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Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, 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 public 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](mailto:councilmeeting@clintonnj.gov) with any questions or concerns between meetings.

Please feel free to reach out with a note at [jkovach@clintonnj.gov](mailto:jkovach@clintonnj.gov) anytime!

**APPOINTMENT OF VACANCY**

Mayor Kovach announced that the Democratic Party submitted three candidates to fill the open council seat of Ms. Rielly Karsh. Sherry Dineen, John Kashwick and Mary (Molly) Padmos. In light of Ms. Dineen’s council status, Mr. Kashwick and Ms. Padmos waived giving public statements to fill the position. A motion was made by Ms. Intrabartola, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to appoint Ms. Dineen to the vacant seat.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Attorney St. Angelo presented the Oath of Office to Ms. Dineen as Ms. Dineen read along. Thank you to Mr. Kashwick and Ms. Padmos for submitting their names to fill the position.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to table the minutes of December 8, 2021.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORT**

A motion was made by Ms. Intrabartola, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to accept the November monthly report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #21-22 – HISTORIC DEMOLITION PERMITS**

Following a minor modification to the Ordinance, a motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Traphagen to open the final public hearing of Ordinance #21-22:

**ORDINANCE #21-22**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON TO ADD ARTICLE XV TO REQUIRE REVIEW BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF DEMOLITION PERMITS**

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adopt Ordinance #21-22 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Laura Burr, 26 Union Road, recounted an event she witnessed of a 10 year old boy walking across West Main Street and Hancock Street. Cars parked along the one side of West Main made it difficult for a truck traveling East to see the young boy crossing. Ms. Burr called to the boy and made him step back avoiding the truck. Ms. Burr asked if there is a route for children walking to and from school and Chief Kubinak said absolutely “Yes!” The school sends out the Safe Routes to School program every year and it is on the town website as well. Chief Kubinak outlined the route once again that children coming from the Knolls area follow along West Main to the Clinton House and the crosswalk, where the crossing guard is and across Main Street; right at the corner, and straight to school where crossing guards are available at each crossing. Chief Kubinak once again stated he is short on guards and would like to hire more and would hope the word would spread to anyone interested. Ms. Burr asked to have an officer teach the school children the route and Councilwoman Johnson offered to reach out to Dr. Cohen, School Superintendent. The main reason for the discussion is to request better lighting at cross walks, repainting crosswalks and suggested additional signage. Chief Kubinak explained he has a lighted crossing sign on order to be placed by the Clinton House.

David Wiant, 78 Center Street, congratulated Ms. Dineen on her appointment. Following up on the public town hall meeting at the Community Center regarding the police station, Mr. Wiant’s question is the location of an OEM office and possibly share space in another town. Mayor Kovach explained that it

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must be in the municipality and other options are being explored. The discussions will continue and shared with residents.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

Mayor Kovach announced a special proclamation presented to Dr. Michael Coraggio on December 21, 2021. Dr. Coraggio has been the pediatrician to so many of the children in the area! A wonderful doctor who will be missed by so many! A surprise was staged in the lobby of the Wellness Center on Route 31 and Dr. Coraggio was so thrilled and very touched! We wish him a happy, healthy retirement!

Mayor Kovach recognized Councilwoman Intrabartola for her years of serving on council and for being so instrumental in so many areas, recreation, website, summer rec program, Town Picnic and so much more. Mayor Kovach expressed her appreciation and wished Ms. Intrabartola the best in her master’s program, family and career!

**WATER & SEWER REFUND**

Water Collector, Nancy Burgess, requested a water refund in the amount of \$700.00 for water account and \$435.87 for sewer account in the name of Oscar Jones. A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola to refund the amounts requested.

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**RESOLUTION #166-21 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #166-21 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION – # 166 -21**

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that there will be excesses in certain appropriations over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriations for the year 2021, and it has also been determined that certain appropriations are deemed to be insufficient to fulfill the purposes of such appropriations; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of the amount of such appropriations as may be deemed in excess to such appropriations as may be deemed to be insufficient; and

**WHEREAS**, the transfers about to be authorized do not affect any appropriations, to which or from which transfer are prohibited under the statutes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following transfers between 2021 appropriations be authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58:

	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>
Buildings & Grounds – Other Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	
Electricity - Other Expenses	1,500.00	
Health Benefits – Other Expenses		\$ 1,100.00
Water – Other Expenses		1,200.00
DCRP – Other Expenses		200.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**CORRESPONDENCE – none**

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL**

**Councilman Traphagen**

Rescue Squad had 401 calls for the month of November and 4,155 for the year, broke their record!

Historic met and notification was made that Preservation New Jersey featured the Town of Clinton and all the great things happening here such as the demo review ordinance adopted this evening, the grant program and highlighted all the holiday activity! Wonderful recognition!

**Councilwoman Johnson**

Recreation Committee – on behalf of the committee, a huge thank you to Laura Burr and Kristina Tuxhorn for coming up with the idea of the luminaries and to all that participated in Lighting up Clinton! It was a wonderful success and raised about \$1,500! Looking forward to next year and making it even better! Holiday Lights competition now happening! Top three houses will be given gift cards to the Towne Restaurant, so share photos and spread the word on the FaceBook page!

Park update – Councilwomen Intrabartola and Johnson did a walk through with Game Time, playground equipment company that originally installed the equipment and hopefully will work on the new rendition. Great ideas are being discussed! Holly Westra had an interesting idea of a walking path and playground with a baseball park theme pointing out historical points of interest along the way!

Free PCR tests will be available through the New Jersey Department of Health website and a meeting via zoom with a health care worker. The link will be posted on the Town’s website.

Mayor Kovach reported that the grandstand was vandalized again last night. Please be aware and remind kids how costly repairs cost and to be mindful of destroying property.

**Councilwoman Dineen**

Land Use Board will meet next month.

Water Committee continues with leak detection efforts.

**Councilwoman Intrabartola**

Councilwoman Intrabartola expressed her sincere thanks to everyone who works for the Town, Council, employees, volunteers on the various boards, committees and commissions. Together, work can be done to recognize a problem and together, help to fix it. Mrs. Intrabartola was happy to report she received her acceptance to the Rutgers Master Program today!!

“To those coming on to council, give it all you have, it doesn’t pay a lot but it is very gratifying”!! Thank you to all.

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**STANDBY AND OVERTIME**

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of November 26 through December 9, 2021.

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to approve the voucher list as attached to these minutes.

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Intrabartola, seconded by Ms. Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

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Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Janice Kovach, Mayor