

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno (Virtual), Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, 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 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 using ZOOM Video Meetings. Please be aware that this meeting is being recorded for the public record.

We will continue to address all questions and comments for any topic that is not on the current agenda during public comments as well as comments during public hearings for any ordinances.

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.

We ask that you keep your device muted until called upon by council. The meeting’s moderator may also mute participants.

The mayor and council will respond to all votes via roll call with the exception of opening and closing of public hearings will be a voice vote.

The Mayor and Council will respond to all votes by raising hands or via roll call.

Please feel free to reach out with a note at jkovach@clintonnj.gov anytime!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the meeting minutes of March 9, 2022 and Budget meetings March 2 and 8, 2022.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Kovach asked for a moment of silence for Jacqueline (Jackie) Harney who passed away March 17, 2022. Ms. Harney was a long time resident of the Town of Clinton. She served on the town's Guild and Historic Commission and volunteered her time helping the Clinton Sunrise Rotary with the Annual Rubber Ducky Race as well as other organizations.
2. Mayor Kovach said the Municipal Building is lit up in Ukraine colors, blue and yellow, to show our support for Ukraine. Many of our residents are from Ukrainian descent and have many family members there. Any support we can give will be beneficial. Mayor Kovach said she has names of organizations that were forwarded to her if anyone is interested.
3. Mayor Kovach wanted to make council aware that there are some issues of young children climbing on buildings in town. This is very dangerous and this is private property. The Mayor is asking parents and kids to be respectful of property owners and all the safety for the kids. The Mayor asked Marin Resnick, Hunterdon Review reporter, to put this in the newspaper as well. If anyone hears of anything or sees anything to please reach out to the Clinton Police.
4. The Town of Clinton has been awarded \$898,257.00 from the Omnibus Bill. We submitted two projects one for the water main work that still needs to be done on West Main Street and second the sewer project. We are just waiting to confirm what the money is supposed to be used for. The description of the use was not clear. The dollar amount was for the sewer project but the description says water main project. We are more than grateful for this award. She also is hoping to tap into the additional water infrastructure funds of about five billion dollars.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Kate Keller thanked Mayor and Council for letting her come to the meeting to give this power point presentation. Ms. Keller is a Principal for Philips Preiss Grygiel Leheny Hughes LLC which is a Planning and Real Estate Consultant firm located in Jersey City, NJ. They do work for private sectors, public sectors, municipal clients, and county wide studies all across North Jersey areas.

This Economic Sustainability Plan was started by the Economic Development Commission in early 2021 and was fully funded by the Highlands Council. This plan was developed in collaboration with representatives from every Highlands county, the business community, and other critical stakeholders. It is intended to be used as a tool for the creation of comprehensive Economic Sustainability at a local level. The Plan uses Clinton's existing assets to capture new economic opportunities, enhance the public realm, and sustain a high quality of life.

The vision of the plan focuses on five areas which are to activate town gateways, enhance the downtown experience, promote public-private coordination, support sustainable progress and finally engage with the region. The report was done in two parts. First, the existing condition report which looked at the present geographic, transportation, and look at previous plans developed over the years. Ms. Keller looked at the Land Use ordinance, open space areas, the historical fabric, and the flood plan of the town which all of the results are in appendix A of the report. Second, developed an economic based assessment analysis which is in appendix B.

Mr. John Creech and Ms. Elizabeth Halpin, representatives from the Economic Development Committee, spoke about what the next steps would be moving forward with this information. One step would be

branding the town. Building an emotional identity that is authentic, flexible, and versatile, and can help spread the appeal of Clinton far beyond its borders. “Fall in Love with Clinton” is the preliminary theme, pending advice from professionals. Other ideas were talked about but this one seems the most appropriate. Another step would be to look at the signage in town. The plan would be to have a signage team, decide what needs assessment, do a sign inventory, design and placement strategy, and apply for grants and sponsorship funding to alleviate the cost. All this will try to be done thru partnerships to solve issues, build solutions, streamline growth, and celebrate success throughout town.

Mr. Creech and Ms. Halpin thanked Mayor and Council for having them present the power point presentation as well as Ms. Keller’s presentation. This was a long process and many good things will come from it to make Clinton sustainable.

PROBATION PERIOD COMPLETED – MELISSA TORNBERG

Chief Cory Kubinak recommended Ptl. Melissa Tornberg be removed from probationary status and permanently appointed as a Full-Time Member of the Town of Clinton Police Department. Ms. Tornberg has met all the departmental and state requirements for a police officer.

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Perloff to appoint Melissa Tornberg as a permanent police officer for the Town of Clinton.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #66-22 BODY WORN CAMERAS

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adopt Resolution #66-22 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #66-22

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton wishes to purchase Body Worn Cameras under the State of New Jersey Purchasing Contract;

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, Watchguard Video has been awarded Contract T0106 Fleet 00793; and

WHEREAS, the purchasing agent recommends the utilization of this contract on the grounds that it represents the best price available; and

WHEREAS, the actual cost for the Body Worn Cameras is expected not to exceed \$47,099.00 to be paid in five annual installments of \$9,419.80; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of \$9,419.80 within the Body Worn Camera Grant and the remainder to be budgeted in subsequent years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clinton, that Watchguard Video be awarded the contract for the Body Worn Cameras.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #67-22 REDEMPTION OF TAXES

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #67-22 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 67-22

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has been paid \$12,678.36, the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #2018-1 on Block 3 Lot 2.03, assessed to Karel Investments LLC and purchased by Light Properties LLC then Assigned to Bala Partners, LLC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 23rd day of March, 2022 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 \$12,678.36 to Bala Partners, LLC, PO 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 #2018-1 on Block 3 Lot 2.03, assessed to Karel Investments LLC, from the Town of Clinton Tax Records.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #22-01 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #22-01:

ORDINANCE # 22-01

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE AH-1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISTRICT

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Tara St. Angelo, Town Attorney, explained this ordinance is implementing a portion of our affordable housing plan and settlement agreement with fair share housing center. This is creating an area where age

assisted living rental units will be permitted. The zone that is being created is only applicable to the Holiday Inn located at 111 West Main Street. This will give the town credit for round three and potential round four of the affordable housing requirements by the State of New Jersey.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Ordinance #22-01 on final reading.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF CAP ORDINANCE #22-03

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to introduce Ordinance #22-03 on first reading as submitted:

**ORDINANCE #22-03
CALENDAR YEAR 2022
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.50% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Clinton in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council hereby determines that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 40,305.62 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of Clinton, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Town of Clinton shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$ 141,069.70 and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Town of Clinton be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A copy of this Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review News edition of March 30, 2022.
A public hearing will be held April 27, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to introduce the 2022 Municipal Budget as submitted:

**2022 Municipal Budget
Of the Town of Clinton County of Hunterdon
For the fiscal year 2022**

**Revenue and Appropriations
Summaries**

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated		
	2022		2021
1. Surplus	500,000.00		400,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	1,260,517.56		1,086,060.58
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	100,000.00		100,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	3,700,373.51		3,459,859.00
b) Addition to Local School District Tax			
c) Minimum Library Tax			
Total Amt to be Raised by Taxes for Sup of Muni Budget	3,700,373.51		3,459,859.00
Total General Revenues	5,560,891.07		5,045,919.58

Summary of Appropriations		2022 Budget		Final 2021 Budget	
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	2,038,160.00		1,930,570.00	
	Other Expenses	1,997,223.38		1,804,141.58	
2.	Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	594,307.34		588,838.00	
3.	Capital Improvements	150,000.00		75,000.00	
4.	Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	471,200.35		337,370.00	
5.	Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	310,000.00		310,000.00	
	Total General Appropriations	5,560,891.07		5,045,919.58	
	Total Number of Employees	31		31	

2022 Dedicated		Water	Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated			
		2022		2021	
1.	Surplus				
2.	Miscellaneous Revenues	3,946,596.00		3,547,400.00	
3.	Deficit (General Budget)				
	Total Revenues	3,946,596.00		3,547,400.00	
Summary of Appropriations		2022 Budget		Final 2021 Budget	
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	720,000.00		710,000.00	
	Other Expenses	1,628,650.00		1,334,650.00	
2.	Capital Improvements	300,000.00		170,000.00	
3.	Debt Service	1,168,000.00		1,210,250.00	
4.	Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	129,946.00		122,500.00	
5.	Surplus (General Budget)				
	Total Appropriations	3,946,596.00		3,547,400.00	
	Total Number of Employees	9		9	

2022 Dedicated		Sewer	Utility Budget		
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated			
		2022		2021	
1.	Surplus	331,030.00		194,968.00	
2.	Miscellaneous Revenues	2,150,000.00		2,060,000.00	
3.	Deficit (General Budget)				
	Total Revenues	2,481,030.00		2,254,968.00	
Summary of Appropriations		2022 Budget		Final 2021 Budget	
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	445,500.00		415,000.00	
	Other Expenses	1,569,435.88		1,513,909.00	
2.	Capital Improvements	60,000.00		60,000.00	
3.	Debt Service	296,700.00		162,684.00	

4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	109,820.33		103,375.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations	2,481,456.21		2,254,968.00
Total Number of Employees	7		7

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A copy of this Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review News edition of March 30, 2022.
A public hearing will be held April 27, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #22-04 – CAPITAL ORDINANCE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to introduce Ordinance #22-04 on first reading as submitted:

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 22-04

CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF CLINTON AND APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$200,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND DOT GRANT

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

Section 1. The Town of Clinton in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, is hereby authorized to make the following improvements, by and for the Town, including all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefore:

<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
Kings Crossing Road Improvement Project	\$200,000.00
TOTAL	\$200,000.00

Section 2. The aggregate sum of \$50,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Town of Clinton and from a Department of Transportation Grant in the sum of \$150,000.00 to the payment of the cost of the improvements as described in Section 1 hereof.

Section 3. Said improvements are lawful capital improvements of the Town of Clinton having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements, no part of the cost of which shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 4. The capital budget of the Town of Clinton is hereby amended to conform with provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital

program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 5. This capital ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as required by law.

Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen
Abstain: Bruno, Mayor Kovach
Motion carried

A copy of this Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review's edition of March 30, 2022.
A public hearing will be held April 27, 2022.

WATER REFUND

Water Collector, Nancy Burgess, is requesting water refund to Salvator Tammora, 40 Sam Bonnell Drive. The owner payment should have gone to his HOA and has requested a refund.

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Johnson, authorizing the refund to Salvator Tammora in the amount of 365.00.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

Reports of Council

Police Chief Cory Kubinak

Chief Kubinak reported that he is in need of crossing guards. He has not received a single application. He needs two so if council is aware of anyone interested please let him know.

The department is selling town police patches for \$20.00 to raise money for Autism Awareness. The total proceeds will go to the Hunterdon Arc.

The department will be hiring a new officer in June. The candidate is still in the academy and will be graduating in June. This new officer will be filling a vacancy.

Councilman Perloff

The Clinton Guild meets tomorrow morning and the Recreation Committee meets tomorrow night.

There are two Easter Egg Hunts coming up. One is April 1st from 7-9pm hosted by the Recreation Committee at Hunts Mill Park. It will be a Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt. Participants must register and is for the Clinton school age residents. The second Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16, 2022 held at the Community Center and hosted by the Clinton Guild.

Councilman Humphrey

The Communication Committee will meet next Monday. Mr. Humphrey will reveal the new hub for the newsletter. Hopefully it will be easier for articles to be submitted.

The Platinum Club will have their social this Friday at the Clinton Fire Department from 2-4pm. It will be game night/afternoon. He is grateful to Councilwoman Johnson and others for donating many games.

Hunterdon County Governor's Officers Association will have a meeting next Tuesday. An e-mail went out to everyone for them to attend. It is a great way to network with people to help solve problems and our problems also.

Tara St. Angelo, Town Attorney

Ms. St. Angelo reported that they had their elected official's seminar this past Saturday. She will make the slides available for anyone who would like them. If there are any questions just reach out. It went very well.

Councilwoman Dineen

The Water Committee, Roads Committee, and Buildings and Grounds Committee all meet next week.

The Land Use Board met on March 15, 2022. They reviewed the AH1 Ordinance and was found consistent with and non-consistent with the Master Plan. It is internally meant to be like that in case years from now if there is something that comes up that is not covered in the Master Plan for example the Cannabis issue we can say is non-consistent with.

The Lane Use Board did a completeness review for Ackaway property at 37 Main Street for retail on the bottom and residence on top. Application was complete.

Councilman Traphagen

Three Town of Clinton Historic Façade Improvement Grant applications came in. The applications will be reviewed on Monday evening by a joint board, the Historical Commission and the Red Mill Board of Trustees. They will make a determination which applicant will receive the grant funds.

In the last Building and Grounds meeting it came up with the possibility of donating our leaf collections to Grow a Row. Mr. Traphagen said he knows the owner of Grow a Row and the owner was very responsive to the idea. They are very willing to accept all of the leaves. This should save the town \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year to get rid of them. This will be a huge thing to help the town stay sustainable.

Councilwoman Johnson

The grant was submitted for the Inclusive Public Communities this afternoon... Ms. Johnson gave a huge thank you to former Councilwoman Intrabartola for proof reading and editing. She also thanked Rich Phelan, Business Administrator and all who helped get it together. This grant, if received, will benefit many of the disabled children to have a playground they can play on with all the other children. There have been many conversations with people in the community and outside the community such as Bill Kent, Executive Director of Matheny School; Jeff Mattison, Executive Director of the Arc of Hunterdon; representatives of Clinton Public School and North Hunterdon Kiwanis Club; Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker; and Resident Kyle Hoffman. All were very enthusiastic about the project. April 29, 2022 is when we should hear if receiving grant.

The Clinton Public School Board met. They had two meetings this week. They had the strategic planning for the school for the next five years. A lot of awesome ideas came out of the meeting such as sustainability, growing the building to make it more eco-friendly, supporting the staff, and mental health for the students and staff. The school will have a report to Mayor and Council shortly.

The Clinton Public School PTO is having a fund raiser April 8 2022. It will be a basketball game between the Harlem Wizards and the staff to be held at North Hunterdon High School. So come out and support the staff it should be a lot of fun

NJ Local Government Week is the week of April 3rd. Many activities will be happening such as a mayor's walk, a platinum club social. The kid's town hall will be April 6, 2022 in the morning. If council would like to join with herself and the mayor that would be great. You would just explain how it is to be on council and what you do. Last year was very interesting the kids asked some very important questions like affordable housing, and safe crossing. Dr. Cohen is very excited to have everyone there. There will be a "Touch a Truck" available Saturday, April 9, from 10-2. Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and the police department will have their vehicles available for the kids to explore. More information will be sent out.

Councilman Bruno

Councilman Bruno reported he let them know what the anticipated budget for the Shade Tree Commission was. Some members were not happy. Commission had a discussion about what trees to be taken down that are in the town's right of way.

Arbor Day in April 29th. Will be going to CPS to plant the tree with the 3rd grade class. Mr. Bruno still has no word from the State about the seedlings he ordered.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of March 4, through March 17, 2022.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to approve the voucher list as attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bruno, Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Perloff, Traphagen, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Johnson seconded by Mr. Humphrey to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Nancy Burgess, RMC
Municipal Deputy Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor