

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, 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.”

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 Governor issued a 6 foot distancing requirement that must be followed. Hunterdon County library system will be beginning curbside pickup for ordered materials. There are 9 confirmed cases of Coronavirus Covid-19 in Hunterdon County. Statewide there are 724 state with 9 deaths. Electronics recycling will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020. County wide OEM is working with school districts to review long term closure plans to ensure they are prepared. Governor Murphy signed a package of bills relating to Covid-19 yesterday, allowing for telehealth and telemedicine, as well as virus testing. Assembly Bill A3844 designed to force insurers to pay on business interruption coverage was not passed. Insurance companies pushed back against this bill stating that a pandemic is not covered by business interruption insurance, and that coverage for pandemics is separate coverage. This is important legislation and Mayor Kovach stressed that in a text to Governor Murphy yesterday, March 19, 2020.

COUNCILWOMAN JOHNSON

No updates at this time.

COUNCILWOMAN INTRABARTOLA

No updates at this time.

COUNCILWOMAN KARSH

Council is continuing to work on ideas to help the business community. Local business owners are urged to download the app Dstrx. If Shelter in Place or other restrictions are implemented, this site will be helpful to the businesses.

COUNCILMAN HUMPHREY

There are currently 15 Clinton town businesses on the Dstrx page. Councilman Humphrey urges all businesses to put their information on the app. As further restrictions are likely in the near future, the app will be helpful for promoting commerce and offerings by local businesses. The Small Business Administration website is very helpful. There is a link from the clintonnj.gov Covid-19 update page. Some people may have mental health issues arising in the near future due to this pandemic. Councilman Humphrey is asking the other members of council to help create a resource list for people who are dealing with issues, and think about sending messages to help people keep their spirits up and try to reduce depression and other mental issues. Councilwoman Intrabartola suggested including links for online yoga and exercise videos as that is a great way to stay healthy, physically and mentally. Councilman Humphrey reminded council that meetings for Boards and Committees can be held via Zoom.

COUNCILWOMAN DINEEN

No updates at this time.

ATTORNEY ST. ANGELO

NJ Bills passed yesterday, March 19, 2020 to allow municipalities to hold electronic meetings. Public comments can be made electronically, they do not have to be in person. Additionally, the publication of meeting notices do not have to be in newspapers, they can be posted only electronically. OPRA requests can be delayed at this time due to the emergency. All municipal courts are closed. Family settlement conferences have been postponed. Deadline to file property tax appeals are postponed to 30 days after the State of Emergency has been lifted.

ADJOURNMENT

The next special update meeting will be held Monday, March 23, 2020 at 10:00 am via Facebook Live and Zoom.

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

Mayor Janice Kovach