

Special Meeting concerning Covid-19 via Facebook Live and Zoom

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, which notice was posted, 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.”

VIRTUAL MEETING STATEMENT

Mayor Kovach continued with this statement: “N.J.S.A 10:4-8(b) authorizes municipalities to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms. Recently adopted P.L. 2020, c. 11 amends OPMA to clarify that in times of emergency public bodies may vote, accept public comment, and cause a meeting to be open to the public via electronic means. The Town of Clinton is using ZOOM Video Meetings, which are also live-streamed to Facebook Live on the Town’s Facebook Page at @clintonnjgov. Please be aware that this meeting is being recorded for the public record. Both ZOOM and Facebook Live are imperfect, so if glitches pop-up, please be patient. We will address all questions and general comments after the governing body has conducted business and shared reports. We will take comments during the public hearings of any Ordinances on the agenda. Councilman Mike Humphrey will be moderating questions and comments on ZOOM and Facebook. Please use the chat feature in Zoom to indicate that you wish to be recognized for a comment. You can also type in questions. Feel free going forward to email councilmeeting@clintonnj.gov with any questions or concerns between meetings or questions you would like answered during future council meetings. You MUST provide your name and address to be recognized for comment. We ask that you keep your device muted until called upon by the council. The meeting’s moderator may also mute participants. The Mayor and Council will respond to all votes using chat. Please send me a note at jkovach@clintonnj.gov, call or text me at 908-399-8921 for any reason after the meeting.”

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Teacher parades are being planned in other communities. Chief Kubinak would like to discourage this from happening in the Town of Clinton, as it does not comply with the stay at home order in effect. Participants could possibly be ticketed. The mayor asked council members if they would like to continue the daily updates, or if once or twice a week would work. The determination was to have the update meetings twice a week, every Tuesday and Friday.

COUNCILMAN HUMPHREY

Concerning Dstrx business listings - What do we do with the business directory concerning the individual insurance agents, and individual realtors in town? For example, Weichert Realtors maintains an office in town, but there are also individual realtors. Coldwell Banker does not maintain an office in town, but there are some Coldwell Banker realtors who live in town. Councilman Traphagen stated that individuals should be allowed to be listed as they are somewhat independent contractors. Councilwoman Karsh commented that if an individual is going to be listed, they would need to live in town. Councilwoman Johnson stated that we can list individuals in an effort to support our residents. Mayor Kovach commented that opening it to individuals could result in individuals promoting businesses not even in Hunterdon County. Ms. St. Angelo commented that whatever the determination is, it needs to be universally applied. Councilman Humphrey suggested that the Economic Development Commission make the determination and bring it to council. Mayor Kovach stated that her personal preference is to limit it to only companies in town, and that residents who work in businesses outside of town could encourage those towns to create a Dstrx in that town. New Trival Pursuit questions are up at the park.

Councilman Humphrey noted that evening meetings are occurring during times when the internet is in heavy use, and suggested possibly holding the evening council meetings at a different time as the 7-8:30 is the busiest time. Ms. St. Angelo commented that possible ADA concerns could arise if people are not able to hear well during the meetings, and the software can't translate the meeting for hearing impaired people. Mayor Kovach suggested that she and Councilman Humphrey try out some times and then make recommendations. Invitations are going out to Elders Committee and Communications Committee to hold a meeting in the beginning of April using Zoom.

COUNCILWOMAN DINEEN

No update at this time.

COUNCILWOMAN KARSH

A list of top five business hotline resources available at this time is being disseminated to local businesses. Economic Development Committee has been brainstorming ideas to help the downtown area, and the business community.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON

The "bear hunt" has been very successful and generated a lot of positive feedback. There will be a new activity next week.

COUNCILMAN TRAPHAGEN

No update at this time.

ATTORNEY ST. ANGELO

Ms. St. Angelo stated that if there is a need for a virtual Executive Session to occur, that would require a separate call in number, as recommended by The Division of Local Government Services. The public meeting would be adjourned and then council would call in to the other number. The Division of Local Government Services is supposed to put out information about conducting Land Use Meetings, please forward to Ms. St. Angelo if you see it.

ADJOURNMENT

The next special update meeting will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2020 am via Facebook Live and Zoom.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk
(Prepared by Caitlin Haughey)

Mayor Janice Kovach