

Mayor Schaumburg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Pender (left following the meeting and prior to Ex. Session), Quinones-Perez, Ragozine, Mayor Schaumburg

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Schaumburg read the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided, indicating the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda, which notice was posted, made available to newspapers, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Clinton in accordance with Section 3(d) of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the minutes of the special meeting with the Parks and Playgrounds Commission on December 11, 2006 as presented.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the minutes of December 12, 2006 as presented.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Dorf, of Union Road, asked if there has been any discussions regarding the installation of guard rails at the Exit 15 intersection, in front of the Shell Station? Mr. Dorf expressed concern of safety conditions for pedestrians because of the volume of cars and trucks in this high traffic area. Mayor Schaumburg and Police Chief Matheis will contact NJDOT.

Louis Tranquilli, 11 Rupells Road, thanked everyone involved in the installation of the speed platforms on Rupells Road. Mr. Tranquilli said it has calmed the traffic considerably. Mr. Tranquilli took this opportunity to thank Councilwoman Joelle Garber for all her work as councilwoman over the last three years.

Joyce Van Natta, Mrs. Garber’s mother, also expressed her feelings towards the Councilwoman. All her efforts and time that she devoted to her position made a considerable impact on the Town of Clinton.

Dan Mahoney, 7 Spruce Run Road, addressed the new traffic light at the Exit 15 intersection and asked if the new traffic pattern is going to remain? Mayor Schaumburg explained that it is now lined up with the Exit ramp traffic and the traffic coming from the Knolls area. It will take time for

everyone to become adjusted to it but it is working well to date. Mr. Mahoney said he sees problems with the turning lanes into traffic.

Margaret Hamilton, remarked that the individual drivers make the problems, they are not paying attention.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The last meeting of 2006 and we have accomplished great things!

- The Town of Clinton received \$10,000 in HART grants towards the engineering portion of the Pedestrian and Bike Path.
- Exit 15 is well underway, looking forward to completion in May of 2007.
- \$150,000 received in grants from the Department of Transportation for the Clinton Knolls
- \$80,000 in grants from Department of Transportation for School Street
- \$45,000 from the Office of Smart Growth to continue the Town's Vision Study in an effort to improve traffic, parking, and the aesthetics of Old Highway 22
- Halstead Bridge project is complete, sidewalks on both sides and wired for historic lighting.

Looking forward to 2007:

- Mr. Cutter's goals are to increase the use of green chemicals, environmentally safe products, for the Municipal Building and the Community Center
- A new recycling program to begin in January will include the recycling of plastic, and the comingling of glass and cans. Cardboard will also be added. This increase in recycling should bring about a 2 to 3% decrease in trash.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant will pursue solar panels on the plant building
- The Grants Committee will seek new grants for future improvements to the Community Center and fields.

Thank you to Councilwoman Joelle Garber for her commitment to the Governing Body of the Town of Clinton over the past three years. Ms. Garber made improvements to the Newsletter, helped start the Web Site, helped build the Emergency Services Foundation to raise money for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. We are very proud of all her hard work.

SIGN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Members of the Sign Committee attended this evening's meeting to seek clarification from Council and Attorney Cushing regarding the duties, responsibilities and powers of the Sign Committee. Lou Tranquilli, Chairman, Carol Gallo and Steve Feldmann addressed the confusion lingering from the letter that was mailed to merchants in October. Merchants were advised that they were required to come into compliance for any permanent sign that a permit has not been issued for by January 9, 2007. The Committee cannot grant a variance, however, they can, as well as John Leonard the Zoning Officer, issue a sign permit in accordance with the ordinance terms. The sign would have to conform to the Sign Ordinance, if it does not, a variance would have to be sought from the Board of Adjustment. After a lengthy discussion, the Sign Committee agreed to meet on January 4, 2007 to review the Sign Ordinance and prepare recommendations to present to Council. Mr. Cushing will discuss the matter and the definition of a sign with Board of Adjustment Attorney, William Caldwell. John Barczyk, Code Enforcement and Housing Officer, was also present for this discussion and offered his interpretation of the process.

RESOLUTION #120-06 – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #120-06 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE #06-20 – RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Ragozine explained that additional clarification is required before moving forward with this Ordinance. Council is waiting for a report from the Auditor. Mr. Ragozine made a motion, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to postpone this ordinance and reconsider it in 2007.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Joe Manghisi, resident of Messig Road and a member of the Parks and Playgrounds Commission, stated that the Commission never spent tax dollars. Fees were collected for the use of the Community Center from non-residents and the money collected from the fees was used for repairs. In 2006, money was used for new gym floor, new bathrooms and in the past, a basketball court was built. The Commission has been together for 35 years.

Jack McBurney asked what is it that now makes the Commission unlawful? Mr. Ragozine explained that an ordinance must be in place to collect fees. The origin of the Parks and Playgrounds Commission is not clear and it does not fit in the law with current standards, according to the Auditor.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mayor Schaumburg read the recommendation of Paul Klitsch, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, to hire Douglas Berry as an employee on January 2, 2007. A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine to hire Douglas Berry as requested at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

2. Council is in receipt of a letter from Al Rylak, thanking and commending our Police Department for their professionalism.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS**Councilwoman Garber**

Councilwoman Garber expressed her heartfelt appreciation for having the opportunity to serve on Council. Joelle remembered a time that she did not have the ambition to run, but after being approached by Christine Schaumburg back in 2003 she took the leap. Joelle enjoyed being involved and helping everyone she could. She definitely made a difference and will be missed.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Rescue Squad drawing of the 50/50 raffle was held December 20th. First prize winner was Police Chief Brett Matheis winning \$8,589.00 and second place winner Robert Larsen of the Clinton 5 & 10 won \$6,381.00.

Mr. De Cleene sold 401 tickets totaling \$8,020.00 Mr. Bahto has sold \$5,000.00. Great job!

Mr. De Cleene echoed his thanks and good wishes to Mrs. Garber and Mrs. Quinones-Perez for their service to the Council. Mrs. Quinones-Perez stepped into the seat of Councilwoman Kovach in August, 2006.

Councilwoman Quinones-Perez

1. Emergency Services Foundation – next meeting Tuesday, January 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Harrison

1. Mr. Harrison said he is pleased to report to the Hunterdon County SWAC (Solid Waste Advisory Council) that the Town of Clinton has improved their recycling program.

RESOLUTION #121-06 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #121-06 as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Pender, Ragozine, Quinones-Perez,
Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Garber to approve the attached overtime and standby pay for the period of December 1 – December 14, 2006.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Pender, Ragozine, Quinones-Perez,
Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Pender, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Pender, Quinones-Perez, Ragozine,
Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to enter into Executive Session by moving Resolution #122-06, to discuss contract negotiations.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, return to the Regular Council Meeting in order to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene seconded by Mr. Ragozine to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor