

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. at the Clinton Fire Department.

Flag Salute

Roll Call: Present – DeCleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Schaumburg, Mayor Holt

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone and opened the meeting by reading the following statement.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE: The following statement of adequate notice was read: “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 Holt took this opportunity to offer a words of advice to the new Council, words that were offered to him when he became mayor. “Leave personalities and agendas at the door”. Following that, he wished everyone well and turned the meeting over to Attorney Cushing to proceed with the swearing in of offices.

SWEARING IN OF MAYOR CHRISTINE SCHAUMBURG

Attorney Richard P. Cushing administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Christine Schaumburg while her husband, Jeffrey, held the Bible and their children looked on. Mrs. Schaumburg was sworn in to her first two - year term as Mayor.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMAN DE CLEENE

Attorney Richard P. Cushing administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Eugene De Cleene while his daughter, Suzanne, held the Bible. Mr. De Cleene was sworn in to his 8th term as Councilman.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMAN RAGOZINE

Attorney Richard P. Cushing administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Robert J. Ragozine, while his wife and three sons stood near. Mr. Ragozine was sworn in to his 1st term as Councilman.

REMARKS – MAYOR SCHAUMBURG

Mayor Schaumburg welcomed everyone and acknowledged the support of her family and friends and spoke of working with a “fantastic council”. Mayor Schaumburg said that two of her priorities would be addressing taxes and development in Clinton. She said the Town would continue to aggressively lobby the state for funding. Clinton was fortunate to receive a \$914,000 grant from the State for the Clinton dam and dike and officials are currently working on a grant through the state Department of Community Affairs for a new fire truck for the Clinton Fire Department. Two new committees are being established, Emergency Services Committee and an Economic Development Committee. The Emergency Services Committee headed by Councilwoman Garber will set up a foundation that will raise money for equipment for the Town’s fire department and rescue squad.

The Economic Development Committee will include representatives from the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment, along with residents and business owners. The committee will look at a “vision plan” for development opportunities for the remaining open lots in Clinton.

Mayor Schaumburg addressed projects being planned for the year ahead and is looking forward to a productive year.

REORGANIZATION: Mayor Schaumburg indicated that the RESOLUTIONS will not be read in their entirety. The resolutions are posted on the bulletin board and there are copies available for the public and the press. (Resolutions #1-06 through #26-06 are attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #1-06 – APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY:

Motion made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, that Richard P. Cushing of the Firm of Gebhardt & Keifer be appointed to serve as Municipal Attorney for the Town of Clinton for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #2-06 – APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL ENGINEER:

Motion made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt this resolution appointing Robert Clerico, PE, of the Firm of Van Cleef Engineering Associates as the Town's Municipal Engineer for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #3-06 – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTING ENGINEER:

Motion made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, that Andrew S. Holt of the Firm of Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. be appointed to serve as a Consulting Engineer for the Town of Clinton for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #4-06 – APPOINTMENT OF BOND COUNSEL:

Motion made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt this resolution appointing Edward J. McManimon of the Firm of McManimon & Scotland as the Town's Bond Counsel for the calendar year of 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #5-06 – APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PLANNER

Motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #5-06 appointing James L. Dodge, PE, PP, as Alternate Municipal Planner for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #6-06 – APPOINTMENT OF TREE EXPERT:

Motion made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt this resolution appointing Lou Spanner of Spanner Shrub & Tree Care as the Town's Tree Expert for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #7-06 – MUNICIPAL COURT BUDGET:

Motion made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt this resolution approving the budget of the Joint Municipal Court of North Hunterdon for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

(Budget attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #8-06 – APPOINTMENT OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR:

Motion made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt this resolution appointing Robin Horne as the Court Administrator for the North Hunterdon Court for the year 2006 at a salary established in the Court's 2006 budget.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #9-06 – APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR:

Motion made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt this resolution ratifying the appointment of David S. Bunevich, Esq. as Regional Municipal Prosecutor for a term ending December 31, 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #10-06 – APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT AUDITOR:

Motion made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to adopt this resolution ratifying the appointment of William Colantano of the Firm of William M. Colantano, R.M.A. as the Auditor for the North Hunterdon Municipal Court for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #11-06 – APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER:

Motion made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt this resolution ratifying the appointment of Thomas B. Mading, Esq., as Regional Municipal Public Defender for a term ending December 31, 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #12-06 – CHECK SIGNING AUTHORIZATION:

Motion made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt this resolution authorizing Councilman Robert J. Ragozine to sign checks in the absence of the Mayor.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #13-06 – COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Council members read the Committees assigned to them. Motion made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, that the Council Appointments for the Year 2006 be approved as presented.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #14-06 – APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS:

Motion made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt this resolution appointing the various municipal officials for the terms indicated.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #15-06 – APPOINTMENT OF BOARD, COMMITTEE & COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt this resolution appointing the various boards, committee and commission members for the terms indicated.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #16-06 – AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY TO FILE CORRECTIVE APPEALS:

Motion made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt this resolution authorizing the Municipal Attorney to file corrective appeals and counterclaims with the Hunterdon County Board of Taxation on behalf of the Town.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #17-06 – APPROVAL OF BANK DEPOSITORIES:

Motion made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to approve the Banks as submitted in this resolution as the Official Bank Depositories for the Town for the year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #18-06 – RESOLUTION FOR INVESTMENTS:

Motion made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt this resolution authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to invest and reinvest various funds as recommended by the Council Finance Committee.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #19-06 – RESOLUTION FOR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS:

Motion made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, designating the Hunterdon Review, Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier-News as newspapers to receive notices required under the Open Public Meetings Act.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #20-06 – RESOLUTION FOR OFFICIAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER:

Motion made by Mrs. Garber, seconded Mr. Ragozine, designating the Hunterdon County News, www.thehcnews.com, as the official online newspaper, and will receive agendas, legal notices and public notices at no charge.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #21-06– RESOLUTION SETTING FEE FOR AGENDAS:

Motion made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to adopt this resolution setting the yearly fee for providing agendas.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #22-06 – RESOLUTION FOR INTEREST RATES:

Motion made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt this resolution fixing the rate of interest to be charged for the non-payment of taxes, assessments, sewer use charges and water charges for the year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #23-06 – RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR DELINQUENT TAXES:

Motion made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt this resolution implementing P.L. 1991, C. 175, and fixing the amount of penalty on delinquent taxes and other liens.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #24-06 – RESOLUTION SETTING YEAR 2006 COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Motion made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt this resolution setting 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month as Council Meeting dates for the year 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #25-06 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL/REFUND:

Motion made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt this resolution, authorizing the Tax Collector to process the cancellation of any property tax refund or delinquency of less than \$5.00.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #26-06 RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY BUDGET:

Motion made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt this resolution setting forth the Temporary Budget.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schaumburg thanked fire Chief Tim Langston and the Clinton Fire Department for accommodating the Town Council and everyone this morning for the Reorganization meeting. Mayor Schaumburg invited those present to stay and enjoy refreshments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Kovach announced the next Highlands Council Meeting is Thursday, January 5, 2006 in Chester at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Garber announced she has received her new pager as Council representative to the Clinton Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene. The meeting adjourned 10:55 a.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

Christine Schaumburg
Mayor