

Mayor Schaumburg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Schaumburg 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.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel seconded by Mr. Shea to approve the minutes of February 24, 2009 regular meeting as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Pender seconded by Mrs. Insel to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009 budget meeting as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – FEBRUARY

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded by Mr. Pendergast, to accept the Monthly Reports for the month of February as submitted: Assessor’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control/Inspection Report, Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Tax Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent’s Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Schaumburg spoke about the court issues. The Township of Tewksbury is very unhappy with the court budget and did not approve it. There was a court finance meeting held this past Monday night on the issues however the Tewksbury Mayor and the business administrator were unable to attend due to conflicts. At the meeting they discussed possible cuts in the budget. Robin Manfredi, the Court Clerk, will research

into some of the ideas further before the next meeting. Mr. Shaun Van Doren, the court finance chairman, stepped down due to being on the Tewksbury committee. Mayor Schaumburg stated she and another municipal representative would attend the next meeting and report back to Council. She will invite the Tewksbury's Mayor and business administrator to attend. Mayor Schaumburg saw in the newspaper a suggestion made by Tewksbury to have the court held here in the Town. No one spoke to her about it. They may feel it is a good idea however she disagrees. There is no room, not enough parking, and it would create extra traffic for the Town. Mayor Schaumburg mentioned there is still a lease on the other location. We are in the 18th month of a 5-year lease. Lebanon Borough is not interested having the court in their jurisdiction. The location on Route 31 is a more practical location.

2. Mayor Schaumburg recommended we revamp the zoning permit application. She discussed this with Councilwoman Insel, Planning Board liaison. Some areas on the application are very vague and inadequate. We need a good zoning application. Mayor Schaumburg told Mrs. Insel the Planning Board should get a copy of a good application from another municipality to compare to. Mayor Schaumburg suggested the Business Administrator as well as the Zoning Officer should review the application due to many technical areas on the form. For example if there needs to be a change in the sewer capacity or the water the average applicant may not know but the Business Administrator will. It would be better suited for the Business Administrator, who runs the sewer and water departments, to review that information. We do not want the public spending a fortune on their own engineering fees. She recommends William Caldwell, our Planning Board Attorney, and the Planning Board should work on the application and make the changes to produce a better application.
3. Mayor Schaumburg reported that the Town was denied Municipal Aid for Union Road improvement project due to funds being exhausted. The Department Of Transportation suggested we apply under the Discretionary Aid application to the Department Of Transportation. A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Insel to submit an application.
4. Mayor Schaumburg informed the Council it came to her attention a gentleman named Bruce Graber has been cleaning the Hunts Mill Park for some time now. He has been cleaning along Route 78. He is a Township of Clinton resident. He will be recognized for his efforts at the Town dinner on March 28, 2009.

RESOLUTION #52-09 – RECREATION FEES

A motion was made by Mr. Pendergast, seconded by Mr. Shea, to set the 2009 recreation program fees as submitted by the Board of Recreation.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #53-09 – DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE – Harmon/Wean

A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Valenta to discharge the affordable housing unit from seller, Ms. Harmon, to buyer, Ms. Wean.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #54-09 BUDGET TRANSFER

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to authorize a transfer of unexpanded balances from accounts from the preceding year to cover unexpended balances on accounts for the first three months of the succeeding year. Total expenses are \$7,500.00.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #55-09 – TEMPORARY BUDGET ITEM

A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to authorize appropriations from the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the budget. Mayor Schaumburg explained this is to start repair work on the Clinton Point Well #3.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #09-02 – CAPITAL ORDINANCE

Authorize the Town of Clinton to make improvements for the purpose of the well reconstruction and rehabilitation from the water utility capital improvement fund.

A motion was made by Mrs. Valenta, seconded by Mr. Pender to introduce Ordinance #09-02 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #09-02
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 \$250,000.00 FROM THE WATER
UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A notice will be published in the March 18, 2009 edition of the Hunterdon Review. Second reading will be held on April 14, 2009

(A copy of this Ordinance is attached to these minutes)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #09-03 – CAPITAL ORDINANCE

Authorize the Town of Clinton to withdraw funds from the Truck Fund for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the Rescue Squad in the amount of \$50,000.00. The rescue squad contacted Ms. Olsen, CFO, to withdraw \$50,000.00 from the truck fund to put a down payment on a new truck.

A motion was made by Ms. Pender, seconded by Mrs. Insel to introduce Ordinance #09-03

ORDINANCE #09-03
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 \$50,000.00 FORM THE CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT FUND/RESERVE FOR RESCUE SQUAD EQUIPMENT

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Second reading will be held on April 14, 2009.

(A copy of this Ordinance is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #56-09 DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE – Ferriday/Postma

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded Mr. Pendergast to discharge the affordable housing unit from seller, Estate of Ferriday, to buyer, Mr. Postma.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #57-09 AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN SEWER AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded by Mrs. Insel to authorize the mayor and clerk to execute an amendment to agreements with Franklin Township and the Lawrenceville Corporation, site of Cracker Barrel and Hampton Inn. The parties involved have come to an agreement on who pays for meters, who fixes the meters, how charge for billing, and how to charge for billing when meters are not working.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #58-09 - TEAMSTERS

Due to budget constraints the Mayor and Council determined it necessary to lay off one public works employee. A procedure is to be followed per the Teamster's contract. Mayor Schaumburg stated this was not an easy decision. She has discussed this with Mr. Cutter to see if the public works department can operate with one less employee at this time without causing overtime. Mr. Cutter said it could be done.

A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Duffy to adopt Resolution #58-09 as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RAFFLE APPLICATION – WHITEHOUSE ROTARY – RUBBER DUCKY RACE

A raffle application was submitted by the Whitehouse Rotary to hold a Rubber Ducky Race on Sunday, July 12, 2009, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lower Center Street and Main Street. Prizes will be awarded.

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mrs. Valenta to approve the request as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Chief Brett Matheis

1. Chief Matheis reported there is a DARE graduation at Clinton Public School on March 19, 2009.

Kathy Olsen CFO

1. Mrs. Olsen reported on the Governor's budget speech held today. The State is receiving \$2 billion in aid from the Federal Government, a majority going to education and health care. Municipal aid may be cut by 2%. The Governor has not announced what that 2% is pertaining to. We are still waiting to hear if it is across the board. Mayor Schaumburg stated if the cut is in CMPTRA it is not big deal but if it is energy receipts it could be a bigger deal. The Governor is very vague. Some municipalities are going to be hit with more. We don't know who or how much. Mayor Schaumburg requested Mrs. Olsen investigate and try to get more details in the next couple days so if we need to respond we can.
2. The Governor is pushing the Pension Deferral.
3. Unemployment is going up for the employee portion of payroll taxes. The increase will be about \$70.00 per employee. Mrs. Olsen explained it is to supplement the unemployment fund.
4. The senior property tax freeze and senior household rebates are still in effect. The Homestead Rebate for household with incomes less than \$50,000 is staying the same. The Homestead Rebate for household with incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000 will be reduced by a third. Household incomes over \$75,000 will be eliminated all together.
5. The Governor is still mentioning that incentive dollars may be given for shared services and consolidation.
6. The budget introduction is going to be extended to March 31, 2009.

Councilwoman Valenta

1. Mrs. Valenta reported the rescue squad is purchasing a demo model ambulance to save cost. Mr. Shea asked if it is co-funded by the other towns. Mayor Schaumburg explained that the last ambulance purchase was funded entirely by Clinton Township. Mrs. Valenta explained the cost is broken down by a percentage of all municipalities based on their calls.

Councilman Shea

1. Roads Committee discussed the alleyway between Main Street and the Lower Center parking lot. The engineer is working on the lay out after which they will determine the cost of the pavers and brickwork.

Councilwoman Insel

1. Mrs. Insel reported there was a Smart Growth Committee meeting last night and went over the initial assessment of the Highlands plan. Members from Council, Planning Board and Smart Growth were there. Carl Hintz, Town Planner, has done a great job on determining our needs. This has been submitted to the Highlands Council. Module 1 is due at the end of this week and Module 2 will be due in a month and a half. Everyone is very happy with the progress so far. At the end of the process there will be a lot of information for the Town to use to decide whether we opt in or not.

Councilman Duffy

1. Received a membership application from Thomas Lawton, of 23 Finn Road, Hampton, to join the Clinton Fire Department. Mr. Lawton passed the physical and everything is proper and approved. A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to accept the application as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilman Pendergast

1. Mr. Pendergast reported on SWAC. The hazardous waste cleanup is scheduled for this Saturday, March 14, 2009 down at the County Complex on Route 12, Flemington.

Cecilia Covino, Town Clerk

1. Mrs. Covino reported she received a letter from State of New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control that an application was approved for a new Additional Retail Privilege to Villa Milagro Vineyards to be sited at the Old River House Restaurant. The Villa Milagro Vineyards will offer samples of their wine and sell sealed packages. The license's hours of operation will be held to the legal hours of sale established by Clinton Town ordinance.
2. The Census Bureau arranged for testing and training to be held in the council room for the upcoming census. The testing dates are March 23, 25, 30, and the 31st. The dates for training will be the last week in April first week in May. Mrs. Covino stated this is a good opportunity for people out of work. It pays very well.

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor

1. Senator Lautenburg's office is holding a Hunterdon County Constituent Outreach Day in our lobby. The date will be March 26, 2009 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Constituent Services staff will be on hand to assist with federal issues such as Passport and immigration issues, Medicare and health benefits, social security issues, veteran's assistance, and IRS and tax issues. Hopefully it will be a successful day. A press release will be going out on this.

APPROVAL OF STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to approve the standby and overtime pay as submitted for February 19, 2009 through March 5, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duffy, Insel, Pender, Pendergast, Shea, Valenta, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTON #59-09 – EXECUTIVE SESSION – LITIGATION

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to enter into executive session to discuss litigation at 8:00pm. Council is not expected to make any decisions.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 8:14pm.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Insel seconded by Mr. Pendergast to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC

Mayor Christine Schaumburg