceed was issued on March 25th. Work is scheduled to commence on April 29th, weather permitting.
- **Railroad Culvert** – CME attended a meeting with representatives of the Army Corp. and DEP to discuss the status of their improvements and whether or not they have improved tailwater conditions in the Bonygut Brook. They shared their analyses with the Army Corp. and are coordinating the analyses with them. They have also contacted the I Bank to discuss next steps with the financing of the project. CME is preparing a response to the latest questions from Army Corp.
- **Strip Joint/635 Bound Brook Road** – The bids were received on March 27th at 11:00. Due to irregularities with the apparent low bid and Local Public Contracts Law requirements, it appears that the project will need to be re-bid.
- CME requested the status of the New Market Road and Walnut Street Intersection project from the County, and they have indicated that they have solicited a proposal from an engineering firm, which was due back to the County on April 15.

Council Discussion

None.

Department Head Reports

Legal

No Report

Clerk

Dunellen is looking for 2 more poll workers for the June 10th Primary election. The two spots can be filled by a Democrat, Republican or Unaffiliated Middlesex County registered voter. Hours are 5:15 am to 8:00 pm. The pay for the day is \$300.00. Poll workers are required to take one training class which they will be paid \$30.00. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk's Office as soon as possible.

IT

No Report

DPW

No Report

Recreation

No Report

OEM

Some Dunellen OEM Staff and CERT members will be participating in a full-scale exercise, named "Disasterville," at the Middlesex Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. on Saturday, April 26, 2025. CERT teams from across NJ, along with First Responders and the State Emergency Reservists, will exercise their skills responding to a Tornado with a debris field and injured and dead citizens (actors) at the site.

Dunellen OEM and CERT will be presenting an overview of our organization at the Mayor's Town Hall on Volunteerism on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm. We hope to be represented at the Volunteer picnic on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Police

No Report

Fire

No Report

Library

No Report

Admin

No Report

Public Comment

Homer Mosley, 113 Pearl Place- Stated that there was a set of chairs in front of a neighboring house that had been there for weeks. DPW was trying to sweep the streets and couldn't. The Mayor stated that we would look into it and give Mrs. Staats the address and notify Code Enforcement.

There were no comments from anyone online.

Adjournment

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

04-21-2025: # 198

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 April 21, 2025 is adjourned.

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

Meeting Ended: 7:37 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/kpWjLQ7WBck?feature=shared>

Lauren Staats

Lauren Staats, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Minutes Approved: May 5, 2025