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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 Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Karsh to approve the council meeting minutes of April 22, 2020 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL UPDATE MEETINGS

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Karsh, to accept the council update minutes as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – APRIL

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson seconded by Ms. Dineen to accept the Monthly Reports for the month of April 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 expressed condolences to the family of Lois Terreri, the longtime former clerk of Clinton. A beautiful woman, she will be missed.

Mayor Kovach gave an update to the COVID-19 cases in Hunterdon County to date. 729 cases in Hunterdon with 47 deaths, 25 cases in Clinton and 1 death in town.

The HERO bill was introduced yesterday in the house, hoping for a vote on May 15 then on to the Senate. This would provide local fiscal relief for municipalities. Participated in Mayors Advisory Call with League of Municipalities. New CARES bill being considered, sponsored by Congressman Malinowski would allocate \$500 Billion over 2 fiscal years, \$125 Billion of that would go to states and municipalities, 70% of that would go CDBG communities, 30% would go to non-CDBG municipalities based on population. NJ would get about 2 – 2 ½ percent, which would amount to approximately \$750 million. If that bill passes as it is currently written, we would want to use that money to backfill revenues that have been lost, as well as get reimbursed for expenses occurred by the Office of Emergency Management due to the State of Emergency. A special hearing occurred on Monday, May 4, 2020 National League of Cities had a representative answering questions from congress.

A restart committee has been formed with 34 members and 8 mayors. The committee is addressing issues municipalities are facing with fiscal problems, municipal land use law and in helping residents, especially in smaller towns.

Mayor Kovach also gave updates to many bills in the assembly.

- A3919 permit extension act
- A3945 expands first responders eligibility of accidental death and disability benefits due to infection during time of pandemic
- A3964 expedited marriage licenses
- A3969 flexibility for towns allowing for additional grace period
- A3971 local units issue relief bonds called CARES

NJ State Assembly bill A3971 would establish a new financing mechanism to enable municipalities to borrow money to address the costs attributable to increased expenses and revenue shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to pay back that money over a 10-year period. There is no senate companion bill for that yet. It is unlikely that the Town of Clinton would need to utilize that option, but it would be helpful to towns that are in dire financial straits. This resolution will be addressed later this evening. A copy will be forwarded to all Hunterdon County clerks for their consideration.

- A4126 waive interest on utility bills
- A4132 government worker furlough plan
- A4157 time extension for tax appeals

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All are available to review on the League of Municipalities website <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>
Go to bill search, type in bill number and click search.

PROCLAMATION – THANKING THOSE ON THE FRONTLINES

Mayor Kovach read an excerpt from the proclamation thanking individuals on the frontline during this unprecedented time of the Coronavirus.

PROCLAMATION – METAvivors CANCER ADVOCACY

Council also proclaimed May 2020 as National Cancer Research Month and May 10-16 as National Women's Health Week. METAvivor organization educates the public about metastatic breast cancer and the lack of funding for stage IV treatment.

PROCLAMATION – ARBOR DAY 2020

A virtual Arbor Day celebration with proclamations being read and the poem to our 2020 tree named "Angel" in dedication to all the essential workers. Seedlings will be distributed to the third graders as in years past but the celebration will be shared with the third graders via zoom.

WATER REFUND

Nancy Burgess, Water Collector, is requesting a refund be made to Heidi Clark in the amount of \$330.79. A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the request.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #20-12 – WEST MAIN WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to open the public hearing of ordinance #20-12:

ORDINANCE #20-12

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$900,000 FOR THE WEST MAIN STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN AND BY THE TOWN OF CLINTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$900,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

There being no public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to close the public portion of the meeting.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Karsh, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to adopt Ordinance #20-12 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #20-13 – COMPENSATION FOR OEM COORDINATOR

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #20-13:

ORDINANCE # 20-13

**AMENDING ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POSITIONS
AND OVERTIME DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY**

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

There being no public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Humphrey seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to close the public portion of the meeting.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh, to adopt Ordinance #20-13 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #92-20 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – HOURLY RATE

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen seconded by Ms. Karsh to adopt Resolution #92-20 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 92-20

UPDATED SALARY RESOLUTION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

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, 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, due to the unprecedented public health emergency, the Town’s Emergency Management Coordinator, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, and Town Administrator have

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worked many hours well in excess of their normal hours in order to ensure the health and safety of Town residents; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Emergency Management Coordinator, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator has been working between 5 and 10 hours per week; which far exceeds the workload anticipated by the \$1,200 stipend that accompanies the position; and

WHEREAS, because the Town Administrator has been assisting the Emergency Management Coordinator with a variety of tasks during the public health emergency, the Emergency Management Coordinator has recommended that he be appointed as an Emergency Management Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council updated the Salary Ordinance to allow for overtime and / or additional pay for these positions during times of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon as follows:

1. During times of a State of Emergency declared by the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, or State of New Jersey the following position titles shall be paid the respective overtime compensation for hours worked over 40 hours per week set forth below for the year 2020:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>OVERTIME HOURLY RATE</u>
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$97

2. During times of a State of Emergency declared by the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, or State of New Jersey the following position titles shall be paid the respective hourly compensation set forth below for the year 2020 in addition to any stipend or salary currently received:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$35
Emergency Management Administrator	\$30

3. Town Administrator is hereby appointed as an Emergency Management Administrator and will serve under the direction of the Emergency Management Coordinator. As set forth above, the Town Administrator shall be paid the above-referenced hourly rate for work performing the duties of the Emergency Management Administrator during a declared State of Emergency, notwithstanding any provision of his employment contract to the contrary.
4. All overtime hours of the Emergency Management Coordinator and hours of the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Emergency Management Administrator must be approved by the Town Council prior to payment.
5. Due to the unprecedented nature of the public health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the above-referenced employees shall be eligible to receive such compensation retroactive to March 9, 2020.

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Vote all ayes
Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 93-20 – APPOINTMENT OF SUBURBAN CONSULTING – FOSTER
WHEELER & FOX FIRE BOOSTER PUMP STATION**

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to adopt Resolution #93-20 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 93-20

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS
FOR FOSTER WHEELER AND FOX FIRE BOOSTER PUMP STATION
ENGINEERING, BID & CONSTRUCTION PHASES**

WHEREAS, The Town of Clinton has the need to appoint an Engineer for the Foster Wheeler and Fox Fire Booster Pump Station Project; and

WHEREAS, Suburban Consulting Engineers has been recommended by Town of Clinton Water Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby appoints Suburban Consulting Engineers for the Foster Wheeler and Fox Fire Booster Pump Station Project at an amount not to exceed \$256,783.00.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

**RESOLUTION #94-20 - APPOINTMENT OF SUBURBAN CONSULTING – WEST MAIN
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Karsh, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #94-20 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 94-20

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS
FOR WEST MAIN STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT
PHASES II – ENGINEERING, BID AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES**

WHEREAS, The Town of Clinton has the need to appoint an Engineer for the West Main Street Water Main Replacement Project – Phases II; and

WHEREAS, Suburban Consulting Engineers has been recommended by Town of Clinton Water Committee;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby appoints Suburban Consulting Engineers for the West Main Street Water Main Replacement Project – Phases II at an amount not to exceed \$138,543.00.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #95-20 – SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 3971

A motion was made by Ms. Karsh, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #95-20 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #95-20

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL A-3971

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE “CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BONDS” BY
MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, A-3971 was introduced on May 4, 2020, which authorizes the issuance of “coronavirus relief bonds” by municipalities and counties; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and counties are experiencing revenue short falls and expenses overrun because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these fiscal consequences of the pandemic are likely to continue and further impact the Town of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton has significant fixed statutory expenses and provides essential services; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing many essential services is likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for an extended period afterwards; and

WHEREAS, A-3971 would allow counties and municipalities to borrow moneys through the issuance of bonds and notes to cover the revenue shortfalls and additional costs that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, This Bill would establish a new financing mechanism to enable the Town to borrow moneys to address the costs attributable to increased expenses and revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19 and allow the Town to pay back that money over a ten year period; and

WHEREAS, the Bill would also require the Town to thoroughly investigate and apply for financial assistance that may be available to it from the federal government, the State and other sources due to revenue shortfalls and expenditures because of the pandemic, prior to authorizing the issuance of the “coronavirus relief bonds”; and

WHEREAS, under A-3971 a municipality may use the proceeds from the sale and issuance of the coronavirus relief bonds to address a revenue shortfall experienced by the municipality and cover the cost

of unanticipated expenses that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and which occurred within 24 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, A-3971 would be of great financial assistance to the Town to help address all revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to this pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Clinton that:

1. The Town hereby supports A-3971, which will offer relief to municipalities and counties to address their revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Governor, our State Legislators, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPEED HUMP DISCUSSION – HAVER FARM

Councilwoman Karsh, on behalf of the Road Committee and at the advice of the Town attorney and Town Engineer, explained the reason for the six signs on Haver Farm Road which prepare drivers of upcoming speed humps. Residents of Haver Farm feel there is an excess and the height of signage and are asking that some be removed. Town Engineer, Robert Clerico, has given his professional advice given the conditions of the roadway such as sidewalks, street parking and street trees and if removed may expose the Town to liability for injuries arising from the speed humps whether to traffic accidents or cars scraping the bottoms of their cars.

Beth Sosidka, 1 Haver Farm, continues to express how unhappy the residents are for the excessive signage and said it is overkill. Ms. Sosidka said a sign at either end of the road can be seen at any given time and feels that would be adequate. The residents are very pleased with the humps.

Comments were also made by other residents of the neighborhood. Carey Cardace, 32 Haver Farm, asked why so many signs plus markings on the street? Mr. Humphrey referred to the parking on both sides of the street and so many people come from out of town to field. Signs could be a minimum of 30 inches but the current signs are 36 inches.

Jan & Bill Kreutel, 42 Haver Farm, thanked Council for listening and asked for a compromise, reduce the size of the sign and eliminate a sign, even if it is just the back of a sign.

Winnie Scuteri, 3 Haver Farm, reiterated the comments of too much signage, one set of signs would be enough, but very happy with the humps.

Following a lengthy discussion between council and residents, Ms. Karsh summarized the suggestions. The size, the elimination of the middle sign, the height, the double-sided sets, removal of at least one sign entirely.

Mayor Kovach asked the Road Committee to ask Mr. Clerico to attend a council meeting to answer questions from the public. The next Road meeting is June 5, the following Council meeting is June 10, 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

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REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Chief of Police Kubinak

Chief Kubinak has distributed reports to council as well as Executive Orders and advisements from the Governor. Asked if Council had any questions, Mr. Humphrey asked if any special provisions were being taken regarding parking on Main Street. Chief Kubinak explained that he and Mayor Kovach discussed it and decided to help businesses with opening up to curb side pickups, parking would be restricted to 20 minute parking.

Richard Phelan, Business Administrator

Mr. Phelan reported that DPW returned to a full staff schedule this week and it has been working well. All CDC guidelines being followed closely. Brush collection will begin however, the amount of brush is significantly increased. Residents will have to be patient but all will get picked up. Office staff is returning on Monday, May 18 but will remain closed to the public.

Kathy Olsen, CFO

Ms. Olsen looked at the first quarter revenues and the Town is in good shape!

Councilwoman Johnson

School Board held an emergency meeting on May 11 to discuss the closure of the rest of the school year. Discussed year end activities, virtual graduation event being scheduled. Dr. Cohen and the PTO are working on engaging activities like the LEGO contest for the community. The board did ask questions about the taxes during this time and was assured by CFO, Kathy Olsen, that all is well.

Board of Recreation Commission held an emergency meeting as well. Summer Rec has been canceled and is very disheartening, especially to Councilwoman Intrabartola for all the work she did on making for a great program and a full day program for the first time ever! A special thank you to Kathy Olsen and Joy Wilson for coming in on the weekend to refund parents for summer rec registrations. All activities have been canceled such as the Town wide garage sale, Senior Luncheon and the Town Picnic. Fall activities are still up in the air. The “heart campaign” was a huge success in Town.

Sewer Committee will be meeting via zoom on Friday, May 15, 2020. If there are any construction updates for the filter building project, reports will be made at the next council meeting.

Councilman Humphrey

Clinton Fire Department – Chief Jeff Hedden reported a decrease in calls, 21 in March and 16 calls in April. The department responded to 5 alarm activations; motor vehicle fire, the Bagelsmith fire at Exit 12 off Route 78 in Union Township to which Clinton was the first on the scene. 14 calls, 3 fire and 2 rapid intervention. A motor vehicle accident with helicopter landing. The fire house is currently closed on Monday nights, working with a minimum staff during the state of emergency but continue responding to calls and working on vehicles, all following CDC guidelines and fire trucks are now occupied by a driver and 3 or 4 firefighters. Plans are to continue with funding moving forward but the time line has been pushed back. Waiting on two letters of support from Senator Booker and Congressman Malinowski for a grant to purchase thermal imaging cameras.

Councilman Humphrey reported on the Communications Committee and their desire to push the newsletter back to the middle of June. Mr. Humphrey asked council to talk with the committees and commissions and pleading for news articles and anything they feel is important. There will be a lot of extra space with the calendar being pretty much cancelled so please help as much as possible.

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The Environmental Commission is discussing items for a property maintenance ordinance but not as extensive as the one presented in the Fall.

Councilwoman Karsh

Economic Development Commission is being very productive and working currently on a “re-opening” program showing videos of stores with a look inside, to shop curbside. The commission continues pursuing highland grants when they become “unfrozen”.

The Clinton Guild is excited that restrictions are semi lifted and have been displaying tan colored signs promoting shops and take out dining. The Guild has requested the help of DPW to clean up the Lower Center Street parking lot and curb stops. The summer Come Together Music on Main Street is a topic for possible live streaming. Fire Chief Hedden said the fire department will hang a banner on East Main Street free of charge when it is available. He will have men hang it on a Monday night.

Councilwoman Dineen

Land Use Board scheduled to meet via zoom on Tuesday, June 5, 2020. Board to re-group, currently awaiting an applicant.

Councilman Traphagen

Rescue Squad – also applying for firefighter grants. Mayor Kovach asked for an overview so that she may be able to ask for letters of support from Congressman Malinowski and Senator Booker.

Shade Tree – will be holding a virtual Arbor Day on Thursday, May 28, 2020 as mentioned earlier in the proclamation. The third graders will be encouraged by teachers and parents to pick up their seedlings at the municipal building and a ribbon for all essential workers they wish to acknowledge. There will be a video of the proclamation being read by Mayor Kovach and the naming of the tree poem read by Dan Shea.

Historic Commission meeting Friday, May 15 via zoom to discuss an application before the Land Use Board. The property abuts the historic district so the Commission will offer their thoughts.

Councilwoman Intrabartola

All reports have been made. However, Ms. Intrabartola questioned regulations regarding above ground inflatable pools. Mr. Phelan will confer with Allison Witt, Zoning Officer and put the regulations on the website.

APPROVAL OF STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to approve the standby and overtime pay attached to these minutes for April 17 through April 30, 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. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh to approve the voucher list as attached to these minutes.

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

Vote all ayes

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Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 P.M.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach