

6410
Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, 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 hybrid meeting and explained how the meeting will be run by reading the following statement :

NJSA 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 a public meeting as well as using ZOOM Video Meetings. Please be aware that this meeting is being recorded for the public record.

Please use the chat feature in ZOOM to indicate that you wish to be recognized for a comment or a question. You must provide your name and address to be recognized. You can also type in your questions. 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 Ms. Johnson seconded by Mr. Perloff to approve the minutes of the Council meeting and Executive Session of January 11, 2023 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carroll Bissiotis, 11 Rupells Road, reported that the 8th graders from Clinton Public planning a volleyball game inviting Council and other administration! Possibly a March event, more information to follow. Mayor Kovach guaranteed a team from the municipal side!

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Governor’s office is working on liquor license reform. Conversations on health benefits have broken down regarding the 23% increase. More towns are talking about leaving the state health insurance, CFO, Kathy Olsen, will be looking into alternatives.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #23-03 – EASEMENT OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen seconded by Ms. Johnson, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #23-03

ORDINANCE # 23-03

**ORDINANCE GRANTING EASEMENT PERMIT LOCATION OF CERTAIN STRUCTURES
ON TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY (BLOCK 29, LOT 8)**

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to adopt Ordinance #23-03 on final reading. Permits may be issued immediately and the easement must be recorded.

ROLL CALL: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #50-23 – DOT GRANT

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to adopt Resolution #50-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 50-23

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT
WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RT. 173 &
LEIGH STREET PEDESTRIAN PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton is desirous to apply for funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Local Aid program for the above-referenced project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town's Business Administrator and Municipal Engineer are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as 2023-LAIF-00020 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Town of Clinton and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement should funding be awarded.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

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Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #51-23 – POLICE STATION GRANT

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to adopt Resolution #51-23 to adopt Resolution #51-23:

RESOLUTION #51-23

Whereas, the Town of Clinton desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$3,000,000.00 to carry out a project for the acquisition of property and construction of a new Police Office and Emergency Management Facility.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

- 1) that the Town of Clinton does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
- 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between

The Town of Clinton and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #52-23 – DANIEL’S LAW REDACTION OFFICER

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to adopt Resolution #52-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 52-23

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A REDACTION OFFICER FOR DANIEL’S LAW

WHEREAS, Town Council of the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey acknowledges a need for a Records Redaction Officer to handle the requirements for all government agencies to comply by January 12, 2023 with Daniel's Law (P.L. 2020, c.125); and

WHEREAS, the Records Redaction Officer is to register with the State of New Jersey portal to obtain a list of all registered persons for the Town and to continually receive lists of new registrants; and

WHEREAS, the Records Redaction Officer is to review and redact all past minutes, agendas, and other public information provided on the Town website and posted at the Municipal Building in public view; and

WHEREAS, the Records Redaction Officer shall be responsible for reviewing all responses to Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”) requests for redactions necessary under Daniel’s Law; and

WHEREAS, in the absence or unavailability of the Records Redaction Officer, the Records Redaction Officer may delegate her / his duties to another employee of the Town of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, the Town Tax Collector and Town Tax Assessor shall be appointed as Alternate Records Redaction Officers for the purpose of registering to receive the lists of registrants and redacting any property, tax, or utility records as needed; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Town of Clinton Police Department shall be appointed as an Alternate Records Redaction Officer for the purpose of registering to receive the lists of registrants and redacting any police department records as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council may appoint additional Alternate Records Redaction Officers as it deems appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Alternate Records Redaction Officers are to register with the State of New Jersey portal or shall arrange with the Records Redaction Officer to otherwise continually receive copies of the lists of new registrants.

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

1. The positions of Records Redaction Officer and Alternate Records Redaction Officer are hereby established. Persons appointed to such positions shall serve without additional compensation.
2. All Records Redaction Officers (including Alternates) shall register with the State of New Jersey portal to receive lists of new registrants under Daniel’s Law and shall be responsible for redacting records noted below as necessary pursuant to Daniel’s Law.
3. Cecilia Covino is appointed as the Records Redaction Officer for the Town of Clinton effective January 25, 2023.
4. Fran Kuczynski (Town Tax Assessor) and Kathy Olsen (Tax Collector) are appointed as Alternate Records Redaction Officers for the purpose of redacting property, tax, and utility records in their possession.
5. Matthew Ellis (Patrolman) is appointed as an Alternate Records Redaction Officer for the purpose of redacting records held by the Town of Clinton Police Department.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #53-23 – ESTABLISHING A SOLID WASTE UTILITY FEE

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #53-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 53-23

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SOLID WASTE UTILITY FEE

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WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No.22-13, the Town of Clinton established a solid waste utility;

WHEREAS, Section 82-3(D) of the Code of the Town of Clinton provides that a flat-rate quarterly fee to be charged to each residential unit for the removal of solid waste shall be set by resolution adopted by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Administrator and Chief Financial Officer have recommended a quarterly fee of \$49.50; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have reviewed this recommendation and find the recommended amount to be appropriate and calculated in compliance with Section 82-3(D) of the Code of the Town of Clinton.

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

1. The quarterly fee charged to each residential unit in the Town of Clinton for the removal of solid waste shall be \$ 49.50.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #54-23 and 55-23 – VETERAN EXEMPTIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Traphagen to adopt Resolutions #54-23 and #55-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 54-23

WHEREAS, Steven Mincks, owner of property located at 6 Olsens Lane, Block 31 Lot 29, in the Town of Clinton was declared 100% disabled by the Veteran's Administration on September 27, 2021 and

WHEREAS, Steven Mincks made application to the Town of Clinton on December 20, 2022 for tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton Tax Assessor changed the necessary status on this property as of January 1, 2023 Mr. Steven Mincks property will be listed as tax exempt, and

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that the Tax Collector remove the amount due for the 1st & 2nd quarter 2023 in the total amount of \$7,614.11.

RESOLUTION # 55-23

WHEREAS, Jonathon McKnight, owner of property located at 24 Marudy Drive, Block 6 Lot 35, in the Town of Clinton was declared 100% disabled by the Veteran's Administration on May 1, 2020 and

WHEREAS, Jonathon McKnight made application to the Town of Clinton on December 7, 2022 for tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton Tax Assessor changed the necessary status on this property as of January 1, 2023 Mr. Jonathon McKnight property will be listed as tax exempt, and

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that the Tax Collector remove the amount due for the 1st & 2nd quarter 2023 in the total amount of \$6,223.27.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #56-23 – RETROACTIVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to adopt Resolution #56-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION – #56-23

WHEREAS, there is a need for a retroactive transfer of funds to areas where there are insufficient funds to meet the demands of the Town of Clinton in the 2022 Sewer Utility Budget, and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds to be retroactively transferred to those accounts as stated to meet the needs of the Town of Clinton Sewer Utility Budget,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make the following transfers:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Sewer Utility NJEIT Interest	\$5,113.00	\$5,113.00
Sewer Utility NJEIT Principal		
	_____	_____
TOTALS	\$5,113.00	\$5,113.00

ROLL CALL: AYES: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #57-23 – APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE PERKINS

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to adopt Resolution #57-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #57-23

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AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON TO ENGAGE A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

WHEREAS the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, has entered into an inter-local municipal services agreement for the creation of a shared municipal court with the Township of Clinton; and

WHEREAS this court will be known as the Municipal Court of the Town of Clinton; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Court requires the services of a Municipal Court Judge for the Calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Court of the Town of Clinton has authorized the appoint of the person named herein as the Court Judge.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, hereby ratifies the Appointment of Eric M. Perkins as the Certified Court Judge of the Municipal Court of the Town of Clinton for a three year appointment expiring 2024.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT & BANNER REQUEST

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the Sunrise Rotary request to sponsor the Cardboard Boat Regatta July 15, 2023, the Great Hunterdon Rubber Ducky Race on July 16, 2023 and the banner request to display the events banner from July 2, to July 16, 2023 as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Business Administrator Phelan

The new replacement hardware has arrived, all laptops will be upgraded for Council and employees.

Councilman Perloff

Recreation – Accept the resignation of Laura Burr, who is now a member of the Board of Education.

Clinton Guild – Sweetheart Week begins February 7 through 15th. Mr. Perloff will refer to Councilwoman Padmos to expand on the Guild working with Economic Development Committee to promote the branding options.

Bonfire Saturday, January 28, 2023. Committee has been working hard on all aspects of the event. Once again pallets will fuel the fire. Horse and Carriage has given insurance where Town is Held Harmless, however, Mr. Perloff made a motion to waive the umbrella coverage, seconded by Mr. Traphagen.

Councilman Kashwick

Platinum Club is planning their luncheon for June 4, 2023 at the Fire House, Mayor Kovach will check with Liz Hedden on their availability.

Environmental Commission had their first meeting with Chairman, Mike Humphrey! Two college students are interested in getting involved with the Commission as well as the Green Team and Sustainable Jersey. The Commission is interested getting the Green Team active again and earning the Bronze certification from Sustainable Jersey.

River Clean Up is Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 9:00 a.m to noon.

Shade Tree – Denise Birmingham is Chair and Kim Stentz is the Secretary. Lynn Arnold, Sunrise Rotarian, attended the meeting to ask about getting a tree to be planted in honor of the late Jack Holt. Shade Tree offered a tree but their intention is to get a tree and having it planted the end of June when Matt Holt, his son, returns from out of the country.

The Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for April 28, 2023 at Hunts Mill Park.

Commission is working on a list of recommended trees is on line for residents interested in planting. Tree City USA extended the deadline one year for certification.

Councilwoman Johnson

Board of Education – open seat on the school board. Congratulations to Toni Cespedes, Educational Support person of the year and Kelly DeJesus, teacher of the year!

Summer Rec has 89 children signed up already! Cut off is 150, so folks are encouraged to get their registrations in! 62 children are full time.

Recreation – submitted the local recreation grant for the park, LRIG, for \$55,000 through DCA. The Park and Booster Club has a joint meeting. Park Committee got a quote of \$77,000 with installation for new swings and the 2 – 5 year old full set.

Fundraiser, Saturday, January 28, 2023, 7:30 a.m. at the MAX Challenge in Clinton. Donation \$15 to PUMP IT UP FOR THE PARK! Theme will be playground oriented.

Councilman Traphagen

Newsletter submissions are due.

Historic Commission – planning the next Cemetery Tour Part II October 7, 2023.

The Commission is going through historic documents in the old Clinton National Bank from the 1700's, 1800's and 1900's. Plans are to scan photos and documents.

Councilwoman Padmos

Economic Development Commission is planning an event on the patio of the Hunterdon Art Museum, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on February 11, 2023 for Valentine's Day. Fall in Love with Clinton! Giant size picture frame for family portraits with the Red Mill in the background. Logo tattoos and candy will be given out as supplies last. Frame will be stored in the barn.

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STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson seconded by Mr. Kashwick to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of January 6 through January 19, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Traphagen to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor