

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

In place of in house smoke detector inspections for home sales based on a memo from DCA the home owner can fill out an affidavit. Beaver Brook was running orange on Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, 2020. Mayor Kovach took a video and sent it to DEP. All first responder agencies in the Town of Clinton are fully functional. There are 14 cases of Covid-19 in town. Opening day of fishing went smoothly, and police officers helped ensure that proper social distancing was maintained. Masks are now required to be worn in any business in town.

COUNCILWOMAN DINEEN

Tennis courts can be used despite the fact that the playground is closed. The parks and fields remain open but please maintain the required social distance. Mayor Kovach noted that Governor Murphy has closed all state and county parks. There has been an increase in the amount of bike riders coming through town and the Mayor urges drivers to be cautious. Ms. Dineen has received positive comments about the communication that the town has been sending to residents.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON

The “egg hunt” was successful, and has generated positive feedback. The next activity is the World of Hearts, which is an international campaign which will be rolled out soon. More information will be forthcoming.

COUNCILWOMAN KARSH

A testing site is opening at RVCC today, April 14, 2020 for Hunterdon and Somerset residents only. Economic Development Commission will meet virtually the week of April 20, 2020.

COUNCILWOMAN INTRABARTOLA

Mental health links will be posted on the clintonnj.gov website in the Covid-19 section. Local produce stands will be added to the business page.

COUNCILMAN TRAPHAGEN

The Historic Commission will meet Wednesday, April 15, 2020 via Zoom. Mr. Traphagen has begun to compile a virtual historic walking tour through town, which people can look at from home, or if they are out walking. The tour will be discussed at the meeting. Mayor Kovach suggested using the walking tour that occurred last year be used as a reference.

COUNCILMAN HUMPHREY

Please send him the Zoom information for Commission and Committee meetings so they can be posted on the webpage ahead of the meeting. The Environmental Commission met on April 13, 2020 via Zoom. The Commission discussed creating a new form of the “Green Team”. Many of the suggestions from Sustainable Jersey have already been implemented in town. There are still many residents putting recycling out in uncovered bins which results in items blowing around town. There are also people discarding used gloves on the ground. Council discussed creating a PSA to educate residents about the proper use of gloves. Mayor Kovach noted that Basecamp 31 is promoting a Clean Up Day on April 22, 2020 for people to pick up garbage. The senior information pamphlet will be mailed this week.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RICH PHELAN

No updates at this time.

ATTORNEY ST. ANGELO

No updates at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The next special update meeting will be held Friday, April 17, 2020 at 10:00 am via Facebook Live and Zoom.

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

Mayor Janice Kovach