

4645

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Kovach 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. Carberry seconded by Mr. Rylak, to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held July 11, 2017.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Sosidka, Kovach)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Mr. Carberry to approve the executive session minutes of July 11, 2017 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Sosidka, Kovach)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – JUNE

A motion was made by Mr. Pendergast, seconded by Mr. Rylak to approve the monthly reports for the month of June for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Treasurer’s Reports.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Kovach received a letter of resignation from Jon Sosidka, resigning from the Newsletter and Website Committee as of August 1, 2017. Jon will be heading to California at the end of August to attend the University of the Pacific. A motion was made by Ms. Sosidka, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to accept his resignation with regrets.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

2. Mayor Kovach has been receiving concerns regarding the trees in Town and is asking the Building and Grounds committee to review the current tree ordinance and make a recommendation to the Shade Tree Commission. There needs to be a more consistent language as to whose responsibility it is to care for trees. At this time, the ordinance seems to send a “mix message”.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY UTILITY CONSULTANTS

Stacia Scaduto, of Commercial Utility Consultants, attended this evening's meeting to make a presentation of the savings residents can benefit from on the supply portion of their utility bills. Mayor Timothy McDonough of Hope Township, also spoke on behalf of CUC and commented on the savings several Warren County towns are now benefitting from since signing on with the State run program. Ms. Scaduto's power point presentation made for a clear explanation of the savings and the simple process of signing on and even opting out if a resident wishes to do so. There are no fees and the lowest price is always the bottom line. Ms. Scaduto answered several questions from Council and all were very pleased with the presentation. Consideration will be made to proceed with CUC and at this time Mr. Smith asked Counsel to review the proposed ordinance. Tara St. Angelo was provided with the presentation and the proposed ordinance and will report back to council at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Smith also suggested that Ms. Scaduto talk to Mr. Phelan as to savings that can be made for the Water and Sewer Departments.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY DAYTIME FIRE DEPARTMENT COVERAGE PROPOSAL

Members of the Clinton Fire Department, President, Bob Hoffman; Chief Walt Dorf; former Chief and President of the Hunterdon County Fire Chief Association, Scott Wintermute; as well as Marc Cirillo from Annandale Hose and the staffing committee and Rob Walton, of the Hampton Fire Department and Hunterdon County Freeholder. A power point presentation was made by Mr. Walton explaining the current situation in most fire departments in Hunterdon County as being short handed during the day and the need for paid firefighters to be available. Three locations in the county would be manned to respond and further explained that a new fire truck would be purchased at the cost of \$350,000. Mr. Smith asked about the cost of the fire truck and why did the Town of Clinton purchase the last one for \$650,000? Chief Dorf explained that the \$650,000 was for a custom built item, not stock. Mr. Walton said the \$350,000 truck was for chassis and truck and that the county is able to make repairs as necessary. Additional funds would be required to purchase hoses, etc. Many questions were asked by Council and responses from Dorf, Wintermute, Walton and Cirillo were made. The increase in taxes to a Clinton family would be approximately \$21.00 a year. Mayor Kovach asked how involved the municipalities would be in working with the Freeholders and their progression in the process? Mr. Walton stated that this committee has been going to municipalities explaining the need and the plan and seeking support and will report back to the Freeholders. Councilman Pendergast expressed his support of the County daytime fire department. Mr. Rylak feels it is important to educate residents about the proposal and the fact that Clinton Fire Department is manned by volunteers and not a paid full time department.

John Kashwick, 21 Water Street, thanked Council for all they do and commented on the topic at hand by saying for \$21.00 per household per year is a small price to pay for protection and he supports the County daytime fire department.

Scott Wintermute suggested the Mayor and Council review the template resolution and feel free to add language about being included in Freeholder meetings and discussions. To be continued.....

RESOLUTION #95-17 – AMENDED POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE

A motion was made by Mr. Carberry seconded by Mr. Rylak to adopt Resolution #95-17 as submitted:

RESOLUTION NO. 95-17

Resolution Authorizing the Postponement of a Mortgage Between

The Town of Clinton and Citizens Bank, N.A.

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WHEREAS, on November 12, 1999, Thomas E. Goitz and Kathie G. Wildrick made a mortgage to the N.J. Council on Affordable Housing, Town of Clinton (Clinton Town Affordable Housing Authority) for property located at Block 31.01, Lot 7.01 and known by the street address of 5 Woodcrest Lane, Clinton, NJ, said mortgage being filed on November 18, 1999 in Mortgage Book 1374 at page 548 in the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office which mortgage was second and subordinate to the first mortgage in the original principal amount of \$59,950 made to Bank of America, N.A.; and,

WHEREAS, Thomas E. Goitz and Kathie G. Wildrick now seek to refinance their first mortgage with Bank of America, N.A., in the amount of \$71,648.00, and a condition of their refinance is that the mortgage held by the Town of Clinton be subordinated to the new Bank of America mortgage and remain a second priority mortgage; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Town of Clinton and the Clinton Town Affordable Housing Authority have reviewed the proposed form of Postponement of Mortgage and have determined that it may be executed without detriment to the Town of Clinton or the Clinton Town Affordable Housing Authority and herein authorize the appropriate individuals to execute the Postponement of Mortgage in the form annexed to this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Town of Clinton that the Mayor and Clerk are authorized on behalf of the Town of Clinton and the Clinton Town Affordable Housing Authority to execute the approved Postponement of Mortgage in the form annexed hereto and shall sign same; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a signed copy of the Postponement of Mortgage shall be placed in the Applicant's file; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fair Housing Administrator or Township Clerk will advise the Applicant when the Postponement has been signed and is available for pick up and shall receive a receipt for its delivery.

ROLL CALL: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #96-17 – EXTENSION OF TAXES DUE DATE

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Mr. Carberry to adopt Resolution #96-17 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 96-17

WHEREAS, the 2017 tax rate for the Town of Clinton was certified by the Hunterdon County Tax Board on July 20, 2017, thereby creating a delay in the issuance of the Final 2017/Preliminary 2018 tax bills, and

WHEREAS, the third quarter tax amount is due on August 1, 2017, with a ten day grace period,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, that the grace period for the payment of third quarter 2017 taxes be extended until August 28, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any third quarter 2017 tax payments received after August 28, 2017 shall be charged interest from the original due date of August 1, 2017.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Richard Phelan, Business Administrator

Parking lots are completed and may appear to have been patched. A few areas in the lot were ponding water and have been fixed and will be rerolled to finish the project completely.

Kathy Olsen, CFO/Tax Collector

Tax bills will be mailed this week with a due date of August 28, 2017 as Resolution #96-17 states.

Councilwoman Sosidka

Historic Commission met and remarked on how nice the plantings look around the historic “Welcome to Clinton” signs that were recently repainted by Karen Romagna.

Board of Recreation did not hold their regular meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Councilman Pendergast

Sewer Committee – did not meet in July and will hopefully be meeting in August to continue discussions of filter building improvements.

Councilman Rylak

Conservancy – Mayor Kovach referred the Hermann family to Mr. Rylak for their interest in working with the Clinton Conservancy. Mr. Rylak said dogwood trees have recently been planted at the Water Street parking lot.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Carberry seconded by Mr. Rylak to approve the standby and overtime submitted for the period of June 30 through July 13, 2017 attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Carberry seconded by Mr. Rylak, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pendergast, seconded by Mr. Carberry to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach