

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Bruno (zoom), 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 public 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 a public meeting as well as using ZOOM Video Meetings. Please be aware that this meeting is being recorded for the public record.

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.

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

COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES The Town is offering residential ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic an installment plan for any Town of Clinton Water and Sewer arrearages accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022. Please visit the Town’s website for more information. You can also contact the Sewer or Water Collector at (908) 735-8616. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs’ Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is providing financial assistance to low-income households to reduce the balances on their residential water and sewer bills. Residents can apply online through the DCA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the council minutes and executive session minutes of April 13, 2022 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Fischer, 71 Leigh Street, came before Council to complain about commercial trucks, including bobcat equipment, dump truck and trailer, amber lights blinking on equipment all making for a parking issue and traffic hazards on a residential street, namely Riverside Drive. Mr. Fischer was informed that

the Police Chief and the Zoning Officer are addressing the problem and a corrective action plan has been taken. The owner of the vehicles explained he was between storage yards and is working on a permanent solution.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. The "Walking School Bus" will take place May 18, 2022, hoping for active participation.
2. Congressman Malinowski visited the Town of Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant and Riverside Drive, where he willingly climbed into a manhole! The Town is receiving federal funding for a sewer lining project. Another submission was made last week for additional federal funding for next year's project, the third and fourth phase of the West Main Street water project.
3. Two Town residents are receiving their Gold Awards with the Girl Scouts of America. Proclamations for Alexis Boyd and Emily Smith have been prepared and forwarded for their ceremony.
4. Mayor Kovach met with Zane Moore, the new CEO of Hunterdon County YMCA which recently merged with Bucks County, PA. YMCA. Mr. Moore is visiting municipalities and listening to the needs of kids and parent's requests. In Bucks County, they built an all inclusive center for all ages and we are welcomed to tour the newest ideas.
5. Reminder that the plastic bag ban goes into effect May 4, 2022.
6. Nick, from Keller Williams, is forming a clean up day in Town on May 12, 2022 and would like to coordinate the day with the Clinton Guild. Mr. Perloff and Mr. Humphrey will help to coordinate the efforts and Mr. Humphrey is very familiar with the areas that need attention that the crews were unable to get to during the clean up last month.
7. Clinton Public School is hosting "Celebrating Young Men and Women Day" on June 13, 2022. On this day, 7th and 8th grade students are introduced to a number of different professions and mental health awareness topics through interactive demonstrations and discussions. This is a day for students where they can start thinking about possible future endeavors, goals, or simply gain knowledge of new and exciting topics. If anyone would like to volunteer to present, contact the clerk.

PRESENTATION – AMY OVERMAN – JCP&L

Amy Overman, Regional External Affairs Consultant, attended the meeting to introduce herself to Council. Ms. Overman took over the position of longtime representative, Stan Prater. Ms. Overman reported that smart meters will begin being installed in January, 2023. Residents will be notified in advance.

Mr. Humphrey asked if JCP&L is offering help with the installations of EV stations? Ms. Overman said JCP&L has a proposal before BPU at this time and when information is released, she will inform the municipalities.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #22-03 – CAP ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #22-03:

**ORDINANCE #22-03
CAP ORDINANCE**

**Vote all ayes
Motion carried**

Rosemarie Platt, 44 Center Street, asked for an explanation of the CAP ordinance. CFO, Kathy Olsen, explained that the State allows a Town to increase the 2.5% spending cap to 3.5% for expenditures if adopted. This does not necessarily mean the Town will use it, but it adds to our CAP bank for the following year and gives the Town a sense of insurance. Mayor Kovach explained that the budget process is difficult to explain in a meeting but would be willing to hold a workshop session for residents that would like to learn more about it. Ms. Platt said she would be interested, Mayor Kovach suggested maybe a May or June class.

There being no further questions at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to close the public portion of the meeting.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to adopt Ordinance #22-03 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET HEARING

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to open the public hearing of the 2022 Municipal Budget.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Mayor Kovach gave a brief explanation of the municipal budget, explained the need to pay down debt, the assessment increases in particular neighborhoods due to town wide revaluations and the very few tax appeals in recent years because of the diligent work of the tax assessor. The Town has worked extremely hard in maintaining taxes with slight increases over the past 10 years and the Town of Clinton is in a very good position at this time. Mayor Kovach took questions from the audience as follows.

Rosemarie Platt, 44 Center Street, Phil Franzone 47 Center Street, Gene Robbins, 119 Leigh Street and John Creech, 31 Alexandra Way all had questions for council and were given detailed explanations. Mr. Robbins asked about the proposed plan of the Community Center being demolished for a police department as discussed at the Town Hall meeting earlier this year. At this time, Mayor Kovach said a request has been submitted for a \$3,000,000.00 grant from the State for Police Department infrastructure and discussions with the owner of the TD Bank continue. \$250,000.00 has been encumbered for a consultant to design. When more details are available, the public will be notified and another public meeting will be held.

There being no further questions, a motion was made by Mr. Perloff, 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 the 2022 Municipal Budget.

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

4 Ayes
3 Nays
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #79B – 22 – ACCEPTANCE BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adopt Resolution #79B-22, adopting the 2022 Municipal Budget. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

Vote 4 ayes
Vote 3 Nays
Motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #22-04 – KINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A motion was made by Mr. Traphagen, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to open the public hearing of Ordinance #22-04:

**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**

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

This is the Town portion of the project, Mitchell and Goosetown Drive, the DOT grant will cover a separate portion of the project, Haver Farm. There being no public comment, a motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to close the public portion of the meeting.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Traphagen, to adopt Ordinance #22-04 on final reading.

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

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Bruno/Kovach)
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #75-22 – AMENDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SPENDING PLAN

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #75-22 as submitted:

RESOLUTION 75-22
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TOWN'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND
SPENDING PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton's development fee ordinance establishes and affordable housing trust fund; and

WHEREAS, the Town's most recently approved spending plan which dictates the spending of said monies ("hereinafter "Spending Plan") is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**; (available in the clerk's office for review if anyone is interested) and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the Town's Spending Plan, the Town has drafted an "Affordability Assistance Program Manual" (the "Manual"); and

WHEREAS, the Manual creates an "Emergency Generator Program" as recommended by the Town's affordable housing administrative agent; and

WHEREAS, the Spending Plan must be revised to refer to the "Emergency Generator Program"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, amend the Spending Plan to include the "Emergency Generator Program" at the bottom of page 4 as item vi as an approved affordability assistance mechanism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Town Attorney and Town Planner are authorized to take any actions to effectuate the intent of this Resolution, including amending the Spending Plan and submitting a copy of this Resolution to the Superior Court.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Perloff)
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #76-22 – MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #76-22 as submitted authorizing Mayor Kovach to sign an agreement of a class action lawsuit against Mallinckrodt Public Limited Company, which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. This is related to the opioid crisis, 2 years ago the Town signed on thanks to an attorney that talked to Councilwoman Johnson and Mayor Kovach at the League of Municipalities. The settlement is \$92,000.00 which the Police can use towards Narcan, training and any ways to reduce the opioid crisis.

RESOLUTION # 76-22
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO
PARTICIPATE IN BANKRUPTCY OF MALLINCKRODT
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton (the "Town") received paperwork notifying it that it is a potential creditor of Mallinckrodt Public Limited Company, which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, the Town's status as a creditor of Mallinckrodt stems from settlements of the national opioid lawsuits against various pharmaceutical companies and their distributors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Town Attorney are hereby authorized to execute any documents necessary to participate in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings of Mallinckrodt Public Limited Company.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #77-22 – SUBURBAN CONSULTING TENNIS COURTS

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #77-22 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION #77-22
RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS
FOR COMMUNITY CENTER TENNIS COURT
ENGINEERING, BID & CONSTRUCTION PHASES**

WHEREAS, The Town of Clinton has the need to appoint an Engineer for the Community Center Tennis Court; and

WHEREAS, Suburban Consulting Engineers has been recommended by Town of Clinton Parks and Playgrounds Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hereby appoints Suburban Consulting Engineers for the Community Center Tennis Court Project at an amount not to exceed \$14,900.00.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #78-22 – WATER RESERVATION EXTENSION

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Mr. Perloff, to adopt Resolution #78-22 as submitted:

**RESOLUTION # 78-22
RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL WATER CAPACITY
RESERVATION EXTENSION - APPLICATION # L20-02**

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 April 22, 2020 the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton adopted Resolution 87-20 which approved Water Reservation Application # L20-02 submitted in the name of Town Center at

Lebanon, LLC (Borough of Lebanon Block 4, Lots 1.03 & 1.04, Tax Map Page 4, located at 400-500 Corporate Drive); and

WHEREAS through a historic Agreement with the Town, the properties in question were contractually obligated to 30,477 GPD of water, and the applicant was only seeking an additional allocation of 16,778 GPD; and

WHEREAS on April 22, 2020, the Mayor and Council approved the applicants request for water reservation via Resolution 87-20 for the allocation of 16,778 GPD, which was valid for twelve (12) months and scheduled to expire on April 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS on February 24, 2021 the Mayor and Council approved the applicants first request for a water reservation extension via Resolution 52-21 for the allocation of 16,778 GPD, which was valid for twelve (12) months and scheduled to expire on April 22, 2022; and

WHEREAS on March 28, 2022, the applicant submitted a second and final request for water reservation extension; and

WHEREAS by letter dated April 12, 2022, the Town's Water Consulting Engineer, Suburban Consulting Engineer's, has recommend that said extension be granted: and

WHEREAS on April 20, 2022 the Town's Water Committee held their monthly meeting in which they have reviewed and approved Town Center at Lebanon, LLC's request for extension with a new and final expiration date of April 22, 2023.

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 final extension of Water Reservation Application # L20-02 in the amount of 16,778 GPD through April 22, 2023.

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

SEWER REFUND

Sewer Collector, Cecilia Covino, is requesting a refund to Zinn Title Agency LLC in the amount of \$125.00. The seller paid the 1st quarter before closing and the title company also paid. The title company will reimburse the money back to the seller. A motion was made Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bruno to refund the amount as requested.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovach read the Arbor Day Proclamation and will present on Friday April 29, 2022 at the tree planting at Hunts Mill Park. This year's tree will be dedicated to long time residents that recently moved out of Town, Kathy and John Madden. Kathy was an intricate member of the Conservancy and John a member of the Environmental Commission for years.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Police Chief Kubinak

The Clinton Police Department delivered a \$4,000 check to ARC from the sale of the Autism patches during the month of April, Autism Awareness Month! Officer Andrew Lerner is to be recognized for his efforts!

Councilman Perloff

1. Tomorrow, April 28, is "Take your kid to work day"! Mr. Perloff asked Mr. Phelan, Ms. Olsen and Ms. Covino if it would be alright to bring in his daughter, Mia, for a couple hours? SURE!
2. Saturday, April 23, 2022 Vintage Baseball Game held at Gebhardt Field was a modest and fun event with great participation from team players! Thanks to Councilman Traphagen and Historic Commission Chair, Rosemarie Platt for preparing the flier! Thanks to all!

The Clinton Guild meeting and the Recreation meeting were postponed. In May there will be a new Recreation Facebook page to watch for. We have been challenged by the Guild to enter the "Home Tweet Home" birdhouse contest, Guild event May 15, 2022 from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. The application to submit and the categories are on their FB page. Ribbons will be awarded!

Town Picnic is scheduled for September 10, rain date September 17, 2022 at Hunts Mill Park.

May 7, 2022 is the Kentucky Derby Party, hosted by the Clinton Guild and the Red Mill.

3. Community Center rental request to hold the farmer's market inside all year round to be addressed May 2, 2022 with a meeting at 9:00 a.m., Mr. Perloff meeting with the organizers. The market officially opens at the Hunterdon County Branch Library on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

A request to hold a family party expected to be submitted. Mr. Perloff and Mr. Humphrey, Communications Committee, to discuss getting the word out that the Community Center available for rentals.

Councilman Humphrey

The clean up day was a success, but several more areas need to be addressed. Picked up over 60 bags of debris, having the dumpster on site was great behind Clinton Bagel, filled 2/3 full! Another clean up is being planned by Keller Williams and another dumpster will be requested for the area of Hunts Mill. Mr. Humphrey is happy to provide maps and direction to help coordinate that clean up on May 12. Speaking of garbage, discussion began of the debris that collects at the Halstead Bridge, known as County Bridge N-2. Mr. Franzone, 47 Center Street, commented about the debris and his "failed" attempts reaching out to the county to get it cleaned up. Attorney Cushing suggested passing a resolution to the County Commissioners asking for them to look into it. Mayor Kovach and Councilman Traphagen agreed that a clean up was done last year, however, following Hurricane IDA in September so much more has come downstream. A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Bruno, to prepare a resolution and forward it to the County Commissioners.

RESOLUTION #79-22

REQUEST TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS the South Branch of the Raritan River runs through the Town of Clinton;
and

WHEREAS a tremendous amount of debris collects at the Halstead Street Bridge,
County Bridge N-2 in the Town; and

WHEREAS as the debris collects, it forces the water to back up to the properties along
the banks of the South Branch and creates problems for homeowners and also for folks
attempting to enjoy fishing and boating; and

WHEREAS, Town of Clinton resident, Phil Franzone, advised Council at a public
meeting that he made several attempts to County officials and no response has ever been
received;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of
Clinton, as well as residents of the Town of Clinton respectfully ask the County Commissioners
to please address the debris that collects at the Halstead Bridge in order to keep Clinton beautiful
and safe for residents and visitors alike.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Liquor License Reform is now something that the Governor agrees we need a major reform to drive economic development, the initial name considered "The Cheers Act". The group is putting out a survey for mayors and their feedback, possibly this summer and looking to get it passed by both houses.

Communications Committee wishes to make better connections with media outlets in support of Economic Development Committee. Discussions about having a new kiosk displayed on Main Street to drive tourism. Possibly a HD screen displayed in the coffee shops for folks to grab a coffee and plan a day in Town! Newsletter are due in May for the mailing of the June edition.

Clinton Fire Department – Chief Jeff Hedden and Deputy Chief Dave Durand attended the meeting and reported 20 calls for the month of March, total 67 for the year, 22 for April total 89 to date. The Touch-a-truck event was going well until a ladder truck had a call they needed to get to. The hose Ladder, pump testing was completed. The truck committee is in full swing and visited a few spec work ups. A drill was performed at the new development, View 22, located on the site of the old A&P. Chief Hedden said he will feel better once the fire suppression is installed. The squad also attended a drill on Glacier Way off Race Street in Pittstown. Grill night returns May 20th!! An Open House will include the South Branch Rescue Squad. The Platinum Club will be invited to

attend as well!

Councilwoman Dineen

Land Use Board – Ansuya on agenda to discuss variances.

Water Committee – leak detection season, Superintendent Art Dysart is excited as he is confident he will be finding leaks. Pressure testing on wells also taking place. The Committee is seeking funding options for replacement of galvanized lines. Assess management plan calls for replacements every year. Permits are ready for 2022 West Main Street plan and 2023 options are being explored.

Water connection at the Shell station, corner Exit 15, was completed overnight as not to disrupt traffic.

Councilman Traphagen

South Branch Emergency Services hosting an Open House on Sunday, May 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

Historic Commission – an upcoming fund raiser for the façade grant program to be held Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 46 Center Street. The event will be a Garden Party, hors d'orves served. Cost \$100.00 per person, expecting 50 people. Owners will give a history of their home, share their beautiful gardens in full bloom and possibly a silent auction will be held. All in conjunction with the Red Mill Museum Village.

Councilwoman Johnson

The Booster Club sneaker fund raiser has been very successful, raising money for the playground. Thank you for Base Camp 31, Clinton Public School and the Towne Restaurant. Sneakers fill land fills as tires do, these will be recycled and repurposed and the company donates cash back to the booster club.

Summer Recreation – registration is closed. 132 children registered, the majority are full day. Samantha, the new director, is excited about a fun camp!

Councilman Bruno

Shade Tree – Friday, April 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Hunts Mill Park, tree planting with 3rd graders joining in! 100 free seedlings will be given out to the students. Dan Shea will prepare a poem. Kathy and John Madden will be our guests of honor! This will be the 38th year as a Tree City, 2021 accreditation complete. The budget will not allow for taking down any trees but will focus on plantings.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Perloff to approve the standby and overtime attached to these minutes for the period of April 1 through April 14, 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 Mr. Humphrey seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the voucher list 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. Traphagen to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

Janice Kovach, Mayor