

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

The dinner for Town of Clinton volunteers and staff scheduled for May 1, 2020 has been cancelled. The event will be rescheduled, possibly for September 2020; more discussion is needed. Mayor Kovach participated in a call on April 16, 2020 with the Local Government Services Deputy Director concerning whether or not municipalities can extend the grace period for tax payments and/or reduce interest fees. The grace period has not been extended, therefore the May 1, 2020 taxes will be due no later than May 10 2020. NJ Assembly bill A3902 has been passed which would provide the Director the ability to change the dates, however there is no senate version of the bill. The Town Council intended to move forward with a resolution with an interest rate reduction for late bill payments for the second quarter, however there is an issue with Edmunds, the software that the town uses for tax and utility payments, so that resolution is postponed until that issue is resolved with Edmunds. There has been no decision at this point regarding reduced interest for third quarter payments. Governor Murphy has declared all schools in NJ will be closed at least through May 15, 2020, he can only declare each 30 day period at a time. So, information on school closures beyond May 15 will be forthcoming.

COUNCILWOMAN INTRABARTOLA

The Recreation Commission met via Zoom on April 16, 2020. At this point there is no announcement regarding Summer Rec, the Commission is waiting for more information from Governor Murphy regarding school closures after May 15, 2020. The Commission will meet again on May 21, 2020 at which point a decision regarding Summer Rec will be made, taking the CDC guidelines and recommendations into account along with the Governor's information. The clintonnj.gov website has been updated with additional information and resources.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON

The Senior Luncheon and Town Picnic have been postponed indefinitely. The floor in the Community Center has been refinished, thanks to the town DPW workers. Recreation Commissioners will gather information and send out one email to residents regarding all of the different postponements. Ms. Johnson is still working on the World Heart International campaign.

COUNCILWOMAN KARSH

If council members receive questions about what the town is doing to help businesses please respond with a uniform answer about the efforts both the Council and the Economic Development Commission have undertaken with the website updates and email blasts promoting businesses. The Guild is promoting a Sponsor a Tree program. The Economic Development Commission is meeting via Zoom on Monday, April 20, 2020 and will discuss more options to help town businesses.

COUNCILWOMAN DINEEN

No updates at this time.

COUNCILMAN TRAPHAGEN

Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad will now be called South Branch Emergency Services. There is a Facebook page and website under development. The Shade Tree Commission met April 16, 2020 via Zoom. The Commission is exploring doing a virtual activity for Arbor Day which is April 24, 2020. Shade Tree Commission member Dan Shea is exploring possibilities for planting a tree; Mr. Traphagen will report more information as it becomes available.

COUNCILMAN HUMPHREY

This meeting is the last scheduled special update meeting. Mayor Kovach asked Council if updates should continue once or twice a week. Councilwoman Johnson stated that residents may not be aware of all that Council members are doing during this time to disseminate information and create activities and promotions for businesses. Councilwoman Karsh noted that there is a great deal of useful information being shared during these updates and questioned whether residents had access to the meetings. Mayor Kovach informed council members that the update meetings were accessible to the public both live and via recordings on our YouTube page, and that minutes for each meeting were being created. Councilman Humphrey noted that the YouTube recordings have not been getting many views. Town Administrator Rich Phelan stated that all of the minutes for the update meetings have been posted on the website. Councilman Traphagen suggested that those minutes be shared on the Facebook page as well. Councilwoman Intrabartola suggested having a meeting every Wednesday, one week would be the regularly scheduled evening council meeting, and the following Wednesday would be an update meeting at 10:00 am. Council members and Mayor Kovach agreed to that schedule. Mr. Humphrey requested that all Council members send him a list by the end of day on April 17, 2020 of their efforts to date during this crisis so that a consolidated "Your Town Council has been working for you" document can be created to let residents know all that is being done.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RICH PHELAN

No updates at this time.

ATTORNEY ST. ANGELO

Chief Kubinak has been keeping track of the time he is spending as the OEM coordinator. Under the statutes he is entitled to overtime for that work. The intent is to get that expense covered via grant funding. Ms. St. Angelo will have a resolution on the agenda for the Council meeting on April 22, 2020 concerning that compensation.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 7:30 pm via Facebook Live and Zoom.

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

Mayor Janice Kovach