

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, 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.”

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 [@clintonnj.gov](https://www.facebook.com/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

Town has purchased laptops for all council members, the clerk, Cecilia Covino, and the CFO, Kathy Olsen. All materials for council meetings will now be sent via email instead of hard copies placed into council members’ folders. The State SBA loan applications have gone live today. Some banks have not gone live with their applications yet, or are having issues. Links can be found on the [clintonnj.gov](https://www.clintonnj.gov) web page. Income tax filing date has been moved to July 15, 2020. Chief Kubinak has been receiving complaints that businesses in town are not sanitizing properly or practicing social distancing. Businesses that do not comply with those requirements may have to be shut down. ShopRite of Clinton had an employee test positive and did a complete sanitizing before they reopened. This is going to be a long road, and longer still if people don’t comply with social distancing. The chalk walk has been a big success.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON

Council members need to present a united front. Council members are working on activities for the town. Mayor Kovach requested that council keep her in the loop with what each member is working on so that efforts aren’t duplicated and the process can be streamlined. Mayor Kovach reminded council members that they are always representing the town. The Recreation Commission will be having a virtual meeting April 16, 2020. Summer Rec, the Senior luncheon, and the Town Picnic will all be discussed. Councilwoman Johnson will post resources about mental health, parenting, and anxiety on the official Facebook page.

COUNCILMAN HUMPHREY

Councilman Humphrey sent the information to all council members to have the ability to post on the official Facebook page. Workforce on Facebook may be a good solution to keep council members apprised of the workflow of what is being posted. He will do more research and report back. The town also has Instagram and Twitter accounts, and a YouTube channel to post videos. He is setting up a Nextdoor account as well. We have to wait for Nextdoor to mail a code to create the account before it is up and running. Encourage residents to sign up for the emergency notification system. Notifications can be sent via email, text and phone calls. Councilman Humphrey participated in the Save Our Seniors program by shopping for a senior resident of Clinton Township this morning. Upon check out, there are three receipts generated, one for the shopper, one for the senior and one for ShopRite. When the shopper delivers the groceries, the senior writes a check which the shopper then brings back to ShopRite. Mayor Kovach noted that she had spoken with the owner of the Clinton ShopRite who stated that there were over 40 volunteers for the program and only a handful of seniors who had signed up. She asked the town administrator, Rich Phelan, to send an email blast out to encourage our senior residents to participate. The Communications Committee had a virtual meeting and discussed creating a pamphlet only for seniors. There will be a tear off on the pamphlet for the senior to return with their contact information, as well as contact information for their emergency contacts, i.e. a family member that could be reached in the event of an emergency. Right now the Town has one Zoom account, and Mr. Humphrey suggests that a second account be created so two meetings can take place simultaneously. Further discussion on this topic can take place during the regular council meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN INTRABARTOLA

There are so many Facebook pages that reference the Town of Clinton that our “brand” gets diluted. Ms. St. Angelo stated that there is nothing that can be done about those pages from a legal standpoint, so make sure that the official Facebook page of the Town states that it is the only official page and the only place to get accurate information. Ms. St. Angelo also suggests contacting the administrators of the other pages and asking them to refrain from posting town information. The Communications committee will come up with an official way to disseminate information. Mayor Kovach requested that all council members have the ability to post on the official web page. Ms. Intrabartola is working on gathering information for the senior pamphlet, ie. Meals on Wheels, the SOS program, pharmacies that deliver, etc. Trip Night for Summer Rec has been postponed for a second time. At this point in time Summer Rec is still scheduled to occur, but a final decision will have to wait a few more weeks.

COUNCILWOMAN KARSH

The Guild of Clinton held their first Zoom meeting yesterday, April 2, 2020. Guild members are discussing selling products for businesses that do not currently have online sales capability. They are discussing doing a Clinton t shirt sale. The Guild made a generous donation to Hunterdon Medical Center. Hunterdon Art Museum is holding virtual classes. Go Hunterdon has an available grant through the AARP that the Elders Committee can apply for. Resident Brad Cohen has 3D printers and has volunteered to print components of PPE. Ms. Karsh has been in contact with the congressman’s office to get Mr. Cohen connected to the right people. Any other residents with 3D printers feel free to contact Ms. Karsh if you are willing to help. Please send her any information you wish to be included in the Top Five Lists.

COUNCILMAN TRAPHAGEN

The Go Hunterdon grant is very broad and can be used for anything that would benefit seniors in the town. Please reach out to him and Councilman Humphrey with ideas and input. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2020. A North Hunterdon Emergency Services Facebook page has recently been launched by some local high school students, it is not an official page. Clinton Presbyterian Church will hold a blood drive April 18, 2020. Pre-registration is required so that social distancing can be maintained.

ATTORNEY ST. ANGELO

Ms. St. Angelo suggested that restaurants be required to provide curbside pickup. The Division of Local Government Services issued their guidelines on conducting virtual Land Use Board meetings so those meetings can now be held.

COUNCILWOMAN DINEEN

Roads committee will meet later this morning, April 3, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT The next special update meeting will be held Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 10:00 am via Facebook Live and Zoom.

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

Mayor Janice Kovach