

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno, Kashwick, Padmos, Perloff, Stentz, 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.”

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. Kashwick, seconded by Ms. Stentz, to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting and Executive Session held March 13, 2024 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Kovach took part in a resiliency walk through the municipal building and properties along with Councilman Kashwick and a resiliency professional through town and pointed out our vulnerable areas. We are going to pull together a meeting with Clinton Township and High Bridge to look at a regional approach.

Chabad Auction - another amazingly successful auction, congratulations to Rabbi Kornfield.

Walgreens ribbon cutting last week – this is one of only three trailers throughout the country that Walgreen’s has – Walgreen’s is committed to serving the community throughout the re-build.

Fairleigh Dickenson University - conversation with Mayor Ras Baraka and an overall project of speaking with 2025 gubernatorial candidates.

Land Use Board completed testimony and comments of AMBE Holdings – the applicant was approved with conditions including addressing the second eagles’ nest, meeting the green infrastructure and enhanced rainfall stormwater standards.

Garden State Film Festival was last weekend – it was a fabulous event and had the opportunity to pitch not only Jersey for filming but Clinton as well.

Presented young Jeffrey Hedden with a proclamation at his going away party, wishing him all the best as he embarks on his journey of service in the military.

Franklin Township has reached out and we had an initial meeting to understand their needs for their affordable housing project. The water and sewer committees will be the next step when they are ready to move forward.

Sewer odor - I understand there have been some concerns raised again about smell in the neighborhood over by Haver Farm and Goosetown. Mayor Kovach has asked Bob Niezgod, the sewer superintendent, and Suburban Consulting Engineers to check into the concerns. Once they have completed their analysis we can plan for next steps, if it is sewer related or another issue that needs to be addressed.

The 2024 budget is getting introduced tonight and the budget letter will be going out shortly to all the residents.

DARK SKY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovach read the Dark Sky Proclamation and heard comments from Green Team member, Grace Rogan, Dr. Jonathan Wall, Chair of the Light Pollution and Night Skies Committee for the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club, advocate with the NJ Chapter of Dark Sky International and Ambassador of the Dark Sky coalition and Sierra Club and Jim Webster, of Dark Sky New Jersey.

Ms. Rogan expressed her feelings of being a member of the Green Team and is happy to model the attitude of many adults striving for the betterment of the community and of the planet.

Dr. Wall thanked Council for their support and explained the negative effects light pollution has on everyone, young and old alike with sleep. It also impacts species of birds, turtles and other wildlife including insects. Dr. Wall gave examples of how controlled lightening is the safer approach and lights on sensors is the best solution, even saving in taxpayer dollars.

Jim Webster, of Dark Sky New Jersey, thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of this proclamation and will be making a presentation next week on Light Pollution Awareness. Mr. Webster asked if anyone was interested in further information, he would be happy to follow up.

RESOLUTION #70-24 – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to adopt Resolution #70-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #70-24
SUPPORT FOR BILLS S2946 AND A4505

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Medicaid reimbursement rate for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Basic Life Support transportation is \$58.00 per trip, and

WHEREAS, this rate is reported to be the lowest rate in comparison to neighboring states and is among the lowest nationwide, and

WHEREAS, the rate of \$58.00 per trip has been in existence since 1994 and is no longer sustainable for the EMS system, and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey EMS system is facing a critical staffing crisis, rising costs due to inflation, and the emergency medicine industry becoming more complex,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Clinton endorses bills S2946 and A4505 which increase the EMS Medicaid transportation rate to \$200.00 per trip, which better aligns with rates imposed by neighboring states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of:

Governor Phil Murphy
Senator Nicholas Scutari, Senate President
Senator Anthony Bucco, Republican Leader
Senator Andrew Zwicker
Assemblyman Craig Coughlin, Assembly Speaker
Assemblyman John DiMaio, Republican Leader
Assemblyman Roy Freiman
Assemblywoman Mitchell Drulis
New Jersey League of Municipalities

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

WATER REFUND

Nancy Burgess, Water Collector, is requesting a refund in the amount of \$80.80. A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Bruno to grant the water refund to account #1235-0 as requested.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT – SOUTH BRANCH EMERGENCY SERVICES

A special event application has been submitted by the South Branch Emergency Services to hold a fundraiser on East Main Street, May 19, 2024. The Lobster and Steak event will be held 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the request is to close the road. Chief Kubinak has reviewed the application with Squad Chief Setnicky and all appears to be in order. A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen seconded by Mr. Kashwick to approve the request.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

BANNER REQUEST – SBES

South Branch emergency Services is requesting a banner be displayed May 6 through May 13, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Ms. Stentz to approve the request.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #24-02 – CAP ORDINANCE 2024

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Traphagen to introduce Ordinance #24-02 as submitted:

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

ORDINANCE # 24-02

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 2024 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 \$ 42,539.45 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 2024 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 \$ 148,888.07 and that the CY 2024 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 April 3, 2024 edition. A public hearing will be held April 24, 2024.

INTRODUCTION OF 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Stentz seconded by Ms. Padmos to introduce the 2024 Municipal Budget as presented:

2024

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Copies are available on the Town of Clinton website www.clintonnj.gov

And available in the clerk's office

The summary of the budget will be published in the Hunterdon Review April 3, 2024.

**Revenue and Appropriations
Summaries**

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2024	2023
1. Surplus	800,000.00	600,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	1,325,046.02	4,322,913.10
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	100,000.00	100,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	3,752,869.98	3,624,441.51
b) Addition to Local School District Tax		
c) Minimum Library Tax		
Tot Amt to be Rsd by Taxes for Sup of Muni Bnd	3,752,869.98	3,624,441.51
Total General Revenues	5,977,916.00	8,647,354.61

Summary of Appropriations	2024 Budget	Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	2,368,256.00	2,205,635.00
Other Expenses	1,945,343.00	4,961,230.97
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	667,447.00	611,998.00
3. Capital Improvements	150,000.00	125,000.00
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	536,870.00	433,490.64
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	310,000.00	310,000.00
Total General Appropriations	5,977,916.00	8,647,354.61
Total Number of Employees	34	31

2024 Dedicated	Water	Utility Budget
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated
		2024
		2023
1. Surplus		736,452.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		4,282,500.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)		
Total Revenues		5,018,952.00
Summary of Appropriations		2024 Budget
		Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages		770,000.00
		740,000.00

March 27, 2024
Regular Council Meeting

Other Expenses	1,957,460.00	1,841,190.00
2. Capital Improvements	900,000.00	950,000.00
3. Debt Service	1,248,330.00	1,293,500.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	143,162.00	465,498.05
5. Surplus (General Budget)		
Total Appropriations	5,018,952.00	5,290,188.05
Total Number of Employees	9	9

2024 Dedicated	Sewer	Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		2024	2023
1. Surplus		948,222.58	485,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		1,950,000.00	2,310,838.40
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues		2,898,222.58	2,795,838.40
Summary of Appropriations		2024 Budget	Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	449,575.00	437,500.00
	Other Expenses	1,758,985.58	1,674,341.40
2. Capital Improvements		60,000.00	60,000.00
3. Debt Service		511,625.00	457,250.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		118,037.00	166,747.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		2,898,222.58	2,795,838.40
Total Number of Employees		6	7

2024 Dedicated	Solid Waste	Utility Budget	
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		2024	2023
1. Surplus			
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		298,260.00	275,000.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)			
Total Revenues		298,260.00	275,000.00
Summary of Appropriations		2024 Budget	Final 2023 Budget
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages	5,150.00	5,000.00
	Other Expenses	292,660.00	269,550.00
2. Capital Improvements			
3. Debt Service			
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		450.00	450.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total Appropriations		298,260.00	275,000.00
Total Number of Employees		1	1

Balance of Outstanding Debt			
	General	Water	Sewer
Interest	112,966.17	2,937,827.37	815,062.30

Principal		2,567,070.00		12,849,774.38		4,861,506.26
Outstanding Balance		2,680,036.17		15,787,601.75		5,676,568.56

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the COUNCIL MEMBERS of the HUNTERDON TOWN of CLINTON, County of HUNTERDON on March 27, 2024.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at Town of Clinton Municipal Building, on April 24, 2024 at 7:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2024 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested parties.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of the Municipal Clerk at the Municipal Building, Clinton, New Jersey, 08809 during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #65-24 – APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Kashwick to adopt Resolution #65-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #65-24

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FINANCIAL ADVISOR

WHEREAS, The Town of Clinton has the need to appoint a Financial Advisor for services in connection to the refunding bond ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix Advisors of 625 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ has been recommended by the Town's Bond Counsel, McManimon, Scotland and Baumann and the Chief Financial Officer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby appoints Phoenix Advisors at an amount not to exceed \$13,500.00.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #66-24 – CANCEL LEIN ON BLOCK 19, LOT 12.08

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Mr. Bruno to adopt Resolution #66-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 66-24

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has been paid \$1,902.07, the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #23-00003 on Block 19, Lot 12.08, as assessed to Johnny Zaloumes, and purchased by Bala Partners, LLC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 27th day of March, 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 \$1,902.071 for the lien redemption and a check in the amount of \$1,300.00 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 19, Lot 12.08, as assessed to Johnny Zaloumes, from the Town of Clinton Tax Records.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #67-24 – CAPITAL BUDGET FOR PFAS TREATMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick seconded by Mr. Traphagen to adopt Resolution #67-24 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #67-24

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton desires to constitute the 2024 Temporary Water Capital Budget of said municipality by inserting therein the Preliminary Design for Systemwide PFAS Treatment Improvements;

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

Section 1. The 2024 Temporary Water Capital Budget of the Town of Clinton is hereby constituted by the adoption of a schedule to read as follows:

Temporary Water Capital Budget of the
Town of Clinton
County of Hunterdon, New Jersey
Projects Scheduled for 2024
Method of Financing
Preliminary Design for Systemwide PFAS Treatment Improvements
Capital Improvement Bond
\$200,000.00

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 the 2024 Temporary Water Capital Budget, to be included in the 2024 Permanent Water Capital Budget as adopted.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #24-03 – PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR SYSTEM WIDE PFAS SYSTEM

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Stentz to introduce Ordinance #24-03 on first reading as submitted:

**WATER UTILITY
CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 24-03**

CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON WATER UTILITY, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF CLINTON WATER UTILITY AND APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$200,000.00 FROM THE WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR SYSTEM WIDE PFAS TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS

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 to the Water Utility in, by and for the Town, including all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefore:

	ESTIMATED
<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>COST</u>
PRELIMINARY DESIGN – PFAS TREATMENT	\$200,000.00
TOTAL	\$200,000.00

Section 2. The aggregate sum of \$200,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Water Utility Capital Improvement Fund for Water Utility Improvements within the Town of Clinton Water Utility 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 Water Utility 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 Water Utility 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.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A copy of this ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review April 3, 2024 edition. A public hearing will be held April 24, 2024.

RESOLUTION #68-24 – EXTENSION OF HEADLEY FARMS WATER RESERVATION

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff seconded by Ms. Stentz, to adopt Resolution #68-24 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION # 68-24
RESOLUTION APPROVING SECOND WATER CAPACITY RESERVATION
EXTENSION - APPLICATION #L21-08**

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, on January 26, 2022 the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton adopted Resolution #47-22, which approved Water Reservation Application #L21-08 submitted in the name of CRC Communities at Headley Farm Estates, Inc. (“CRC Communities”) for property designated as Block 46, Lots 33 and 33.02 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Clinton in the amount of 19,670 GPD, which allocation is also to be held in trust by the Township of Clinton for affordable housing purposes; and

WHEREAS, the approval was extended for one-year to January 26, 2024 pursuant to Town Council Resolution #44-23; and

WHEREAS, the CRC Communities submitted a request on January 17, 2024 (amended by letter and additional submissions on March 8, 2024) for a water reservation extension for the aforementioned water reservation upon notice to and consent of the Township of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2024 the Town’s Water Committee held their monthly meeting in which they have reviewed and approved the above-referenced request for extensions.

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 approves the second extension of Water Reservation Application # L21-08 in the amount of 19,670 GPD through January 26, 2025.

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 #69-24 – EMERGENCY BUILDING INSPECTION PROGRAM

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #69-24 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION # 69-24
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE EMERGENCY BUILDING
INSPECTION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Emergency Building Inspection Program was established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52.27D-126.3 to ensure that there are ample building code officials deployed to a disaster and to expedite damage assessment; and

WHEREAS, such program ensures that the deployed code officials are compensated; and

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

1. Town of Clinton Code Officials are authorized to participate in the Emergency Building Inspection Program.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #71-24 – RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick seconded by Ms. Stentz to adopt Resolution #71-24 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION #71-24
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.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Councilman Bruno

Councilman Bruno asked if anyone was experiencing cell service problems and said he reached out to Verizon. Mr. Bruno is getting a connector at no cost, he has had terrible service from inside his home for years. Mayor Kovach offered to reach out to a representative in Trenton if Mr. Bruno is not getting any satisfaction.

Councilman Traphagen

South Branch Emergency Services – has been covered in the meeting. Mr. Traphagen will let everyone know when tickets for the Lobster and Steak event come available.

Historic Commission – hopefully everyone has seen the new “Welcome to Clinton” sign in front of the library on Halstead Street. Others expected to be erected soon, a total of six. Karen Romanga is the talented artist responsible for the beautiful signs.

A \$5,000 grant has been received to invest in historic signage, plans to erect a sign at the historic Gebhardt Field, behind the Community Center on Halstead Street.

Councilwoman Padmos

Economic Development Committee would like to apply for another grant through DCA for playground/recreation. If we are granted the Jake’s Law funding through Green Acres grant, we can use this funding for basketball courts, we would just need to modify the request. The zip line will be partially covered by the Christopher Reeve grant we were rewarded back in January.

EDC – Art in Bloom Festival, April 14, 2024 – going to man a Welcome Center Tent! The decorated frame will be on the bridge with festival goes in the background for photo ops.

EDC - Sherry Dineen will be the Land Use Liaison.

A ribbon cutting on April 9, 2024 for Kuay Tiew Noodles and More. SV Pizzeria will be holding their ribbon cutting on April 25, 2024.

Booster Club will hold another Pints for the Park date to be determined. Funds raised can be used for any park maintenance or other issues. A sign will be purchased and erected at the playground for donors that have supported our fundraising events. Corporate donors and family names of donors will be on it in giving order, not in amount order. Club plans to send out fund raising letters to residents, more details to follow.

Mayor’s Wellness Campaign – Mark from MAX Challenge has ordered 100 reflective vests for people walking at night. A Flashlight Walk is being discussed, no date yet. Mr. Perloff mentioned Rec has reflective vests that are used for events at night but the vests from Mark have already been ordered.

Councilwoman Stentz - no report

Councilman Kashwick

Platinum Club – Chair yoga will begin Monday, April 1, 2024 at the Community Center 1:00 p.m. Free

Environmental Commission – Ben Harris from Raritan Headwaters Association attended last week’s meeting to answer any questions about the letter that he sent about the river water quality.

Joined the Highlands Watershed Planning Committee meeting earlier today. Subcommittee comprised of Mary Jo Kurtiak, Councilman Kashwick along with Councilwoman Stentz and Jeremy Padmos met with resident Ken Fischer to review the issues of I-78.

Reviewed the video of the second session on the Tree Removal Replacement Ordinance. Councilwoman Stentz, Denise Birmingham and Mr. Kashwick continuing to work on the Ordinance. Would like to set up a meeting time next week to discuss with Attorney St. Angelo.

Rutgers Environmental Stewardship Program – completed two more modules-one on the project that is required and the next on Environmental Justice and another on native pollinators.

Green Team – participating in Red Goes Green event at the Red Mill on April 13, 2024. Volunteers are still needed for the River Clean Up on April 20.

Our light pollution film from last year was mentioned in the Sustainable Jersey Newsletter!

Councilman Perloff

Councilman Perloff announced congratulations to the 7th/8th Grade CCYA Girls Basketball team. After an UNDEFEATED season they entered the championship game on Monday, March 25, 2024. They had beaten Del Val twice during the regular season but in the waning moment of the game, momentum shifted and Del Val defeated our CCYA team. This group of CCYA girls was unforgettable - incredibly fun, tough and fierce. Congratulations to Ainsley, Ava, Avery, Brielle, Charlotte, Emma, Katie, Lily, Maeve, Maggie, Mia and Val on an incredible run. Additionally, a huge thank you to volunteer coaches Coach Gus and Coach Jonathan. Mr. Perloff also congratulated Office McGuire whose daughter played for Del Val.

Sewer - No report, meeting next week

Personnel - Both water and sewer have positions under review and Administrator Phelan will let us know if/when progress is made there at which time we can alert the Mayor and Council.

Recreation - The egg hunt was a success and thank you to all the volunteers especially MaryAnn Shea, Liz Hedden and Rachel Young. Hundreds of kids came out for the flashlight event!

Economic Development - Waiting on pricing for the business registry and then will take it back to Economic Development. Personally, leaning towards the post card options but we will price out both post card and letter options. This would be sent to about 300 businesses, giving them the option to opt in or not to be listed on the Town website.

Guild - Met Thursday, March 21, 2024. Clinton United Methodist to hold their annual egg hunt on March 30 at 11am at the community center. Scavenger Hunt is ongoing all week ending on 03/30 where the Easter Bunny will be in town between 1 and 3pm. In coordination with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Clinton and the Red Mill, the Guild will be sponsoring an event on April 11 at the Red Mill in support of the Open Cupboard Food Pantry (tickets are \$25). The guild is also preparing for their Cruisin' Clinton event on April 28.

Mr. Perloff directed the next comment to the Chief - receiving ongoing complaints about speed on West Main Street as well as a vehicle that passes back and forth backfiring.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of March 1, 2024 through March 14, 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. Perloff seconded by Mr. Kashwick 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 Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Bruno to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor