

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

Mayor Kovach participated in a conference call with Hunterdon Medical Center. They have 91 positive cases of Coronavirus; 40% of all patients at HMC are COVID-19 positive. Numbers being reported by that state are lower than that. It may take 24 hours for numbers to reconcile as a result of private testing labs. Governor Murphy issued an order that private labs must share that information with the state. HMC believes the peak in this area to be around April 10. Blood is in very short supply. Please reach out to make an appointment to donate blood at 908-788-6405. Governor Murphy has been working with lending institutions concerning mortgage payments, and residents have been asking about a tax payment grace period. The Town of Clinton is waiting for direction from Local Government Services as to how that will be handled. Council needs to do a resolution to wave interest on late water and sewer payments. At this time, there are no reported cases of Coronavirus in the Town of Clinton.

COUNCILMAN HUMPHREY

Town has signed up for a 90 day free trial of an emergency alert system through Civic Plus called Civic Ready which will allow for text, email and phone alerts. Dstrx is running well, encourage residents to use it. The link for this Zoom meeting will remain the link for all future update meetings.

COUNCILWOMAN KARSH

Hunterdon Medical Center is looking for donations of CPAP machines that people have but are not using as they can be retrofitted to be used as ventilators. HMC has 6 special facilities for respiratory testing, locations can be found on the HMC website. Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation is looking for both monetary and PPE donations. 3D printers have been used to create PPE and respirator parts. Clinton

Public School has a 3D printer so Mayor Kovach reached out to the school to see if that can be a resource. A “Top Five” list will be created every Monday to get information out to residents and businesses about what is going on in the town. Clinton Guild is holding a zoom meeting Thursday, April 2, 2020 and Councilwoman Karsh will participate in that meeting and report back on it. County Freeholders are holding a “listen only” teleconference March 31 at 5:30 pm.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON

Councilwoman Johnson will post links on her webpage for free webinars concerning managing anxiety. Councilman Humphrey suggested putting another section on the Town of Clinton website Covid-19 page to post these free resources. Wednesday night will be a candlelight vigil. She and Councilwoman Karsh have been brainstorming about other community activities. Summer Recreation trip sign up night has been postponed until a later date; more information will follow.

COUNCILWOMAN DINEEN

No update at this time.

ATTORNEY ST. ANGELO

The Land Use Board April meeting is cancelled, the May meeting can be held virtually, if necessary.

COUNCILWOMAN INTRABARTOLA

No updates at this time.

COUNCILMAN TRAPHAGEN

No update at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The next special update meeting will be held Friday, April 3, 2020 at 10:00 am via Facebook Live and Zoom.

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

Mayor Janice Kovach