

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno (zoom), Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, 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.”

OPMA authorizes municipalities to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms.

The Town of Clinton Council is meeting in person as well as providing an option for the public to participate via ZOOM video meetings. Please note that the option to attend is being provided as a courtesy, therefore, if Zoom becomes unavailable during the meeting and it cannot quickly be fixed, Council will continue with the remainder of the meeting.

For those joining us via Zoom, please raise your hand during designated times to be recognized for a comment. Whether you are appearing in person or via Zoom, you must provide your name to be recognized.

Please feel free going forward to email councilmeeting@clintonnj.gov with any questions or concerns between meetings. Please feel free to reach out with a note at jkovach@clintonnj.gov anytime!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick seconded by Ms. Padmos to approve the minutes of the Council Meetings held December 27, 2023, January 2, 2024 re-organization meeting and January 11, 2024 special meeting.

Vote all ayes
December 27, 2023 meeting abstain (Stentz)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to accept the monthly reports for the month of December 2023 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

RESOLUTION #47-24 – PROMOTIONS

Mayor Kovach asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #47-24, promoting Officers Alberto Bonilla and Peter Tilstra to the position of corporals, motion made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Padmos to adopt.

RESOLUTION # 47-24

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton Chief of Police, Cory Kubinak, has received approval from the Mayor and Council to promote two officers to the position of Corporal;

WHEREAS, Chief Kubinak has performed testing and interviewed candidates for the position of Corporal;

WHEREAS, Chief Kubinak and the police committee recommend that the following two officers be promoted to the position of Corporal, at the salary set by resolution;

ALBERTO BONILLA
PETER TILSTRA

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton appoint Alberto Bonilla and Peter Tilstra to the position of Corporal, effective February 1, 2024.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Police Chief Kubinak reported that over two months of preparation and testing, results have been compiled from four corporal candidates. All officers that participated did an excellent job with great effort. The examination produced four eligible candidates for the corporal positions and Chief Kubinak has requested to fill the new position as presented. Fellow officers Melissa Tornberg and Sgt. Anthony Robbins showed their support in attending!

A round of applause and a few great photos! Congratulations!!

ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Guild meeting/Eagle Scout project - I met with Scout Elias Wysong and the Clinton Guild. Elias is looking to do his Eagle project in the Town of Clinton by creating a live webcam feed on Main Street. The Guild was interested and offered some thoughts and a downtown business owner also offered to assist. More to come.

Pride event in June Max Moore – I met with a local HS student who is interested in having a couple of different Pride events in town in June. He will be coming back to us with some ideas and plans at a future council meeting.

Thank you to CPD, DPW, Fire and Rescue for managing through the storms that caused severe flooding and damage as well as the snow that also wreaked havoc in town. Our new star, Art Dysart and of course thank you to Toni Yates for including Clinton in the news.

Attended the Governor's State of the State address in Trenton. Swearing in assembly earlier this month. Congratulations to all the newly elected Senate and Assembly members.

Liquor license task force is continuing to meet. The Governor signed a bill at the end of lame duck that released some of the restrictions on breweries and will allow for licenses to move to contiguous municipalities if both parties agree.

Water committee one break in January, gallons pumped 2022 672M 2023 591M the work on the 78 overpass was completed quickly and efficiently.

Mark LaRose – Mayor’s wellness initiative – we are not going to begin the official initiative but Mark from Max Challenge will be reaching out to everyone individually to get some ideas for initiatives to promote wellness in the communities.

Leadership Hunterdon – Mayor Muir and I spoke with the Leadership Hunterdon class about local government, and they will be coming back to take a tour of the sewer plant.

FDU Conversation with Josh Gottheimer attended yesterday, the fourth in the series of all individuals running for Governor in 2025.

Affordable housing - the courts denied a lawsuit brought by a group of municipalities that would re-establish the council on affordable housing. Opening the opportunity for the newly introduced legislation that would put the arbitration to a group of mediators established by the AOC. Judge Jacobson is developing a formula and if a municipality challenges the numbers, can go in front of a panel to dispute them. The first Senate Housing Committee hearing is tomorrow, January 25, 2024.

Opioid Settlement – Mayor Kovach asked Attorney St. Angelo to explain the terms of the settlement agreement. Ms. St. Angelo provided a written explanation to council and discussed the details of “Core Strategies” and “Approved Uses” for the funds being sent to municipalities and her recommendations on how to proceed. Hunterdon County has a Task Force that is working on a plan for municipalities in the County based on research and data gathering. Therefore, it is recommended that the Town withhold making any decisions regarding funding until such report can be reviewed. After the report is released, the Town Council can determine if it is necessary to establish a subcommittee to make funding recommendations. Due to the unpredictability of annual payments and the small amount of such payments, it presents a challenge when developing a budget. The Town can choose to provide a small amount of funding annually to partner with a provider or other government entity to support a program providing approved services or to make a purchase or “bank” the money for a larger program contribution or purchase in the future. The Town needed to make a quick report in September, 2023 without knowing when and how much funding would be distributed and without the benefit of guidance from the County Task Force. For future reporting, it is recommended that the Town analyze the effect of the uncertain schedule of payments and then incorporate any recommendations set forth in the anticipated County Task Force report.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND BANNER REQUESTS

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to approve the banner requests as submitted:

BANNER REQUESTS

Sunrise Rotary Flags for Heros – Banner	September 1- - September 15
Memorial Fishing Derby	Banner April 22 – May 4
Ducky Race	Banner July 1 -- July 14
St. Patrick’s Day Parade	Banner February 26 – March 11
NJ Maker’s Day – Library	Banner March 11 – March 18

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to approve the event applications as submitted:

Fishing Derby	Event	May 4
Rubber Ducky Race	Event	July 14

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #42-24 – PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Ms. Stentz, to adopt Resolution #42-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 42-24

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE REQUIRMENTS OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE
AND APPOINTING MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2022, via Resolution #132-22, the Town of Clinton formed a “Playground Committee” for purposes of for the replacement of the playground at Halstead Street Park; and

WHEREAS, the Playground Committee was tasked with interviewing potential vendors and create a design for the installation of a playground at Halstead Street Park

WHEREAS, since its creation, there has become a need to modify some of the requirements and members; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to amend the requirements of the Playground Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, amend the requirements of the Playground Committee as follows:

1. A Playground Committee (the “Committee”) is hereby established as a temporary ad-hoc committee, consisting of seven members, three of which shall be members of the Town Council (the “Council”) and four of which shall be residents of the Town of Clinton.
2. The following individuals are appointed to the Playground Committee:
 - a. Kim Stentz, Councilmember
 - b. Nick Bruno, Councilmember
 - c. Molly Padmos, Councilmember
 - d. Nicole Ayers, member of the public
 - e. Jonathan Donath , member of the public
 - f. Phil Franzone, member of the public
 - g. Megan Johnson, resident and grants coordinator, appointed by consent of Council.
3. The Committee shall be empowered to:
 - a. Appoint its own Chairperson
 - b. All decisions of the Playground Committee must be made by a super-majority (i.e. five members for a seven person Committee and 4 members for a six person Committee)
 - c. Research potential vendors to design and install a playground from any authorized Cooperative Purchasing Program approved for use by the State of New Jersey .
 - d. Receive and interview references (i.e. other municipalities) from potential vendors
 - e. Determine, as a committee, which State approved Cooperative Purchasing Program vendors shall be interviewed for the playground design.
 - f. Any interviews of potential vendors or references (whether conducted in person or virtually) will be conducted upon written notice to the full Playground Committee and Town Council and in the presence of at least one of the Council members and 2 of the

- citizen members that are part of the Playground Committee.
- g. Request and receive a preliminary design from potential vendors satisfying specific criteria (community build, inclusive, budget, etc) as defined by the committee. All such designs shall be provided to Council in the required monthly reports provided to the Town Council. Any requests for designs or recommendations from vendors must be in writing.
 - h. Recommend to Council a vendor to design and install the playground from any Cooperative Purchasing Program approved for use by the State of New Jersey
 - i. Research and recommend to the Council grant opportunities to fund the installation of a playground
 - j. After a vendor is selected by Council, meet with and coordinate with said vendor on a design (and engineering, if necessary) of the playground
 - k. Recommend to Council a playground design.
 - l. Recommend to Council a budget for the material and equipment for, and installation of a playground.
4. All recommendations from the Playground Committee as to the hiring of a vendor and playground design, must be approved by a majority of the three Council members that sit on the Playground Committee.
 5. The hiring of a vendor to design, provide material and equipment for, and install (through direct installation, DPW build, community build, or some other defined process) the playground must be approved by the Mayor and Council.
 6. The final design of the playground must be approved by the Mayor and Council.
 7. All verbal and written communications between the Playground Committee and vendors and vendor references will be conducted by one of the Council members that are part of the Playground Committee or with the consent of one such Council member. None of the citizen members of the Playground Committee shall contact potential or hired vendors or their references in connection with the design, construction, and installation of the playground (whether verbally or in writing) without the consent of one of the Council members that is a member of the Playground Committee. All verbal communications (whether in person, virtually, or via telephone) must be conducted in the presence of one of the Council members that is part of the Playground Committee and will be documented by a memo or an email. All members of the Playground Committee shall be notified in writing at least seven days in advance of an in-person meeting with a potential or hired vendor or one of their references and be given the opportunity to attend such meeting.
 8. All written communications of the Playground Committee shall be subject to the Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”). Therefore, it is imperative that a Council member be copied on all written communications with potential or hired vendors and their referenced. If any member of the Playground Committee has communicated in writing with a vendor or a reference for a vendor without copying a Council member on the correspondence, copies of all such correspondence must be immediately provided to the Town. Members of the Playground Committee shall cooperate with a request from the Town Administrator or Town Attorney for emails and other documents in response to OPRA requests. A Committee member’s failure to provide any documents responsive to an OPRA request shall be grounds for immediate removal from the Committee.
 9. If a Playground Committee member uses their personal cell phone for communications related to the Playground Committee (whether by telephone call or text message), such member is advised that their personal cell phone records may be subject to disclosure pursuant to an OPRA request. Therefore, it is recommended that contact with potential vendors and their references via personal cell phones be limited.
 10. Any member of the Committee that does not follow the agreed-upon process for communications with potential vendors and references will be removed immediately from the Committee.
 11. The Playground Committee shall issue a monthly written report to Council presented by the

- Chairman or other Council member designated by the Chairman.
12. Citizen members of the Playground Committee shall be required to adhere to applicable sections of the Town of Clinton Personnel Policy, as may be amended from time to time. Within ten (10) days of appointment hereunder, citizen members shall be required to review and acknowledge, with their signature, receipt of such the Town of Clinton Personnel Policy and Town of Clinton Social Media Policies.
 13. The Playground Committee may be dissolved at any time by a majority vote of the Council. Any member of the Playground Committee may be removed for any reason and replaced by a vote of the majority of the Town Council.
 14. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilman Perloff suggested “loosening grips” on a few mandates that are not required, however, Councilman Bruno mentioned cutting out the monthly reports as mentioned but suggested leaving that in and keeping the resolution as presented.

RESOLUTION #43-24 – DONATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY VEHICLE

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to adopt Resolution #43-24 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION #43-24
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL
PROPERTY TO SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 governs the disposition of Town-owned surplus personal property that is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton has a damaged, surplus vehicle that is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the Town has donated vehicles of this nature to the South Branch Emergency Services for training purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 permits the Town to donate such property as requested; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, have declared that the following surplus personal property of the Town be donated to South Branch Emergency Services for training purposes:

2013 Dodge Charger (VIN 2C3CD XAT0D H7069 57)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Property will to donated in its “as is” condition, without any warranties by the Town, and on the condition that the Recipient shall hold the Town harmless for any claims arising out of the Property after the transfer to the Recipient.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby designate the Town’s Business Administrator, Richard Phelan, to execute any and all additional documents to effectively transfer title to the Recipient.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #44-24 – CCYA BASKETBALL PROGRAM

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Padmos to adopt Resolution #44-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #44-24

2024 SALARY RESOLUTION

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clinton in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey as follows:

That the following position titles and employees within the Town of Clinton in the County of Hunterdon, the respective salaries or compensation set forth below are hereby fixed as the maximum amounts to be paid for the year 2024:

<u>POSITION (Basketball Program)</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Adult Referee Officials	\$55.00/Game
Junior Referee Officials	\$15.00/Game
Scorebook Keeper	\$12.00/Game
Clock Keeper	\$12.00/Game

The foregoing resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication thereof according to law.

ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #45-24 – WATER RESERVATION – CLINTON HOUSE

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #45-24 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION # 45-24
RESOLUTION APPROVING WATER CAPACITY RESERVATION
APPLICATION # L24-01**

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2015, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton adopted Ordinance 15-1, which amended Chapter 142 of the General Ordinances of the Town of Clinton by creating procedures for applying for and receiving approval for water reservations; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received Water Reservation Application # L24-01, dated January 2, 2024, submitted in the name of Beta Land Management, LLC/The Clinton House, (Town of Clinton, Block 6, Lot 27, Tax Map Page 2); and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2024, the Town's Water Consulting Engineer, Suburban Consulting Engineers, informed the Town of Clinton Water Committee of their recommendation of approval of the

afore-mentioned application which proposes improvements to the existing property to include 180 additional seats to the existing restaurant; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2024, the Town's Water Committee held their monthly meeting in which they have reviewed the application; and

WHEREAS, as the Town's Water Committee is satisfied with the information outlined by Suburban Consulting Engineers, the application is deemed complete, to which they have granted a final approval and have imposed the conditions listed in Suburban Consulting Engineers January 16, 2024 letter.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter 142, Section 1, Sub-section J(3) of the Town's Ordinances, the Mayor and Council hereby approves Water Reservation Application # L24-01 in the amount of 3,600 GPD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be provided to the Applicant, Suburban Consulting Engineers, and the Town of Clinton Superintendent of Water.

ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING – GREEN ACRES GRANT

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to open the public hearing of the Green Acres Jake's Law Grant Program Application for a completely inclusive playground.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilwoman Padmos and Mayor Kovach thanked everyone for their efforts in applying for this tremendous grant! Special thanks to Megan Johnson, now in the audience, for all her hard work and continued efforts.

There being no public comments, a motion was made to close the public portion of the meeting.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Kashwick to approve the submission of the Green Acres Jake's Law Grant application.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #46-24 – AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GREEN ACRES GRANT

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Kashwick to adopt Resolution #46-24 as submitted:

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION # 46-24**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A GREEN ACRES
GRANT APPLICATION TO FUND CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HALSTEAD
STREET PLAYGROUND**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides grants and/or loans to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition, development, and stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$562,500.00, in the form of a \$187,500.00 matching grant from the State to fund the following project(s): The Halstead Street Playground Revitalization Project. \$750,000.00 (*total project cost*);

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations, and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body/board resolves that:

1. Mayor Janice Kovach, or the successor to the office of Mayor, is hereby authorized to:
 - a. make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,
 - b. provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
 - c. act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant;
2. The applicant agrees to provide its matching share to the Green Acres funding request, if a match is required, in the amount of \$187,500.00;
3. In the event the State’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;
4. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

I, Cecilia Covino, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by Maor and Council of the Town of Clint at a meeting held on the 24th day of January, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and the official seal of this body this 24th day of January 2024.



ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes

Motion carried

RESOLUTION #48-24 – CANCELING OF APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Kashwick to adopt Resolution #48-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #48-24

CANCELING OF APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, the following 2023 Solid Waste Utility Budget appropriation balances remain unexpended;

Solid Waste Utility	
Other Expenses	\$31,000.00

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to the Fund Balance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clinton, that the above listed unexpended balances of the Solid Waste Utility 2023 Budget be canceled.

ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

DISCUSSION OF DOGS AND CATS BY RETAIL PET STORES

Councilwoman Padmos has been in conversation with the ASPCA and Larry Cohen, Human Policy Volunteer Leader of The Humane Society of the United States, discussing an ordinance to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet stores. Shops are allowed to hold adoption days but not cage dogs and cats for long periods of times. This ordinance has an over decade-long history and has been passed in 140 New Jersey municipalities and almost 500 communities across the country, including major cities have also passed this and it is law in seven states. Following discussion and council in agreement, an ordinance will be prepared for the next council meeting, February 14, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Rolling Thunder Veteran's Affairs Officer, Guy Citron, reached out to Mayor Kovach. He explained that Rolling Thunder, Inc. is a non-profit 501C4 organization with chapter nation-wide whose main objective is to raise awareness about MIA/POWs as well as advocate for better veteran's services and policies for themselves and their families. Their local Chapter 3 NJ offers an opportunity for Clinton to partner with Rolling Thunder in this goal. To remind citizens about the ongoing reality of MIA/POW veteran, they perform the "Chair Ceremony" to install an empty chair and table setting in public spaces to memorialize and honor soldiers who have not returned home yet and who may never do so. Mayor Kovach suggested a chair at the foyer of the municipal building and will forward Mr. Citron's letter to Councilman Bruno, veteran, to follow up.

2. Hunterdon County Commissioners opposition to housing and processing of undocumented migrants utilizing the former Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital.
3. Hunterdon County Planning Board Growth Management Plan Public Hearing Notice, February 1, 2024 at 8:15 am at the Route 12 County Complex Building 1, Assembly Room, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ .

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Councilman Bruno

1. Clinton Fire Department – the new truck is expected to be delivered next summer. Manufacturer is having an inspection at the Wisconsin plant and has invited the Clinton Fire Department is be present.
2. Buildings and Grounds – the opioid bench in front of the municipal building will be picked up soon and delivered to another municipality.
Veteran banners – the policy will be discussed at the next B&G meeting. If anyone has suggestions, please email nbruno@clintonnj.gov

Councilwoman Stentz

1. Shade Tree – met last Thursday discussed and requested a larger budget and the need to increase it in order to prune or replace trees. Arbor Day is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024, discussing who will be the recipient of the dedicated tree this year. Third graders will be attending, the search for seedlings is taking place. Memorial trees will be listed on the website under the Shade Tree section. In the Spring, the next Town tree inventory will be done. Researching what types we have and discuss areas where to plant.

Councilman Traphagen

1. South Branch Emergency Services reported 384s call for December and 2023 total calls 4,082; Response times in Clinton 5 minutes 12 seconds and 1,500 volunteer hours.

Communications - Monthly blasts are starting soon they will feature one committee, dates and information on upcoming events, a link to council minutes and a link to land-use minutes. All committees that have reports and would like them to be published, please email them to rtrophagen@clintonnj.gov or mpadmos@clintonnj.gov

Councilwoman Padmos

1. Economic Development Committee met this week, and talking about our goals for next year, including engaging more with social media.

Elizabeth Halpin and I will be attending the Main Street grant information meeting through DCA this Friday.

Amy DeVita, Devon Stone and Russ Crosby are taking next steps for official videos about businesses that are in the Town of Clinton to be shared on our website.

The frame that economic development has will be on the Art Museum patio for the winter festival this weekend decorated and ready for fun family photos.

2. Communications - working to finalize the contract and print a fall newsletter.

We are also working with the Economic Development Committee on their website landing page on the town website.

Also making plans to be more active on social media this year.

3. Playground Committee - Grant request for green acres funding - we have to pay 25% of the amount they grant us if we are awarded a grant. The most they will award is \$750,000 and 25% of that is \$187,500. We have currently have \$211,400 dedicated to our playground project.
\$82,600 left in the DCA grant
\$25,000 from the Christopher and Dana Reeve foundation grant
\$77,000 in the booster club account
\$26,800 in our county open space
4. Booster Club - Congratulations to the Booster Club who were awarded \$25,000 to purchase the adaptable zip line. They were awarded this money from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

Councilman Kashwick

1. There are two grant opportunities through Sustainable Jersey for Capacity Building and Community Energy Planning. Applying for the capacity building grant and will attend a webinar next week to learn more about the Community Energy Planning Grant.

The Green Team attended a Sustainability Hunterdon Hub on January 11, 2024. Kim Stentz, Deena Roberts, Veronique Lambert, Denise Birmingham and Mr. Kashwick attended the meeting, Cooperation was the theme and particularly with schools. Councilwoman Stentz and member Dean Solomos are going to be reaching out.

River Clean up is April 20, 2024, Mary Jo Kurtiak will once again take the lead on that event. Christmas light collection went well. Thanks to Deena Roberts, Rich Phelan and Jack Daniels for coordinating the collection.

2. Environmental Commission – Discussed and sent comments to the Land Use Board with regards to the Moebus Development and the recent flooding events.
Completed a form for the Playground committee confirming that no trees will be removed as part of the playground project on Halstead Street.
Started a Rutgers Steward’s Program last night. Sessions continue for 17 weeks on Tuesdays.
South Branch River quality is being addressed by Mary Jo Kurtiak working with Raritan Headwaters to address phosphates contamination.
3. Platinum Club – Councilman Kashwick, Norma Kania and Councilwoman Stentz are planning to schedule a meeting to discuss plans for 2024.
4. Water Committee – attended his first committee meeting last week which he found fascinating discussing the water reservation process and the new requirements of PFAS mitigation.
5. Shade Tree – final comment as a wrap up of last year. Councilman Kashwick filed for a grant extension for the tree grant we received. Once that is approved, we can file the financial report

and get back 90% of the cost of the tree plantings. The final inspection will take place in the fall of 2025 so we will just need a little extra time. Then the Town can receive the remaining 10%. Councilman Kashwick expressed being involved with the Shade Tree Commission since 2017, first as a member, then as Chair and then as Council Liaison, he enjoyed the time working on the various projects and he is confident that it remains in highly capable hands with all its current members including Denise Birmingham as Chair and Councilwoman Stentz as council liaison.

Councilman Perloff

1. Economic Development Commission is looking to purchase a new website domain (URL) “Fall in Love with Clinton”. Mr. Phelan will look into it. Councilman Perloff mentioned the EDC working on an event, Cherry Blossom Festival, but Ms. Padmos said there are more things to address and waiting to submit the event form before reporting on the event.
2. Recreation – Bonfire is Saturday, January 27, 2024!! Mr. Perloff exclaimed “even Rich Phelan is coming”!
Recreation continues going through budgeting, Mary Ann Shea, Chair, will follow through. Sunday, January 28, 2024 is the Winterfest on Main Street. Rain date is February 4, 2024.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of January 5, 2024 through January 18, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Ms. Stentz to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #49-24 -EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen seconded by Mr. Perloff, to enter into Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss a matter of redevelopment, no action will be taken.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 49-24

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, **THEREFORE**, BE IT **RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*:

A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon:
_____);

_____A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

_____A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof (Specify contract:

_____A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

_____Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (the general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is:

_____OR _____the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.)

_____Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; (The general nature of the

matter is: Land Acquisition OR the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists);

___Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; (The employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is _____

OR _____ the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists.;

_____Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Town Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Town or any other entity with

respect to said discussion. That time is currently estimated to be: _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon returning from Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. and there being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Stentz, seconded by Mr. Kashwick to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor