

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno, Johnson, Kashwick, Padmos, 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.”

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 Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting and Executive Session minutes of April 12, 2023 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Padmos)
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Kovach asked Council members to submit their reports to the clerk for recording in the minutes if possible.
2. Council has received two Citizen Involvement forms from interested residents. Mayor Kovach asked for a motion to appoint Mary Jo Kurtiak to the Environmental Commission and the Green Team. Motion made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Ms. Padmos.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick seconded by Mr. Perloff, to appoint Norma Kania to the Shade Tree Commission.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

3. Mayor Kovach has requested the Town Water Engineer to provide a presentation to Council and the public sometime late May or early June, regarding the lead and galvanized pipe that must be replaced by 2031. Residents have been asked to check their pipes and notify the Town of the material currently used. This is following the United States Environmental Protection Agency's direction regarding perfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") and perfluorooctane sulfonate ("PFOS") which has been used since the early 1950's. The EPA is still deciding how to approach this dilemma.
4. Mayor Kovach and Councilwoman Johnson visited Veteran's Haven North in Glen Gardner, Route 31. This is a transitional housing program for homeless veterans. Met with Superintendent David Culley, being familiar with the program as a former member of the commission on the Status of Women Veterans, Mayor Kovach asked that Mr. Culley and Karl Vonderheyde come to the council meeting on May 10.
5. Mayor Kovach reminded Council to complete their Financial Disclosure Statements by April 30.
6. Met with Geoff Long of Ingerman Builders and his leasing staff for View 22 and was advised that their leasing trailer should be open mid to late May. If anyone has completed a contact form, they will be receiving an email next week with the next steps. Affordable housing applications cannot be accepted until the day the leasing office opens. Model units will be available soon, planning for a mid-late July move in.
7. Visiting Celedex Therapeutics tomorrow, Thursday, April 27, with the Hunterdon County Economic Development to share information on the history and tourism of Clinton and the County.
8. Participated this evening in the Women in politics panel, Women of Diplomacy Leadership Program through Seton Hall.

FRIENDS OF CLINTON PARKS

Members of the Clinton Booster Club, President, Andrea Ippolito; Lisa Intrabartola, Treasurer; Elizabeth Halpin, Secretary and Adrienne Watts, a member of the Booster Club presented a check to Mayor Kovach and Council for the playground in the amount of \$22,263.47!!

Mayor Kovach thanked everyone involved with the Booster Club and fundraising committees. More fundraisers are being planned such as the Color Run, June 23, rain date June 25th. Sunken Silo fundraiser tentatively set for August 25.

Ryan Stewart, Design Consultant for Marturano Recreation Company, Inc., was introduced by Councilwoman Johnson. Mr. Stewart zoomed into the meeting and gave a very detailed layout with photos describing the proposed playground. There will be phases of the new equipment installation, time line is to be determined. The 5-12 year old structure was displayed in several photos and the base was also explained. Fencing in the area will be updated. Exhibits available in the clerk's office.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovach read the Arbor Day Proclamation aloud. The celebration with the third graders will be held Friday, April 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., Hunts Mill Park. The tree will be dedicated to Dan Shea, former Councilman, Shade Tree Commission member and Town Crier!

RESOLUTION #84-23 – SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

A motion was made by Mr. Kashwick, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #84-23 as submitted:
RESOLUTION # 84-23

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

WHEREAS, land use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and

WHEREAS, poor land-use decisions can lead to an increase in societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space, and the degradation of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, well-planned land use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space, provide for adequate recreation, and allow for the continued protection and use of vital natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Given New Jersey’s strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Clinton that the following steps be taken with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making the Town of Clinton a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in the next master plan revision and reexamination report and to update our land-use zoning, natural resource protection, and other ordinances accordingly.

- 1) Regional Cooperation - we pledge to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions and to consider regional impacts when making land-use decisions.
- 2) Transportation Choices - We pledge to create transportation choices with a Complete Streets approach by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit, and automobiles, when planning transportation projects and reviewing development applications. We will reevaluate our parking to limit the number of required parking spaces and promote shared parking and other innovative parking alternatives.
- 3) Natural Resource Protection - We pledge to take action to protect the natural resources of the State for environmental, recreational, and agricultural value, avoiding or mitigating negative impacts on these resources. Further, we pledge to update our Natural Resources Inventory before or during each master plan reexamination to identify and assess the extent of our natural resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis, land use, and open space planning.
- 4) Mix of Land Uses - We pledge to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational, and other land use types in areas that make the most sense for our municipality and the region, particularly in downtown and town center areas.
- 5) Housing Options - We pledge, through the use of our zoning and revenue-generating powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations, including single- and multi-family, for-sale, and rental options, to meet the needs of all people at a range of income levels.
- 6) Green Design - We pledge to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into municipal buildings to the extent feasible and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for residential and commercial buildings.
- 7) Municipal Facilities Siting - We pledge, to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bikability, greater access to public transit, proximity to other land-use types, and open space when locating new or relocated municipal facilities.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #85-23 – GREEN BUILDING DESIGN

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to adopt Resolution #85-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 85-23

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING GREEN BUILDING DESIGN

WHEREAS, buildings account for 39% of CO2 emissions – more than the transportation or industrial sectors. In addition, buildings account for nearly 12% of potable water use, 65% of waste output, and 71% of electricity consumption in the U.S. (U.S. Green Building Council); and

WHEREAS, green building (also called sustainable or high-performance building) is a collection of better design, construction, and operating practices that can potentially reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of development on the environment and human health. Many examples of green building programs and guidelines have been propagated at national, state, and municipal levels. They commonly address energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction, water conservation, waste reduction, healthy and sustainably produced materials, indoor air quality, occupant productivity, and health, and other components; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to enhance the public welfare and assure that commercial, residential, and civic development is consistent with the Town of Clinton's desire to create a more sustainable community by incorporating green building measures into the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton desires to set a leadership example in the area of green building by proposing energy efficiency audits and upgrades to the municipal building stock, continued procurement practices, such as improving water conservation and run-off, tree preservation, reducing light pollution, and reducing construction waste; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton wishes to support green building in the private sector through a combination of voluntary and educational actions for residents and businesses, such as making available information on green building programs, guidelines, and rebates. The Town may also consider further actions, such as discussing the inclusion of a green building scorecard within the Site Plan approval process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Clinton hereby implements a Green Building Policy that:

- 1) will consider opportunities to incorporate green building measures into the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of municipal buildings and facilities.
- 2) will encourage green design for commercial and residential buildings.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilman Perloff commented on a workshop held by NJEDA sponsored by the Hunterdon Chamber of Commerce for small business grants. Available to small businesses doing renovations tied to the guidelines of Green Building designs. There is a two year reimbursable limit. Information available on the Chamber website, search Small Business Economic Development Authority.

RESOLUTION #86-23 – HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION GRANT

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #86-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #86-23

Whereas, the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Clinton desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) for \$5,000 to designate Gebhardt Baseball Field and the Grandstand as an historic landmark.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

1. That the Town of Clinton does hereby authorize the application for such a grant (Application # HC-PRO-2024-027); and,
2. Recognizes and accepts that the NJHC may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the NJHC, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the NJHC, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between

The Town of Clinton and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Many thanks to Rosemarie Platt, Chair of the Historic Commission and Holly Lione, member and Town Historian, for the extensive research and preparation of the grant application.

RESOLUTION #87-23 – INSURANCE STANDARDS

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #87-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #87-23

ESTABLISHING MINIMUM INSURANCE STANDARDS FOR CONTRACTORS AND VENDORS ACCESSING MUNICIPAL PROPERTY FOR RECREATION OR NON-RECREATION PURPOSES

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2020 the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution # 117-20 which established certain minimum standards of insurance to be provided by contractors and vendors renting/reserving municipal property for private events; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton are desirous to amend the current minimum standards of insurance to be provided by contractors and vendors, as well as expand to include residents desirous of renting/reserving municipal property for private events; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that depending on the good/services being provided by the contractor/vendor/resident, different insurance limitations would continue to be in the best interest of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town is amending its “tiered” insurance structure to continue providing for higher insurance limitations for contractors/vendors/residents providing higher risk services and lower insurance limitations for contractors/vendors/residents providing lower risk services; and

WHEREAS, any contractor/vendor/resident seeking rent/reserve municipal property or facilities are still required to complete and adhere to all the terms and conditions of the Town’s Facility Use Form (as amended); and

WHEREAS, the attached document entitled “Town of Clinton Insurance Requirements” shows the amended tier limitations; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the list of tiered events is not all-encompassing, the Mayor and Council authorize the Town’s Risk Manager to make interpretations and assign contractor/vendors to specific tier requirement coverage for recreation related programs/events, and to make interpretations and assign contractor/vendors to specific tier requirement coverage for non-recreation related programs/events; and

WHEREAS, at the discretion of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, the limitations and/or tier categories can be modified and amended by resolution should the need arise.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby adopt the amended tiered standards for insurance limitations in accordance with the attached document entitled “Town of Clinton Insurance Requirements”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to all municipal departments and the Town of Clinton Recreation Commission.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilman Perloff explained that the three categories have been adjusted; Tiers A&B have been combined; Tier B is low risk such as parties and Tier C are resident requirements. No more waiving of insurance requirements will take place.

RESOLUTION #88-23 – REDEMPTION OF LIEN

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to adopt Resolution #88-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 88-23

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has been paid \$2,891.37, the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #22-00005 on Block 11, Lot 11, as assessed to Legacy Intax, LLC, and purchased by Bala Partners, LLC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 26th day of April, 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 \$2,891.37 for the lien redemption and a check in the amount of \$1,800.00 for the premium, Bala Partners, LLC, P.O. Box 803, 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 11, Lot 11, as assessed to Legacy Intax, from the Town of Clinton Tax Records.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #89-23 – SELF EXAMINATION OF MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Padmos, to adopt Resolution #89-23 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #89-23

SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Town of Clinton has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2023 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Town of Clinton that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:

- a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
- b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
- c. Cash deficit of preceding year
- d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
- e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
- f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.

2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).

3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #23-08 – CAP ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #23-08:

**ORDINANCE #23-08
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

**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 2023 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 \$ 39,736.75 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 2023 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 \$139,078.63 and that the CY 2023 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

Lisa Intrabartola asked about the garbage which Mayor Kovach replied it will be discussed during the budget hearing, next on agenda.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kashwick, to adopt Ordinance #23-08 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff to open the public hearing of the 2023 Municipal budget.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Mayor Kovach explained there was a cut in the tax rate of 0.058cents due to the fact the we pulled the garbage line item out of the budget. In response to Ms. Intrabartola's question, Mayor Kovach explained the increase of almost 90% with the garbage hauler, Republic Services. Due to the significant increase, the Town had two options, to do away with municipal garbage pick up and have residents seek their own pick up or create a garbage utility. The latter was decided to continue trash pick up for residents with a cost of \$49.50 per quarter for each residence. During COVID, all municipalities received money through the American Rescue Plan. Clinton received \$288,000 over a two year period and the funds were used to off set the cost of trash. The funds will be spread over the next five years, the Town intends to keep the cost to residents under \$200 per year.

Mayor Kovach proceeded to explain the tax ratables and displayed a spread sheet indicating the amount of surplus over the years and how well the town has budgeted putting us in a very good position today.

Devon Stone asked if garbage is billed a flat rate per house, even if it is just an elderly couple living there that does not generate a lot of trash. Mayor Kovach replied yes, it is not feasible to base it on the number of people living in a home, so as sewer is based, it is based on units. Regarding bulk pick up, it is the Town's goal to have a dumpster 2 days a year for residents to dispose of large items. The scrap metal dumpster is still available at the treatment plant during 7am to 3pm weekdays and 7am to 9am weekends. Councilman Perloff recalled an idea former Councilman Humphrey mentioned "Sparkle Week" something residents do in Lambertville. Putting out unwanted items at the curb so folks can retrieve if they wish!

Phil Franzone questioned Mayor Kovach's presentation on the tax rate and assessments on homes. Mr. Franzone said a cut was mentioned but his taxes increased. Mayor Kovach said the cut was only on the municipal tax not County and schools. If there are further questions regarding taxes, please feel free to reach out to Kathy Olsen, CFO/Tax Collector or Rich Phelan, Business Administrator.

There being no further questions or comments, a motion was made by Mr. Perloff, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to close the public portion of the hearing.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt the 2023 Municipal Budget as presented.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. National Association of Letter Carriers conducting their annual nationwide food drive on the second Saturday in May.
2. Arbor Day Foundation congratulating Clinton on earning recognition as a 2022 Tree City USA!
3. County Division of GIS along with the Board of Elections announces a new interactive web mapping app for Hunterdon County Voter Information. This will be posted on the Town's website linked to Hunterdon County Clerk's office.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL

Police Chief Kubinak

1. April is Autism Awareness month and with the sale of patches a donation has been made to Hunterdon ARC.
2. DEA take back, Police Department collected about 300 lbs. of unwanted medications on April 23, 2023 and will properly dispose of them.

3. Sgt. Robbins recently held an identity theft awareness class for a Women's Club. It is a changing world and the elderly are very often taken advantage of. The police department is working on putting a power point program together and plan to schedule a class here that will be open to the public around 6:00/7:00 p.m.
Mayor Kovach volunteered the police department to hold a class on internet safety at the school.

Councilman Perloff

1. On the heels of the historic grant submission to name Gebhardt Field an historic site, Mr. Perloff said the vintage baseball game will be back this Saturday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m. for a double header and will be back again in August. Games are played using 1864 rules and no gloves!
2. Mr. Perloff presented a draft letter to Mayor Kovach announcing the Hunterdon Games which will be held August 26, 2023 at Heritage Park in Bethlehem. The draft is for Mayor David DeGiralamo of Union Township, Mayor Paul Muir of the host township of Bethlehem and Mayor Kovach to reach out to the other Hunterdon municipalities!
3. The Guild meets next week and supported the Cruisin' Clinton April 23, 2023. Great turnout and monies raised for Autism. Thank you to Norma Kania for participating with her beautiful blue vet! Chief Kubinak believes around \$3,000 was raised. The Guild is looking to hold another Meet and Greet May 10th around 6:00 p.m. Home Tweet Home Bird House contest is scheduled Sunday, May 7th on Main Street.
4. Will defer to Councilwoman Padmos and Councilman Traphagen to report on the messages that Economic Development will be getting out. A number of new businesses and anniversaries coming up so get the BIG scissors out for ribbon cuttings.
5. Farmer's market will be taking the vendors outside beginning May 7, 2023. The market will be indoor/outdoor from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the front lawn.
6. Recreation meeting tomorrow night, April 27. Looking at the budget to possibly enhance the website and get WIFI at the Community Center. The calendar is currently being manually scheduled for dates and times so if anyone sees errors, feel free to reach out. Potential May/June pickleball lessons, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday evenings at the Community Center, from an individual who is a pro and worked at Trump National.
7. Rotary sponsoring the Fishing Derby May 6 at DeMott Pond beginning at 8a.m. The Kentucky Derby Race Gala May 6 at the Red Mill.
8. Water Department – leak detection has been going well, Art Dysart, Steve Higgins and Rich Phelan have been working with the engineer and numbers reflect 10M gallons down from February this year from last 2022 and 8.7M from March 23 from last March, 2022. This is all in conjunction with the asset management plan. Savings have been significant, the detection program is definitely working.

Councilman Kashwick

1. Platinum Club brunch will be held June 4 at the Clinton Fire Department.

2. Environmental Commission met and discussed the River Clean Up, 47 volunteers helped out as well as volunteers from St. Thomas Church in Pittstown. Thank you to Mary Jo Kurtiak for organizing the event with Raritan Headwaters and to Council members Traphagen, Perloff and Johnson for helping out that day. Very noticeable was the lack of plastic bags found. Thank you for adopting the two resolutions earlier which earned 15 points for the Green Team. Met with Mario Cavallaro of Clinton Township Green Team who reviewed our application and welcomes Clinton Town to co-sponsor the Green Fair EV Car show at Bundt Park July 8, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. which will earn credits for the Sustainable Jersey Grant.
A Firefly Festival is being planned for June 24, more details to follow. Norma Kania is working with the Guild to earn more credits and thanks to the Chief for the drug collection which also earned credits for the Team. Building and Grounds will be having another joint meeting to discuss green grounds.
3. Shade Tree is celebrating their 39th years and thank you to Denise Birmingham for getting that accomplished. Friday, April 28 will be the Arbor Day celebration at Hunts Mill Park at 10 a.m. Third graders will be attending. Tree dedicated to Dan Shea, former councilman, shade tree member and Town Crier! Seeking vendors for the Haver Farm grant project. Memorial trees have been requested dedicated to certain persons and will be discussed to have a more formal process. Denise Birmingham and Councilman Kashwick will be visiting Duke Farms on May 6. Seeking a grant opportunity to address trees in the Clinton Knolls. Clinton Conservancy will be working at the Children Gardens on Saturday at Hunts Mill 10:00 a.m. for a spring clean up and May 13 at Mill View Park aka Water Street gardens.
4. Resident on Halstead Street made a call to Mr. Phelan about the LED light at the Water Street lot and asked if it could be addressed for the brightness. Mr. Phelan is checking with the manufacturer to see if a shield could be purchased.

Attorney St. Angelo

1. Only one Tax Appeal has been submitted! That is due to the great work of Tax Assessor, Fran Kuczynski! Ms. Kuczynski has not had the chance to settle it so there is still hope!

Councilwoman Johnson

1. School Board met and approved the budget. The last day of school will be June 13, 2023.
2. Local Government Week was a huge success! Visit to the school, rock painting and more. Thank you to everyone who participated: Police, Rescue Squad and Fire Department.
3. Summer Recreation has a waiting list of 15 children, however, it is impossible to go over capacity, there is just not enough help.

Councilman Traphagen

1. South Branch Emergency Services is holding a coin toss this Saturday, in High Bridge from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2. Historic Commission – the grant designating Gebhardt Field has been applied for is showing movement.
3. Historic Commission – a cemetery tour is being planned for the Fall, a Garden Party event and a Holiday Historic House Tour also being planned! More information to follow!

4. Hunterdon County Library on Halstead Street is working on noise reduction on the air conditioner units beginning tomorrow, April 27. Residents in Halstead Place have complained of the noise.

Councilman Bruno

1. Councilman Bruno discussed a water issue about the material used for our service line but Mr. Phelan assured him there are no problems because the town uses copper pipes not PVC.
2. Petition being circulated on line and at Thompson's Seafood regarding Congressman Kean's proposed efforts for the Route 78 over pass and bringing awareness to get funds to make it safer and less noisy.
3. Fire Department is bringing back Grill Night, kickoff May 19. Mayor Kovach stated when visiting Veteran's Haven North, offered to host residents at a Grill Night. Also, Ms. Johnson mentioned if we do a Volunteer Fair again this year, we would extend an invitation to the residents of Haven North to welcome them and help with getting them integrated in the community. Mr. Bruno would like to help the Veteran's as much as possible.
4. A resident reached out about the traffic on Old 22 and Leigh Street. Chief Kubinak understands but the children's safety and that of the crossing guards is a priority. The guards do an excellent job on such a busy corner and they try to cross the children in groups to make it faster. Normally the children are all crossed from 2:59 pm and by 3:11 pm done! Ms. Johnson explained that living on the other side of Town, she chooses to head to the highway leaving school and come in at Exit 15. Mayor Kovach asked to possibly have a public information distributed through the virtual backpacks and Chief said Dr. Cohen does promote the routes and practices to use.
5. Land Use Board will meet May 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire House to hear the Moebus Tract application. In person only.

Councilwoman Padmos

1. The playground presentation this evening was great and community events are being planned for getting involved with the playground. Many are interested in a community build and others have offered to help removing the old equipment including the Friendly Sons! 6-8 weeks for delivery of equipment. The Color Run is June 23, as well as the Grill Night and Music on Main so hoping to keep the night going and attending all three!
2. Economic Development – John Creech, Councilman Traphagen and Councilwoman Padmos discussed in great detail the idea of moving the newsletter on line. As of now, the newsletter is quarterly and many dates and events get overlooked and are not as timely. Having an on-line newsletter, events and information can be made current! The newsletter contract will expire in September and a decision must be made if we are going to continue or cancel the contract. Two more issues are still in the current contract so notification can be made to announce the decision to go on-line. People will be able to print the on-line format if they wish and copies can be mailed to those who do not have computer availability. The format is a very user friendly template than can be used by more than one person entering the information. The committee has

decided to move in this direction. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Traphagen seconded by Ms. Padmos not to renew the contract with LPI.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of March 31 through April 13, 2023.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #90-23 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by MS. Padmos, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to enter into executive session to discuss a matter of pending litigation and property acquisition at 9:33 p.m.

RESOLUTION # 90-23

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: _____)

X 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;

X 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: _____)

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 _____)

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

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.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Upon returning from executive session and there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kashwick seconded by Mr. Perloff to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor