

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, Traphagen (zoom), 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. Bruno seconded by Mr. Perloff to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting and Executive Session held January 24, 2024.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to accept the monthly reports for the month of January 2024 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Carberry, spoke on the behalf of event insurance provider and questioned the insurance requirements necessary for an organization to supply coverage such as \$10,000 medical payments, when \$5,000 is the universal homeowner’s policy and commercial liability insurance policy. Mr. Carberry gave rare examples of when this coverage was ever needed and suggested that the coverage be changed back to \$5,000. Councilman Perloff stated he suggested making the change with the Insurance Committee and will make the edit again. The resolution to amend the insurance requirements will be presented at the next council meeting. Mr. Carberry offered his expertise and has been appointed to the Insurance Committee per Mayor Kovach.

Ryan Clancy, newly appointed Deputy OEM officer, introduced himself and gave his experience which makes him a good candidate for the position. A member of the Clinton Fire Department, Ryan is also a full time employee as emergency management planner for the New Jersey State Police dealing with

hazmat conditions. Mayor and Council welcomed Ryan and appreciate his willingness to serve along side Chief Kubinak. Councilman Perloff asked Ryan if he has any experience picking up nails with a magnet following the bonfire! To which Mr. Clancy had volunteered to help out this past weekend! Mayor Kovach also commented on the work done by Art Dysart and the DPW. Thank you to everyone!

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Annual Bonfire – Thank you to all the volunteers and the donors for another amazingly successful Bonfire and fireworks display. Due to the mild weather, attendance was outstanding and the fireworks made for an amazing night, the biggest and best ever! Special shout out to Sean Rogan the Recreation committee and all the volunteers that made the event so successful.

Thank you to the anonymous police officer that helped mother and child, with the hayride! Chief Kubinak uncovered the mystery, it was Sgt. Anthony Robbins!

Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan – the county has tabled the plan based on feedback from multiple municipalities including Clinton that the plan did not consider infrastructure but only current zoning.

Ribbon Cutting at Dickens Jewelers on Main Street on their 10 yr. anniversary! They celebrated January 30th 10 years.

Winterfest / Polar Plunge – another amazing event – the weather did not cooperate for the original date , but the weekend of Feb 4th was perfect (if a little chilly) and yes, I know that is the intent of the polar plunge. The plunge was a fundraiser for Friendly Sons and drew participants from across the state. Special thank you to the Rescue Squad for being there, in the water, and for keeping everyone safe.

Sewer tour by Leadership Hunterdon took place last Friday with Chris Phelan from the Chamber. Thank you to Bob Niezgodra, Eli Peretti, and the staff at the plant for taking two hours to explain the plant and the process.

Hunterdon County Planning Board Resiliency webinar – JCPL, the county and BPU presented a webinar dealing with infrastructure resiliency and plans.

Class interview Rowan graduate on Cannabis in municipalities.

NJLM Housing bills A-4 was in committee last Thursday and was voted out to go to the full assembly floor vote. The amendments incorporated some of the requests of the League membership including bonus credits, increasing percentage of age restricted housing, limiting challenges that municipalities can face, DCA will have the responsibility for working with municipalities on the obligation and any requests to amend the obligation.

Finance committee met this week and worked through the budget with CFO Kathy Olsen and Administrator Rich Phelan. Kathy is making some final revisions and budget workshops will begin at 5:00 p.m. on February 22 to address the Sewer Budget and March 6th for current, water and garbage with March 13th prior to council meeting if an additional workshop date is needed.

CPS Boys basketball championship - congratulations to the CPS Boys Basketball for winning the championship last week. We will be celebrating the team at the next council meeting with a Proclamation.

Advisory Committee Highlands Watershed Protection – Mayor Kovach assigned Councilpersons Kashwick, Environmental and Stentz, Shade Tree to attend.

ENDO International opioid filing – we were notified of some additional opioid litigation that we signed onto.

Received a letter of resignation from Carol Crawford Jones from the Historic Commission. Mayor Kovach asked for a motion to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Mr. Perloff to accept.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

DuPont approval, Judge Gergel has approved the DuPont settlement (PFAS matter). He did so in a lengthy and well written opinion covering all aspects of this process and his decision. During this process, the Court noted that public water providers overwhelmingly support this settlement as reflected by the fact that only 6% of the potential class members opted out of the settlement and even counsel for objectors voiced their support for the settlement at the Fairness Hearing. For several reasons, the Court concluded that the filed objections lacked merit. There is a 30-day window during which this ruling can be appealed by class members. The ruling will only become final if there are no appeals filed during that timeframe. If no appeals are filed to Judge Gergel's ruling, then the deadline to file DuPont claims will be 60 days after the closing of the appeal window, or 90 days from today. If any appeals are filed, then the filing deadline will be delayed during the life of those proceedings. Please know that efforts are being made to minimize the potential for such delays. In any case, the Court's ruling is a critical step toward resolution. As you know, we have been working hard to gather all the information necessary to file your claim and to maximize its value. To that end, we will continue to be in touch on a regular basis. Finally, we are awaiting the Court's ruling on the 3M Settlement after what we believe was a very successful Fairness Hearing on February 2nd. We will notify you immediately once we receive any news on that front.

Coffee with the Mayor will be Tuesday, February 20 from 8:30-10am at the Towne Restaurant, thank you Norma Kania for organizing.

Mayor's Wellness with Mark LaRose from MAX Challenge is moving forward. Councilwoman Padmos will report.

Anyone who was not able to attend the Water Wheel documentary of resident, Bill Ivie at the Community Center, there will be another viewing at the Hunterdon County Library on Sunday, February 25 at 3pm and Thursday, February 29 at 7pm. A wonderful experience!

Working with the League and Mayor Muir to re-establish the Hunterdon County League organization.

Mayor Kovach will be in Trenton to hear the Governor's budget address February 27, 2024.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICER MAX WENDLING

Mayor Kovach called our newest officer, Max Wendling to the forefront for his swearing in. Max invited his mother to hold the Bible. Photos were taken with the Max's parents, the Mayor, Chief Kubinak and fellow officer, Matt Ellis! A round of applause!

RESOLUTION #50-24 – CANCELLATION OF LIEN

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #50-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 50-24

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has been paid \$2,829.51, the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00006 on Block 29, Lot 4.01, as assessed to Rebecca Beder, and purchased by Bala Partners, LLC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 14th day of February, 2024 by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$2,829.51 for the lien redemption and a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the premium, Bala Partners, LLC, P.O. Box 303, Pottersville, NJ 07979, upon receipt of the Original Tax Sale Certificate endorsed for cancellation, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel Lien on Block 29, Lot 4.01, as assessed to Rebecca Beder, from the Town of Clinton Tax Records.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #51-24 – OPPOSITION TO A-4 AND S-4251 - TABLED

This application will be tabled for the reason Mayor Kovach stated in her reports. Discussions are being held at the League of Municipalities and DCA. Changes are likely to be made.

RESOLUTION #52-24 – HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER WENDLING AND REINERTSEN

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #52-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #52-24

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton Police Department requires the hiring of two new officers,
and;

WHEREAS, the positions were advertised for, applications accepted and interviews performed,
and;

WHEREAS, the Police Chief and Police Committee recommend that the following individuals be hired to fill the open positions at the level of 10th Class Police Officer at the 2024 rate of \$63,573.41;

MAX WENDLING
TYLER REINERTSEN

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hire Max Wendling and Tyler Reinertsen to fill the open positions at the Town of Clinton Police Department effective February 12, 2024 (Wendling) and February 26, 2024 (Reinertsen).

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #53-24 – WATER RESERVATION – SOUTH RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #53-24 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION # 53-24
RESOLUTION APPROVING WATER CAPACITY RESERVATION
APPLICATION # L23-08**

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 # L23-08, dated July 17, 2023, submitted in the name of South Ridge Community Church, (Franklin Township, Block 5, Lot 25, Tax Map Page 1); and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2023, 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 to connect their existing facility that is current served by a private well to the public water system; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2023, 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 August 9, 2023 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 retroactively approve Water Reservation Application # L23-08 in the amount of 870 GPD, commencing on August 23, 2023 to which said approval will be valid for twelve (12) months, or until August 23, 2024.

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.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #54-24 – NEWSLETTER CONCESSION AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to adopt Resolution #54-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 54-24

**RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONCESSION FOR THE PRINTING AND MAILING
OF THE TOWN NEWSLETTER**

WHEREAS, currently the Town of Clinton (the "Town") creates a "Town Newsletter" that was previously made available to all our residents four (4) times a year; and

WHEREAS, currently the Town only provides an electronic copy of the newsletter via its website; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Communications Committee desires to have a hard copy of the newsletter delivered directly to all property owners in-Town;

WHEREAS, providing printed copies of the Town Newsletter is not feasible financially due to budget constraints; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to have a hard copy of the newsletter provided to all residents, the Communications Committee has explored alternative ways to provide this service at no cost to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Communications Committee believes that the granting of a concession in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:34-9.4 will achieve this goal by granting the right to an authorized contractor to publish and distribute hard copies of the newsletter in exchange for the contractor retaining advertising revenue generated by the Town Newsletter as full or partial payment for providing the service; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-9.4 (d)1 states that in order for a concession to be granted by the Town, we must "Obtain from legal counsel an opinion of the legality of procuring the concession," to which said opinion has been provided and is attached to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-9.4 (d)2 states that in order for a concession to be granted by the Town, the authorizing resolution must include the following information:

- I. A description of the public need to award a concession;
 - a. The Communications Committee has recommended that the Town Newsletter be distributed in hardcopies to all residents in order to better inform residents. By utilizing this service, the Town would forgo any costs associated with printing of the newsletters which would negate the need to impose this cost on the taxpayers.
- II. The concession to be awarded;
 - a. The right to publish a newsletter in order to provide residents information about the Town in which the contractor sells advertising as full or partial payment for providing the service.
- III. The considerations, including the benefits and any risks the governing body took into account in reaching the decision to award a concession;
 - a. By providing a copy of the Town newsletter to all property owners, the Mayor and Council have the ability to provide information to everyone, rather than just those that have internet/e-mail access. This is particularly important for seniors that do not have access to electronic mediums. The risks that the governing body has considered solely relate the content of advertising, as by pursuing this concession, the Town has given up all rights to promote/restrict the advertising content that is procured by the contractor. Such

risks can be mitigated through an agreement with the contractor. However, the Mayor and Council feel that the benefits of proceeding with this concession outweigh the risks noted.

- IV. An estimate of the total value of the concession;
 - a. In-lieu any payments from the Town to the contractor, the granting of this concession will allow the Concessionaire to retain one hundred percent (100%) of the revenue it receives from the sales of advertising in the newsletter during each Publication Year. According to the Concessionaire, the total annual revenue for the contractor is estimated to not exceed \$20,000 per year.
- V. If any, an estimate of any revenue or services to be received by the contracting unit;
 - a. No revenues will be received by the Town of Clinton.
- VI. The basis of award of the concession is based upon the most advantageous price and other factors or the lowest responsible bidder;
 - a. The Town received proposals from two (2) contractors for the provision of this service. Based on the review of said proposals, granting a concession to Community Business Network, Inc is the most advantageous, price and other factors considered.
- VII. An estimate of any costs to be incurred by the contracting unit as part of the concession; The Town will not incur any costs for the printing and mailing of the newsletters to all properties within the municipality.
- VIII. Any services, facilities, or endorsement to be provided by the contracting unit; The Town shall submit the newsletter contents to the contractor a minimum of six (6) weeks prior to the mailing date. The Town does not anticipate providing use of any public facilities to Community Business Network, Inc.
- IX. The method to be used to procure the concession pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-9(g), which states, in part, "Unless otherwise specifically provided for by law, concessions shall be awarded through informal quotations, when the total estimated value of the concession is less than the bid threshold..."
 - a. The Town currently employs a Qualifies Purchasing Agent, therefore, the Town's quote threshold is \$6,600. Based on Concessionaire's estimate, their estimated revenue will not exceed \$20,000 per year. The Town solicited additional proposals from vendors in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6.1a. The granting of this concession has been made based on the proposal that was most advantageous, price and other factors considered.

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

1. The Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby grant a concession to Community Business Network, Inc. in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Publication Agreement and Addendum, as well as any conditions set forth in this resolution.
2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a Concession Agreement with Community Business Network, Inc in substantially the same form as attached hereto.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Community Business Network, Inc.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Discussion took place. Councilman Kashwick questioned the start date of the first newsletter will not be until October? Councilman Perloff said that at least October but the contract is backdated to January 1, 2024. Ms. Padmos and Mr. Traphagen explained that the new company has already started selling ads and will be issuing a Community Guide. In October the Committee will review the first newsletter Fall edition and at that time determine if they will be moving forward with it, this being a trial run. There will be two editions instead of four every year, a Spring and Fall edition.

Councilman Perloff recommended an agreement be made to terminate, at this point they can terminate us without notice but the town would have to wait until the end of the contract. Additional concern, if the company sells more than \$20,000 a year in advertisement, where does that money go? Mr. Phelan said that is within the purchasing agreement, technically as long as they do not go over \$44,000. Mr. Perloff asked if there were any restrictions around the types of advertising or is it at their discretion? Ms. Padmos called every town that works with Community Business Network, Inc. and said all reviews were beautiful and appropriate for an area newsletter. Ads accepted will follow those guidelines. As previously mentioned, the committee will look at the first published issue and decide. Mr. Perloff said that is a totally fair response. No further questions, Mayor asked for a vote.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #55-24 – REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Discussed at previous meetings, the Mayor and Council directed the Land Use Board to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether a portion of a certain property identified as Block 3. Lot 2 meets the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law and should be designated as a non-condemnation redevelopment area as that term is defined by the Redevelopment Law. The preliminary investigation of the study area has been completed.

A motion was made by Ms. Stentz, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #55-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 55-24

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 3, LOT 2 BE DESIGNATED AS A NON-CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ. , AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 *et seq.* (the “Redevelopment Law”), authorizes municipalities to determine whether certain parcels of land within their boundaries constitute areas in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature amended the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law on September 6, 2013 to expand and clarify various provisions of same; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2023 the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton (the “Council”) adopted Resolution #152-23 authorizing and directing the Town of Clinton Land Use Board (the “Board”) to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether a portion of certain property, identified as Block 3, Lot 2, (the “Study Area”), meets the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law and should be designated as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area, as that term is defined by the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a preliminary investigation of the Study Area to determine whether it should be designated as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area in accordance with the criteria and procedures set forth in N.J.S.A., 40A:12A-5 and 40A:12A-6; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Board's preliminary investigation, James T. Kyle, P.P., AICP, from Kyle McManus Associates, the Board's Consulting Planner (the "Planner"), prepared an Area In Need of Redevelopment Investigation Study (the "Area in Need Study") for the Board for its consideration in determining whether the Study Area should be designated a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, the Area in Need Study included a map showing the boundaries of the proposed redevelopment area and locations of the parcels of property included therein, along with a statement setting forth the basis for its investigation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6(b) (1); and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a public hearing regarding the Area in Need Study on December 19, 2023, with notice having been properly given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 12A-6 (b) (3); and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, the Board reviewed the Area in Need Study and associated documents and maps, and heard testimony from the Planner; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, members of the general public were given an opportunity to be heard and to address questions to the Board concerning the potential designation of the Study Area as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, after completing its investigation and public hearing on this matter, the Board concluded that there was sufficient credible evidence to support findings that satisfy the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law, particularly at N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 *et seq.*, for designating the Study Area as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area and that said designation is necessary for the effective redevelopment of the area comprising the Study Area; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Redevelopment Law and as memorialized by a resolution, dated December 19, 2023, the Board recommended to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that a portion of Block 3, Lot 2 (as identified in the Area in Need Study) be designated as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council considered the Board's recommendation at its regularly scheduled public meeting on February 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council accepted the recommendation of the Land Use Board to declare the Study Area as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to authorize the Board, in consultation with the Planner, to draft a Redevelopment Plan for the Study Area; and

WHEREAS, the Town entered into an escrow Agreement pursuant to Resolution No. 148-23 adopted on October 25, 2023 with the Owner of the Study Area, SNG Properties, LLC (the "Owner"), obligating the Owner to pay for all costs associated with such Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the Mayor and Council to adopt a redevelopment plan applicable to the Property or enter into a Financial Agreement with the Owner conveying any tax abatements.

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

1. The Council accepts the recommendation from the Land Use Board of the Town of Clinton and finds that a portion of Block 3, Lot 2 as shown on the official tax map of the Town of Clinton and noted in the Areas in Need Study be and is hereby deemed to be a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.
2. The designation of a portion of Block 3, Lot 2 as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area shall not authorize the Town to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire any property in the Study Area.
3. The Council hereby reserves all other authority and powers granted to it under the Redevelopment Law.
4. The Clerk of the Town of Clinton shall transmit a copy of the within Resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs for review.
5. Within ten (10) days of the Council's adoption of the within Resolution, the Clerk of the Town of Clinton shall serve notice of the Council's determination and the within Resolution upon all record owners of property within the Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area, those whose names are listed on the tax assessor's records, and upon each person who filed a written objection thereto and stated, in or upon the written submission, an address to which notice of the determination and Resolution may be sent and upon the Commission of the New Jersey Department of Community
6. The firm of Kyle McManus Associates, Town Planner, is authorized and directed to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for the Study Area, including an outline for the planning, development and redevelopment of the Study Area pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7 and present same to the Land Use Board and Council.
7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT - ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Council is in receipt of the Friendly Son's of St. Patrick's Parade application to be held March 10, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to approve the event which has been reviewed by the Chief of Police and Administrator Phelan.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Bruno and Perloff)
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT – CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to address an application and discussion to hold the inaugural Clinton Cherry Blossom Festival submitted by the Cherry Blossom Festival Committee, person in charge of the application, Meredith Hyland. Some confusion is circulating as to the sponsor of the event and Ms. Hyland attended the meeting via zoom to explain. Confusion as to the

Economic Development Committee sponsoring was incorrect, the idea was presented to the EDC and they are in support of the event, anything that will bring business and visitors to Town. Vendors are coming and being organized by Marketspace, an event business. No food truck vendors will be allowed to compete with our food establishments in town. Vendors will not be allowed to sell items available in our shops. Shops are welcome to set a tent in front of their stores and sell their merchandise. The street closures being requested will be Lower Center Street, Main Street, East Main Street directly to the Fire House where the firemen will be selling grilled dogs and burgers.

Carol Beder, Vice President of the Clinton Guild, protested to closing Main Street on a Saturday. Amy Schwartz and Ann Delaney from Beyond Bijoux were also against closing the street on a Saturday. The committee was planning on Saturday, April 13, 2024, to coincide with the Red Mill Museum Village's Sustainable Green event occurring that day. Amy DeVita, President of the Board of Trustees of the Red Mill, spoke in favor of the Blossom Event and thought it was a great idea! Ms. DeVita addressed the Guild members and said many of the shop owners were notified of the idea and did not hear many negative comments. Norma Kania, involved in all aspects, asked if everyone knew of the street closures. Parking situations were also discussed for vendors coming to town with an anticipated 100 vendors lined up. Off site parking and busing into town is an option that will need to be explored.

The biggest drawback to the event was closing Main Street on a Saturday and asked for a compromise. Mayor Kovach asked the planning committee if they would consider having it on a Sunday, on a day that the Red Mill is not hosting a large event, to allow for parking and not drawing the crowds away from Main and East Main. The committee was agreeable to that. The event will now be planned for Sunday, April 14, 2024 with a rain date of April 21, 2024, street closures are to be determined. The Committee, the Guild and the Police Chief will work together to make the event a success.

Vote 5 ayes
1 abstention (Padmos)
1 nay (Perloff)
Motion carried

BANNER REQUEST

A banner request has been submitted for the annual library book sale, April 17-22, 2024. The banner dates are April 8-22, 2024. Motion made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to approve the dates request.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Councilman Traphagen

Rescue Squad – responded to 341 calls for the month of January, 35 calls were in town.

Communications – With the new company, the newsletter will be printed two times a year, Spring and Fall. The first electronic monthly update was sent out via email, it will be a mini-monthly with up to date happenings and residents are encouraged to sign up for the Clinton website to receive it and other important news.

Councilman Bruno

Clinton Fire Department has received three applications for membership:

Junior member – Andrew Partanna – 40 Fairview Avenue, Clinton

Active member – Timothy Parente – 49 Quarry Ridge Road, Clinton

Active member – Anthony Starcher – 6 Carol Court, Glen Gardner

A motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to accept the new members recommended.

Vote all ayes

Motion carried

Buildings and Grounds – postponed meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Met with representatives of Rolling Thunder and will work with them on veteran honoring events and will bring ideas to B&G as well as discussing pavers on Center Street.

Councilwoman Stentz

Shade Tree -_No report

Councilwoman Padmos

Working with Mark LeRose who runs the MAX Challenge and is excited to get the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign kicked off! Mark is planning to work with Mayor Kovach and schedule monthly events and partner with the Platinum Club for hikes, bike rides, field trips to Shop Rite with tips on shopping, activities in summer to include kids and focus on health, this month blood pressure checks.

The Green Acres Grant has successfully been submitted!! Thanks to everyone for their help!

Economic Development Committee – Thank you to Councilman Perloff for helping deliver the frame to the Art Museum patio! It was decorated for Valentine’s Day are many pictures were taken to celebrate Fall in Love with Clinton! Some pictures are posted to the Facebook page.

Councilman Kashwick

Green Team – applied for \$20,000. Grant to enhance habitat for pollinator gardens, a grant authorization resolution for the next meeting. Partnering with Clinton Township for the Green Fair and EV Car Show that will be held in the fall this year instead of the summer. Partnering with the Red Mill’s Red Goes Green Sustainability event of April 13, 2024. First “green” event called “Red Goes Green” all about sustainability will run from 10am to 4pm. Many flower and herb gardens are being represented as well as many of Clinton’s Committees and Commissions, including the Clinton Conservancy, the Green Team, Shade Tree and more. Focus on pollinators: bee keepers, Audubon groups, butterflies. Also hosting the Ramapo Munsee tribe for talks and displays.

Environmental Commission meets next week, looking into an ANJEC grant.

Platinum Club – “Coffee with the Mayor” Tuesday, February 20, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Towne Restaurant on Main Street. Stop by and say hello to Mayor Kovach. Thanks to Norma Kania for arranging the event. Many other events are being planned including the County Senior Stroll on the Lansdown Trail March 6, meeting at 9:30 a.m. The Senior Brunch is tentatively set for June 2, 2024, waiting on confirmation from the Clinton Fire Department. February 25 at 3 p.m. or Thursday February 29 at 7 p.m. is the documentary film “The 2020 Water Wheel” being shown at the North Branch Library in Clinton, admission is free. February 27 at 10 a.m. is an “Open House” invitation at the Red Mill. Looking for people who would like to be a trou guide.

Continuing with the Environmental Stewards Program through Rutgers, completed an additional three modules: Understanding the Chemistry of Environmental Pollution, Water: Society’s Fluid Foundation and Soil Science.

Discussed with Denise Birmingham the gardens along the walkway, which has been referred to Buildings and Grounds committee.

At the Wellness Center this morning, two residents approached Councilman Kashwick to compliment the work of the DPW in clearing and maintaining the streets following the snowstorms.

Councilman Perloff

Recreation Commission – Committee is reviewing the summer rec program to kick start within the next couple weeks.

Egg Hunt – planning for event for March 23, 2024 at the Community Center at 11 a.m.

Community Center rentals are going up, actively being used. A group wanting to rent in March on Tuesday and Thursday’s asked if they could leave their mats out if no one else is renting the space to save time in set up and clean up. CCYA will be done by then.

Clinton Guild – Elections held: Chris Butler – President; Carol Beder – Vice President; Norma Kania – Corresponding Secretary; Sue Martino – Secretary; Colleen Kuchke – Treasurer.

Economic Development Committee – working on their goals for 2024, in line with the current ordinance which may not be the vision moving forward. A missing item is not having a liaison from the Land Use Board. Mayor Kovach planned to speak with Sherry Dineen but has not had the chance to as yet.

Insurance – will once again red line the current document and re-introduce it at the next meeting.

Sewer Committee – inspections at the treatment plant by the State Department of Environmental Protection. They have dropped semi-annual testing to just annual testing. It was determined there is a need to purchase more alum to meet the DEP requirements.

Fireworks made their way over to the treatment plant! All remnants have been cleaned up.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Ms. Padmos, to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of January 19, 2024 through February 1, 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. Kashwick seconded by Mr. Perloff to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Padmos, seconded by Mr. Perloff to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor