

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno, Johnson, Kashwick, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach
Padmos came in virtual at 8:02pm, out at 8:10, back in person at 8:50pm.
(Padmos in charge of hair and make up for CPS play during meeting)

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 to jkovach@clintonnj.gov anytime!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the meeting minutes and the executive session minutes of March 8, 2023.

Vote all ayes
Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

Mayor Kovach read the following statement before opening it up to public comment:

I know there have been multiple social media posts regarding the Moebus property as well as affordable housing. I understand everyone's frustration, I'm disappointed that rather than reach out and ask the social media world has gone down rabbit holes that are not true. Many of you know me and have worked with me for the last 11 years, I will help anyone who asks and have always worked in the town's best interest.

I'm willing to take the hits when you disagree and some of the comments are reminiscent of the comments made about my character in June 2020. I hope that this can start the dialogue so that we speak to each other rather than hurl insults.

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What I am sharing is all public information. And please bear with me – I will try to keep this concise but there is quite a bit of history.

Affordable housing has been a constitutional obligation since the early 80s. The obligations were determined per town and with the Council on Affordable Housing Round 1 and 2 had numbers of units established and housing built (Alton Place and Twin Ponds we also had several homes serving those with special needs that qualified).

The state, the legislature and the courts went back and forth with Fair Share Housing (the advocacy organization that pushes for the affordable housing in communities) in July 2015 Fair Share Housing went to court and filed against 300+ municipalities that we were not meeting our affordable housing obligation.

At that time Fair Share Housing determined that we needed approximately 200 new affordable units – which could equate to 1000 new housing units in town. Because a developer gets to build 4 market rate units for every affordable, they provide.

Around the same time the owners of the Moebus property unbeknownst to the town put up a website showing a plan on the Moebus property for 250+ garden apartments and 5 pad sites.

Mayor and council met with the property owners several times and said we would not support that project – it was too large and would change the landscape. The owners then entered the lawsuit as an intervenor telling the courts that they had the answer for the Town's affordable housing obligation.

We were in court with them for 3 years as we worked to come up with other ways to meet our obligation. We attempted to purchase the music hall property to put our housing there and the developer purchased it out from under us. Mayor and Council had multiple meetings over those years to work through opportunities and how to meet the obligations while protecting the integrity of our community.

The plan that was ultimately agreed to, reduced our overall obligation down to 66 new affordable units and yes provided the Moebus property owner with some development.

Every development that has been built in this town has come up against opposition, Alton Place, Kings Crossing, Pond Ridge, Rachel Court and most recently the Halstead Place apartments. Each time these projects came for approvals residents came out against – some more strongly than others. But here we are today counting many of the residents of those communities as our closest friends. I get that we don't like change, and we want to continue looking at the beautiful scenery around us but at the same time private property owners are granted rights as well. Short of the town purchasing all the remaining land and burdening the taxpayers with significant debt the best we can do is negotiate for the best possible scenario.

56 for sale townhomes are much different than 250 garden apartments. The 3 pad sites are on route 31 with no access to Center St and 12 acres donated for open space.

And ultimately the only jurisdiction of the council is regarding the affordable housing settlement and if there any amendments to those, they will be publicly noticed on Council agendas and will have to be subject to a noticed fairness and compliance hearing before the court both of which will provide for public opportunity to comment. Right now, there is nothing before council with regards to affordable housing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Mr. John Bohnel presented his concerns over the development of the Moebus track. He as well as many other residents he talks to would like it to stay as open space. He voiced many of his comments and concerns on Facebook which he is not sorry for. It has created quite a stir. Mr. Bohnel said he believes there are two alternative; stay with the developer or someone else purchase the property.

Mayor Kovach replied that is absolutely possible for someone to come in and buy the property. However, she stated it is still privately owned. The private owner cannot be forced to sell. Mr. Bonnell stated he still has hope to keep it green acres. Mayor Kovach responded the town's responsibility is not to strong arm anyone. The organization looking to purchase the property has an opportunity to negotiate with the purchaser. Mayor Kovach said we can all hope. Many previous council members have spent many hours on this subject in the past. There was a lot of effort and days spent on this project and we were able to get 12 acres donated to the Town. When the Land Use Board has their meeting on the Moebus track anyone can give their concerns and questions during the public comment. Allison Witt, Board Secretary, is in the process of looking for a venue to hold a large crowd.

Councilwoman Johnson said many of these questions were addressed years ago at several town hall meetings under the affordable housing issues to discuss the development of this property. They are just coming up again to the Land Use Board. The council just approved the plan and Land Use approved the plan. Those are zoning matters. There are many other things the development must go through for example DEP, DOT, Highlands Council and the bald eagle issue. Many other things have to happen before start project.

Mr. Jeff Hedden asked council how many affordable housing units Clinton still needs to have. Mayor Kovach said we need about another 30 more unites and this development helps with that. We will get about 10 units that the developer has to provide toward affordable housing. All these obligations are court mandated from Fair Share Housing.

Ms. Norma Kania said to her understanding is it true that our obligations can change in 2025 for the new mandates on affordable housing. Mayor Kovach said 2025 would be the next round but that does not mean we get new housing obligations. There is not much property left that is zoned and we have restrictions on out water and sewer capacity. Mayor Kovach said we may wind up finding existing apartments to solve this issue.

Mr. Bonnell asked if we can send petitions to our representatives. He still has hope. Mayor Kovach said that would be great idea. Many legislators do not want to take on affordable housing. Mayor Kovach emphasized again that if anyone wishes to talk to her about this subject she is available. Mr. Bonnell thanked Mayor and Council for their answers.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Council is in receipt of a Citizen Involvement form from Amy De Vita. Mayor Kovach asked for a motion to appoint Amy De Vita to the Economic Development Committee. Motion made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Ms. Johnson to appoint.

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

2. Mayor Kovach announced that if all goes though 66% of the school funding that was cut will be restored. There was an agreement between the Legislature and the Governor's office.

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3. The debris on Halstead Street Bridge will be cleaned up and removed in the next couple weeks. It may cost the county about \$17,000 to clean up.
4. Congressman Kane's State Director came out to look at the 78 overpass. Mayor Kovach said she has a call out to DOT and hopefully come to some resolutions or what we can do. Fingers crossed!!

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovach read a proclamation on the importance of Girl Scouts to today's girls, declaring 22nd day of March 2023/March 12-18, 2023 to be Girl Scout Week. Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey serves 11,000+ girls across New Jersey. Four girl scouts with their leader were present for the reading. A copy of the proclamation was presented to them.

CASA PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovach read and presented a proclamation to a member of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA programs have a record of public service, helping to protect the safety and wellbeing of abused and neglected children in Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties who have been removed from their homes due to neglect and abuse. CASA volunteers serve as the court's eyes and ears in a child's life.

RESOLUTION #70-23-TONNAGE GRANT

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to adopt Resolution #70-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION 70-23

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2023 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Richard Phelan to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

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

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #71-23-CANCELLATION OF TAX LIEN

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #71-23 as submitted:

ESOLUTION # 71-23

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has been paid \$2,422.22, the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00008 on Block 29.01, Lot 25 assessed to Michael Cuthill and purchased by Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 22nd day of March 2023 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 \$2,422.22 (Certificate) and \$2,500.00 (Premium) to Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank, PO Box 774, Forst Washington, PA, 19034-0774, 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 #22-00008 on Block 29.01, Lot 25, assessed to Michael Cuthill, from the Town of Clinton Tax Records.

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

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

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RESOLUTION #72-23-FIRE PUMPER APPARATUS (TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET)

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to adopt Resolution #72-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #72-23

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton desires to constitute the 2023 Temporary General Capital Budget of said municipality by inserting therein the Purchase of Fire Pumper Apparatus;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton as follows:

Section 1. The 2023 Temporary General Capital Budget of the Town of Clinton is hereby constituted by the adoption of a schedule to read as follows:

Temporary General Capital Budget of the
Town of Clinton
County of Hunterdon, New Jersey

Projects Scheduled for 2023
Method of Financing

Fire Pumper Apparatus

Capital Improvement Bond
\$1,156,000.00

Section 2. The Municipal Clerk be and is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, within three days after the adoption of these projects for 2023 Temporary General Capital Budget, to be included in the 2023 Permanent General Capital Budget as adopted.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #23-07 – PURCHASE OF FIRE TRUCK

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #23-07:

ORDINANCE # 23-07

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
PUMPER FIRE APPARATUS IN AND BY THE TOWN OF
CLINTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY,
APPROPRIATING \$1,156,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING
THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,076,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN
TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilman Bruno said we did this faster than we usually would to save money thanks to the Fire Chief and his purchasing committee. The cost was to go up by \$100,000 by April 1st.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno seconded by Ms. Johnson, to adopt Ordinance #23-07 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #73-23 SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF ED

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #73-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 73-23

RESOLUTION APPROVING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CLINTON AND THE CLINTON-GLEN GARDNER BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education (the "School District") operates Clinton Public School (the "School"); and

WHEREAS, the School District requested to have one (1) part-time special police officer assigned to the School (the "School Resource Officer"); and

WHEREAS, the Town, through the Town of Clinton Police Department, has agreed to hire a School Resource Officer to the School; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-a et seq. (the "Shared Services Law") authorizes municipalities to enter into shared services agreement; and

WHEREAS, the attached Shared Services Agreement (the "Agreement") has been approved by the School District and outlines the responsibilities of the Town and the School District.

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

1. The Town of Clinton Council hereby approves the attached Shared Services Agreement between the Town of Clinton and Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education.
2. The Mayor and Clerk of the Town of Clinton are authorized to execute the attached Agreement in substantially the same form.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #74-23 ESTABLISHMENT OF CLINTON GREEN TEAM

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #74-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 74-23

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Clinton strives to save tax dollars, assure clean air and water, improve working and living environments to build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally, and socially; a community which would thrive well into the new century; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Clinton wishes to build a model of government which benefits our residents now and far into the future with green community initiatives which are easy to replicate and affordable to implement; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to focus attention of "Green" issues, the Town Council initially established a Green Team Advisory Committee (GTAC) on July 14, 2009; and

WHEREAS, as membership changes, there is a need to update this resolution accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Clinton that we do hereby re-establish a GTAC consisting of eight members who shall be residents or employees of Clinton Town, appointed annually, but whose initial term of appointment shall be through December 31, 2023.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Clinton that the Mission, Goals and Objectives for the GTAC through December 31, 2023 are established as follows:

Mission

- The Town of Clinton GTAC will advise the Town Council on ways to improve municipal operations with "Green" initiatives which are economically and environmentally sound through research and evaluation.

Goals

- Submit a report and recommendations to the Town Council by October 1, 2023 to include suggested best practices for "greener" municipal operations.

Objectives

- Collaborate with municipal employees, service providers and other governmental agencies to share resource information and ideas consistent with the Mission of the GTAC.
- Encourage participation of all employees to solicit ideas on green initiatives.
- Research and analyze green initiatives which make practical environmental and financial sense.
- Develop strategies for sustainable green initiatives in municipal operations

NOW THEREFORE BE IN FINALLY RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Clinton, that the following persons are hereby appointed to the GTAC for the remainder of 2023:

Name	Position	Representative
Veronique Lambert	Member	Environmental Commission
Kim Stentz	Member	Environmental Commission
Ken Carberry	Member	Land Use Board Liaison to the Environmental Commission
Norma Kania	Member	Historic Preservation Commission
Pat Daley	Member	Shade Tree Commission
Denise Birmingham		Shade Tree Commission
John Kashwick	Member	Council Member
Vacancy #1		

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to introduce the 2023 Municipal Budget as submitted:

**2023 Municipal Budget
Of the Town of Clinton County of Hunterdon
For the fiscal year 2023**

**Revenue and Appropriations
Summaries**

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Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		2023	2022
1.	Surplus	600,000.00	500,000.00
2.	Total Miscellaneous Revenues	1,286,377.16	1,286,641.87
3.	Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	100,000.00	100,000.00
4.	a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	3,624,441.51	3,700,373.51
	b) Addition to Local School District Tax	0.00	0.00
	c) Minimum Library Tax	0.00	0.00
	Tot Amt to be Rsd by Taxes for Sup of Muni Bnd	3,624,441.51	3,700,373.51
	Total General Revenues	5,610,818.67	5,587,015.38

Summary of Appropriations		2023 Budget	Final 2022 Budget
1.	Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	2,205,635.00	2,038,160.00
	Other Expenses	1,924,695.03	2,023,347.69
2.	Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	611,998.00	594,307.34
3.	Capital Improvements	125,000.00	150,000.00
4.	Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	433,490.64	471,200.35
5.	Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	310,000.00	310,000.00
	Total General Appropriations	5,610,818.67	5,587,015.38
	Total Number of Employees		31

2023 Dedicated Water		Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		2023	2022
1.	Surplus	717,000.00	0.00
2.	Miscellaneous Revenues	4,573,188.05	3,946,596.00
3.	Deficit (General Budget)		
	Total Revenues	5,290,188.05	3,946,596.00
Summary of Appropriations		2023 Budget	Final 2022 Budget
1.	Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	740,000.00	640,000.00
	Other Expenses	1,841,190.00	1,628,650.00
2.	Capital Improvements	950,000.00	300,000.00
3.	Debt Service	1,293,500.00	1,248,000.00
4.	Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	465,498.05	129,946.00
5.	Surplus (General Budget)		
	Total Appropriations	5,290,188.05	3,946,596.00
	Total Number of Employees		9

2023 Dedicated		Sewer	Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues			Anticipated	
			2023	2022
1. Surplus			485,000.00	331,030.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues			2,310,838.40	2,150,426.21
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues			2,795,838.40	2,481,456.21
Summary of Appropriations			2023 Budget	Final 2022 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages		437,500.00	425,500.00
	Other Expenses		1,674,341.40	1,589,435.88
2. Capital Improvements			60,000.00	60,000.00
3. Debt Service			457,250.00	296,700.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			166,747.00	109,820.33
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations			2,795,838.40	2,481,456.21
Total Number of Employees				7

2023 Dedicated		Solid Waste	Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues			Anticipated	
			2023	2022
1. Surplus				
2. Miscellaneous Revenues			275,000.00	
3. Deficit (General Budget)				
Total Revenues			275,000.00	0.00
Summary of Appropriations			2023 Budget	Final 2022 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages		5,000.00	
	Other Expenses		269,550.00	
2. Capital Improvements				
3. Debt Service				
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			450.00	
5. Surplus (General Budget)				
Total Appropriations			275,000.00	0.00
Total Number of Employees				

2023 Dedicated	0	Utility Budget
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Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		Anticipated	0
1. Surplus			
2. Miscellaneous Revenues			
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues		0.00	0.00
Summary of Appropriations		2023 Budget	Final 2022 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages		
	Other Expenses		
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service			
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		0.00	0.00
Total Number of Employees			

2023 Dedicated		0	Utility Budget
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		Anticipated	0
1. Surplus			
2. Miscellaneous Revenues			
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues		0.00	0.00
Summary of Appropriations		2023 Budget	Final 2022 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages		
	Other Expenses		
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service			
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		0.00	0.00
Total Number of Employees			

2023 Dedicated		0	Utility Budget
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	

		Anticipated		0
1	Surplus			
2	Miscellaneous Revenues			
3	Deficit (General Budget)			
	Total Revenues	0.00		0.00
Summary of Appropriations		2023 Budget		Final 2022 Budget
1	Operating Expenses:			
	Salaries & Wages			
	Other Expenses			
2	Capital Improvements			
3	Debt Service			
4	Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			
5	Surplus (General Budget)			
	Total Appropriations	0.00		0.00
Total Number of Employees				

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
	General	Water	Sewer	
Interest	135,350.64	1,871,865.82	946,969.46	
Principal	2,791,035.00	10,252,328.54	5,185,804.98	
Outstanding Balance	2,926,385.64	12,124,194.36	6,132,774.44	

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
	Solid Waste	0	0	
Interest				
Principal				
Outstanding Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
	0			
Interest				
Principal				
Outstanding Balance	0.00			

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Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

A copy of this Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Democrat edition of March 30, 2023.
A public hearing will be held April 26, 2023.

Mayor Kovach stated the budget letter will be going out tomorrow. Also since the garbage collection is being a garbage utility the council wanted to reduce the municipal tax rate to address that. The average assessed home value is \$387,344.00 and homeowners will see a reduction of \$224.00 in their municipal tax. There is a reduction of 2.05% in our levy and a 6.54% reduction in our tax rate. Mayor Kovach reiterated we did everything we can financially to give back to the residents.

SPECIAL EVENT – CRUSIN’ CLINTON FOR AUTISM

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Perloff to approve the Clinton Guild’s request to have an event to cruise and park classic cars on East Main Street to be held on April 23, 2023 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm with a rain date of April 30, 2023 as requested.

Vote all ayes
1 Absent -Padmos
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mayor Kovach received a letter from Shop Rite saying they are hosting a special event - “Ending Hunger is Music to Our Ears” – to honor our hunger-fighting team and the two stores associates who raised the most through donations. The two associates are featured on a **Special-Edition Cheerios box** that will be exclusively at ShopRite stores during the month of March and will be unveiled at the event. If anyone would like to join the celebration it is on Tuesday, April 11 at 2:30pm.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Police Chief Cory Kubinak - No Report

Richard Phelan – Bus.Adm. – No Report

Kathy Olsen, Chief Financial Officer – No Report

Councilman Perloff

1. The Clinton Guild will be meeting tomorrow and will address the insurance for the special event. Also the insurance committee will be meeting next Friday to go over all the requirements and make sure all other events are in compliant. Mr. Perloff thanked Rich Phelan, Business Administrator, for attended the Guild meeting. Mr. Perloff said was very beneficial.

2. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Clinton Community Center hosted by the Clinton Methodist church on April 1st.

3. Membership for the Guild is down. Anyone can join as a friend of the guild. You do not have to be a member.

4. Clinton Guild meetings are held every two weeks at the ReMax building. One subject will be the closing of Lower Center Street for the Come Together Music which will start the Friday before Memorial Day.

5. An application was received to have a men's senior baseball league at Gebhardt Field during the summer. They do not have the umbrella insurance. Mr. Perloff asked for a motion to waive the umbrella requirement:

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Traphagen to grant to waive the insurance.

Vote all ayes
1 Absent Padmos
1 Abstention-Kovach
Motion carried

4. Recreation meets tomorrow night. The summer recreation director, Samantha LeStrange will be three to give an overview of the program. Mr. Brad Cohen has been selected as the treasurer of the group.

5. The flashlight egg hunt is scheduled for March 31st. Elizabeth Hedden, Kristina Tuxhorn and others have been filling Easter eggs for a while. All 2,000 of them. The event will be at Hunts Mill Park starting at 7:00pm.

6. The drive in movie event and the town picnic will be discussed tomorrow at the meeting as well. Mr. Perloff will get all the information Mayor and Council needs as well as what Kathy Olsen, CFO needs for the purchase order.

7. Congrats to Amy De Vita for being appointed to the Environmental Commission earlier in the evening.

Councilman Kashwick

1. Shade Tree Commission met last week. They did an inspection of the trees in Clinton Knolls and found 11 dead Ash trees, 13 dead Maple trees. A total of 24 trees that are completely dead. As far as trees in other areas, the commission needs to wait until the trees start blossoming to get a better determination. Per a request of a resident on Pond Ridge Drive, there are about 7 trees behind the townhomes where one is very big and others are small with several trunks coming off of them. The resident is asking the town to do something since they overhang the decks there. The commission is looking into the pruning of the cherry trees downtown.

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2. Arbor Day is April 28. Mr. Dan Shea will be the honoree this year. He has worked many years on the Shade Tree Commission. It will be at Hunts Mill Park.
3. The Commission is in the process of getting quotes for trees to use the grant money the town received. There was an issue with the grant period but Mr. Rich Phelan, Business Administrator, helped with that. Letters are going to go out to residents to see if they would like any trees planted in front of their resident.
4. The Mr. John "Jack" Holt tree dedication will be on July 1st instead of the end of June.
5. The Environmental Commission will be having the River Clean Up on April 15th. Veronica Lambert reached out to the Raritan Headwaters and they said someone else from the town called to run the event. As of now the commission does not know who that person is. They will find out and report back.
6. The Green Team had a joint meeting with the Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission and the Conservancy Gardens on Monday night earlier this week. The Green Team is going to try to go for the Bronze certification for the State Sustainable program. The deadline for the next round to apply is May 12th. Mr. Kashwick said anyone else who is interested in joining/helping out that would be great. All the help they can get is greatly appreciated.
7. The Environmental Commission is planning a fire fly walk sometime late June early July.
8. The Clinton Conservancy Gardens have many upcoming events. They are a tabling event April 8th, planting a nurse bed April 13th, a children's garden on April 29th, and working at Mill View Park and DeMott Park on May 13 and May 27th.
9. The Platinum Club meets next Monday at 4:45pm in the library. Nicole Piazza from Nourish to Heal will be speaking about senior nutrition.
10. Mr. Kashwick also reported about two weeks ago he was able to visit Hunterdon County Horticultural Development Board. They have a total of 980 acres of farmland. It was very fascinating for him since he is coming from Bergen County. Their Board passed their Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. Some interesting facts are that there are 36,000 acres of preserved farmland in Hunterdon County out of a total of 116,000 acres. Also there has been a 10% loss of farmland in the last 10 years.

Nancy Burgess, Deputy Clerk

1. The program for the Solid Waste billing has been installed on the Edmunds Utility program. It is being worked on for the first billing

Tara St. Angelo, Town Attorney – No Report

Councilwoman Johnson

1. The Afterschool Enrichment Program ended this past week. It was very successful. Last night was the first meeting in a while for the non-profit through the school to raise money for the after school programs to offer these projects. Erin Evans will be leading these efforts.

2. The Clinton Public School play is in progress. Councilwoman Padmos is there tonight doing hair and makeup as well as for Friday. Tickets are still available if anyone is interested. The play is Bye Bye Birdie. The kids have done a terrific job!!
3. The CPS teachers versing council volleyball game is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29th.
4. The Summer Recreation registration is closed. Phone calls are still coming in but we are over compactly. We would love to take all interested but it is just not possible. Initial e-mails went out to all those who are registered.
5. Local Government Week is April 16th thru April 22nd. The schedule is as follows:
 - Sunday, April 16th - Kindness Rock Painting with the Economic Development Committee
 - Thursday, April 20th – Plantings at the Children’s Garden at Hunts Mill Park with the Environmental Commission.
 - Friday, April 21st – Kids Town Hall - Mayor and Council will be visiting CPS students for their own Town Hall Meeting.
 - Saturday, April 22nd – Touch a Truck will take place at the municipal parking lot from 11am – 2pm. Members from the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and police department will be there with their equipment they use.

The League of Municipalities sponsors’ this event throughout the state. There are many projects going on during this week. One of those projects is a picture contest. Ms. Johnson said this would be a great opportunity to promote our new logo “Fall in Love with Clinton” and to market the town.

6. The Park Committee met last night. They should have the final design of the park by the end of the week and will present it to council. They talked about the purchasing of the equipment.
7. The Booster Club met last Monday. There is a Color Run coming up on June 9th and a Kick Ball Tournament on June 10th. There will be 16 teams for the kickball tournament so anyone who would like to join it will be fun community event. The schedule and information will be coming out soon.

Councilman Traphagen

1. The Historic Commission met last week. About 6 months ago Mr. Traphagen mentioned about buying plagues to put out the historic homes. To the commissions surprise from organizing the room the commission uses they found information from 2006 of a potential order to a company that makes plagues. So hopefully in the near future they will have more updates.
2. On May 22nd the Historic Commission along with the 2nd graders will be doing a tour of the historic homes in town.
3. The South Branch Rescue Squad were interested in purchasing 4 pieces of equipment this year totaling about \$20,000 but decided not to. Mr. Traphagen decided to contact a few corporate partners to see if they could help. Exxon Mobile and Hunterdon Health Care donated about \$10,000 to help with the purchases of two of the items. A great big THANK YOU to both of them!!!

6500

Councilman Bruno

1. For Personal, the town is looking for a Field Assessor position.
2. The fire department's new truck was approved this evening as all are aware.
3. For Buildings and Grounds, Congressman Kane's representative came to look at the bridge.

Councilwoman Padmos – No Report

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of March 3, 2023 to March 16, 2023.

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

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

Vote all ayes
1 Absent-Padmos
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #75-23 EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bruno to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter of potential litigation at 8:40 pm, where no action will be taken:

**RESOLUTION #75-23
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 _____)

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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: _____

(estimated length of time) OR upon the occurrence of _____

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.

Councilwoman Padmos present in person at 8:48pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bruno to come out of Executive Session at 10:05 pm with no action taken.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Traphagen seconded by Mr. Kashwick to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 pm.

Nancy Burgess, RMC
Municipal Deputy Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor