

5464

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. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh to approve the council meeting minutes of May 13, 2020 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL UPDATE MEETINGS

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT – APRIL

A motion was made by Ms. Intrabartola, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to accept the monthly Treasurer Report as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Kovach received an email from Clinton Public School teacher, Mrs. Hedden, informing that the school teachers made a donation of \$1,478 to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry and will be sending in bagels to the Town of Clinton DPW and office staff. North Hunterdon High School teachers association sending breakfast for all first responders showing gratitude for everyone’s service during COVID-19.

As recently reported, there is Federal legislation to help support states and towns directly affected by COVID-19. There is now an opposition campaign accusing the state and towns of being fiscally irresponsible and looking for a bail out. Mayor Kovach was very disturbed by that comment and the National League of Cities is starting a campaign saying cities are essential. As Mayor Kovach starts to share the information, she asked that council do the same.

The State budget has been put off for three months until September 30. Projected revenue loss for 2020 is \$2.75B and for 2021, \$7.5B.

Mayor Kovach gave an update of Hunterdon County COVID-19 cases; 965 cases and 57 deaths; 25 cases and one death in Clinton. Karen DeMarco from the county said residents should still be conscious of the virus. Drive through testing is available at Raritan Valley Community College and the Flemington Walmart. Dispatch is receiving calls from people reporting other people for not wearing masks and not keeping socially distant.

Received an email the Trans Bridge bus service which remains suspended but expects to re-start June 1, 2020. A number of mayors have reached out to Legislators and Congressman that without the bus service many residents will be left in the lurch, not having transportation to New York, the airport and other jobs east. The County Economic Development and Go Hunterdon have been working to get added trains to the High Bridge station. At this time there are only three early morning trains and two late trains to that location. Mayors have expressed their support to lobby on behalf of getting additional trains. Especially is TransBridge decides not to comeback.

Awaiting Governor’s decision of summer camps and day care.

The “re-start – re-open” committee met and discussed the current situation facing locals business.

RESOLUTION #96-20 – CONDUCTING ANNUAL BUDGET EXAMINATION

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Karsh, to adopt Resolution #96-20 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #96-20

CONDUCTING ANNUAL BUDGET EXAMINATION

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WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Town of Clinton has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Town meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2020 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officers certification. The governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law.)
3. That the budget is in such form arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVED BUDGET

It is hereby certified that the Approved Budget complies with the requirements of law and approval is given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78(b) and NJAC 5:30-7.

It is further certified that the municipality has met the eligibility requirements of NJAC 5:30-7.4 and 7.5, and that I, as Chief Financial Officer, have completed the local examination in compliance with NJAC 5:30-7.6.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to open the public hearing of the 2020 Municipal Budget.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Mayor Kovach sent out a budget letter to residents and is very self-explanatory. There is an issue of potential of revenue losses that the Town will have to manage through, however, because the Town has been fiscally responsible and has done a good job over the last 8 years ensuring property taxes, we were able to extend the grace period for taxes to June 1 and an additional 30 days for water and sewer for the second quarter for a total of 60 days.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Karsh, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt the 2020 municipal budget as presented.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CREDIT OF PERMITS REQUESTED

The Newcomers Club is requesting a credit be given for the fees paid for the Chili Cook Off that had to be cancelled. \$45 for the fire permit and \$125 for the temporary food permit. A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to approve the credit as requested.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Councilman Humphrey

There have been no submissions to the Newsletter by any of the committees, articles must be submitted by Friday. Laura Ochs is preparing an article for the seniors of the high school and a photo of the banner will be displayed as the centerfold of the newsletter.

Chief of Police Kubinak

The department is running with a full staff. Complaints with respect to distancing and people not wearing masks. Chief Kubinak is gathering data to give to Mr. Phelan for submission to FEMA.

Kathy Olsen, CFO

Estimate is that tax bills will be in this week or next.

Councilwoman Karsh

Clinton Guild met and discussed the re-opening of Main Street and curbside pickups. The Guild ran a tree fund raiser and is planning to continue it, it was very successful. The Guild is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce in setting up a foundation to do some smaller grant making with the business community. Not sure at this time how they plan on getting the information out to the public, but Ms. Karsh asked council's support in promoting local businesses.

The newly formed "re-start / re-open" committee in Town is comprised of Mayor Kovach, Councilman Humphrey and Councilwoman Karsh. The group met with business owners and was productive, learning the struggles from the business owner's point of view and how the town can help.

Meeting with the Highlands Council regarding Economic Development study for the entire region will be further discussed at a virtual meeting June 18. Ms. Karsh encourages anyone interested to tune in.

Tara St. Angelo, Attorney

Ms. St. Angelo stated that the Affordable Housing hearing with Judge Miller was carried to June 26. All documents are available on the Clinton website in a shared folder for the public to view. Town Planner, Jim Kyle, has some revisions to make.

Richard Phelan, Business Administrator

DPW is back to a full staff for three weeks now, adjusting to all CDC regulations has been challenging but seems to be working out. Bid Opening for the West Main Street Water Main replacement project came in with four bids being reviewed. Hoping to have a recommendation in June. Bids came in less than estimated so the committee is very happy about that!

Councilwoman Dineen

Water Committee working on water supply and the master plan. Hydrant flushing continues as well. West Main Street Water Main replacement, bids were received.

Roads Committee will meet June 5 and will revisit the speed hump discussion.

Land Use Board scheduled to meet via zoom on Tuesday, June 5, 2020.

Councilwoman Johnson

Sewer Committee continues working on the Master Plan and the scheduling of the reconstruction of the filter building.

Board of Recreation – all families should have received their refunds from summer recreation. Thank again to Councilwoman Intrabartola for all the work she put into a full day program. The rec commission continues brainstorming community events and asks the community to offer ideas!

Councilwoman Johnson met with reporter Marin and talked about the successful International Heart Campaign. An article will be forthcoming in the Hunterdon Review.

School board held an emergency meeting to discuss teachers gathering students belongings and having the families pick everything up the week of June 1. Dr. Cohen is working with Chief Kubinak on some events that may be possible in accordance with the Governor's guidelines for the graduates.

Hunts Mill Park will form a "parade" of cars for the Clinton Public School graduates which will come out of the park, make a left on Haver Farm, right on Goosetown and left on Mitchell so the neighbors can cheer on the graduates. A banner, purchased with private money, will be displayed recognizing the graduates of North Hunterdon, Voorhees and Clinton Public School. Mr. Humphrey is going to attempt putting a link to the North Hunterdon/ Voorhees school district on the town website so families can learn as to graduation commencements that may be held, possibly in July.

Councilman Traphagen

Shade Tree launched their virtual Arbor Day celebration, a special thanks to Councilman Humphrey for filming. The tree was planted on East Main Street and named Angel. Seedlings are available to the third graders along with colored ribbons thanking essential workers.

Historic Commission discussed the initial drawings of the Shell gas station. As previously reported, the property abuts the historic district. It is recommended that all their thoughts and recommendations be done in writing and submitted to the applicant, Board secretary, Allison Witt and Mr. Kyle, Town Planner. This was the first meeting for board liaison, Donna Van Weeren and it was a good introduction to the board's duties.

Councilwoman Intrabartola

Ms. Intrabartola wished to thank the police, fire and rescue for the emergency rescue of her neighbor's cat on Memorial Day! It looked like a Memorial Day parade with all the vehicles! It was a much appreciated rescue and an exciting happening for the neighborhood!

APPROVAL OF STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to approve the standby and overtime pay attached to these minutes for May 1 through May 14, 2020.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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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
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Karsh to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 P.M.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach