

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Dineen, Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, Karsh, Traphagen, 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.”

Mayor Kovach welcomed the public to the meeting and explained how the meeting will be run by reading the following 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.

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 be addressing all questions and general comments after the governing body has conducted business and shared reports. We will take comments during the public hearing 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.

You must provide you name and address to be recognized for comment.

We ask that you keep your device muted until called upon by the council.

The Mayor and Council will respond to all votes using chat.

Please feel free to reach out with a note at jkovach@clintonnj.gov for any reason after the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Intrabartola, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the council meeting minutes of March 25, 2020 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – MARCH

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to accept the Monthly Reports for the month of March as submitted: Administrator’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Cat and Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control / Inspection Report, Police Report, Tax Collector’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Zoning Officer

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Kovach gave an update of the Coronavirus cases in Hunterdon County as of today, 255 cases 5 deaths in the county and 6 cases in Clinton. There will be a testing station set up at Raritan Valley Community College for Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. To report distancing issues call 211. Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad reporting calls are double from March of 2019.

Shoprite from home is suspending services at this time until further notice.

Friday, April 10 is a holiday and offices will be closed accordingly, however, recycling will still be picked up by the garbage hauler.

Dr. Cohen, Superintendent at Clinton Public School, has sent three computers to teachers who are working with Rutgers to install 3D hardware on computers to make face masks.

Hunterdon County is displaying blue lights on the Pony Truss Bridge in recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

Four additional Executive Orders have been instituted by the Governor’s Office as of today and we are still awaiting clarification on what is deemed essential.

The primary election has been moved from June 2 to July 7, 2022. It has not yet been determined if it will only be vote by mail.

All non-essential construction will be halted as of Friday, April 10 @ 8:00 p.m.

All essential retail establishments will limit capacity to 50% in accordance with the fire codes determination of what capacity is.

Mayor Kovach presented a proclamation - Global Youth Education Week April 11 – 19, 2020.

The National League of Cities reported that the next stimulus of \$250,000,000 bill that goes to communities does not have the HUD restrictions that the current bill has. Clinton does not meet the criteria and that is why Clinton does not qualify for CBDG grant block.

RESOLUTION #84-20 – GRACE PERIOD FOR UTILITY BILLS

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh, to adopt Resolution #84-20 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #84-20

**PROVIDING A SIXTY-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF WATER AND
SEWER BILLS**

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103, Governor Phil Murphy declared that a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency exist in the State of New Jersey as a result of an outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Town of Clinton (the “Town”) declared that a local public health emergency and state of emergency exist in the Town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 107, Governor Phil Murphy ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses and required, with limited exceptions, New Jersey residents to remain in their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 119, Governor Phil Murphy extended the declaration of Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency through May 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton realize that the restrictions business operations and on residents’ movement has caused economic distress to many residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby allow a sixty-day grace period for the payment of any bills for water and sewer service that become due between March 9, 2020 and May 9, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby authorize the waiver of any interest, fees, or penalties associated with the payment of such bills.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Chief of Police Kubinak

Chief Kubinak reported that the police department is very busy and with reference to the Governor’s Executive Orders adjustments are being made to the daily functions of the department. As Mayor Kovach mentioned, clarifications as to construction restrictions is still not clear, the focus is on critical infrastructure such as hospitals, municipal buildings, police departments but cosmetic construction is not essential, such as a retaining wall.

Opening day of fishing season is April 11, restrictions as to social distancing will be strictly enforced. Parks and playgrounds are closed as well as the Lansdown Trail and Chief is concerned with people violating that when it comes to fishing along the South Branch that goes through that area. The South Branch is a different entity, the river is considered a right of way and will be open to fishing, but it will be closely monitored. Chief has been in contact with the Prosecutors Office as to what procedures to follow and Attorney St. Angelo would like to review the Prosecutors comments when available.

Hunts Mill Park is still open, the Governor is leaving local parks up to the individual municipality’s judgement. Chief said he is trying to keep them open unless it becomes a problem.

Main Street has been the biggest problem for gathering. The police are monitoring closely.

Kathy Olsen, CFO

Staggered hours are working well.

Councilwoman Karsh

Ms. Karsh wanted to reiterate how exciting it is that the 3D printers at CPS and the teachers are working with RVCC. Brad Cohen is also involved with the printers and Paul Arnold’s company, Switlik Parachute Company, Inc. is also working in making face shields.

Roads – Committee is in receipt of a memo from Attorney St. Angelo regarding the legal issues of the speed humps on Haver Farm and Mr. Phelan was asked to forward the memo to the full council.

Economic Development Commission has not yet met but a meeting is tentatively set for next week. The committee would like to meet and discuss a plan of recovery for the local businesses.

At a February meeting, John Creech and Ms. Karsh, presented their vision of helping the business community and bringing new businesses to the Town. A grant proposal was prepared for the Economic Development Commission to move ahead but it seems to have fallen through. Hopefully, once the state of emergency passes and things get back to normal, another grant writer will be sought to prepare and submit a proposal to the Highlands Grant Council and the committee can proceed with their plan.

78/22 Coalition is making public several webinars through the Chamber of Commerce and the County Economic Development. Today's topic was Mental Health. The webinars are very helpful and Ms. Karsh asked that they continue to be shared with the community.

Ms. Karsh has a list of local farm stands selling fruits and vegetables and would like to post them on the website, especially now that Shoprite from home is not able to provide that service at this time. If anyone has similar information, please pass it on.

Councilman Traphagen

Shade Tree will meet via zoom the week of April 13, 2020. Mr. Humphrey is working with chair John Kashwick to set it up.

Mr. Traphagen wanted to report that Costco in Flemington is doing a great job for the public. They are wiping down carts, strict on distancing and well stocked. Kudos to all the folks there!

Councilwoman Johnson

Board of Recreation – planning to meet April 16 via zoom.

Last week's community event was a town wide shout out to all health care heroes thanking them for all they are doing.

Community events – egg hunt for children to spot Easter eggs but not to collect, hang them in windows or placed in the yards, a fun activity for children walking with their parents.

As a therapist and health care professional, Ms. Johnson has many books available for children and adults regarding anxiety and crisis situations. There are resources available for children and adults in need so feel free to reach out!

Councilwoman Dineen

Roads – Reviewing the stormwater management plan and the new regulations being proposed. The town is required to adopt a new Stormwater Master Plan by March of 2021 so if there are changes to be made there is time to do so, however if all is compliant they may remain as is and update where necessary.

The committee is applying for road repair grants, luckily most of the roads are in good condition. Land Use Board scheduled to meet May 5, 2020.

Councilwoman Intrabartola

Summer Recreation trip meeting has not been rescheduled as of yet however, the program is still a go at this point.

Communications Committee is working on a pamphlet for seniors that may not have access to emails and other social media to stay aware of special notices and information. Mr. Humphrey and Ms. Intrabartola hope to have mailed out within two weeks. Ms. Johnson suggested a note in the pamphlet possibly getting youths or anyone interested to volunteer to help seniors getting their grass cut or helping in other ways.

Councilman Humphrey

Time for newsletter articles, please submit the first week of May. There may not be many reports from committees, but certainly articles of the COVID-19 and what the town has done during this time will fill the pages.

DISTRX has 38 businesses listed and is really progressing.

ZOOM meetings can be run for commissions and/or boards but meetings must be kept as a record. Mr. Humphrey is willing to assist and to teach how it's necessary to host a meeting.

Next ZOOM meeting will be Friday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. St. Angelo will probably have a few more updates to report at that time.

APPROVAL OF STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the standby and overtime pay attached to these minutes for March 20 through April 2, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, Karsh, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Ms. Karsh, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola to approve the voucher list as attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, Karsh, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach

