

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg, Holt

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Holt 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 Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to approve the minutes of December 13, 2005 Council meeting as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to accept the monthly reports for the month of November as submitted: Wastewater Treatment Plant Report, Treasurer’s Report

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dena Pender, Clinton Canoe and Kayak, addressed Council regarding the article in the Hunterdon County Democrat. The article explains road projects expected to take place simultaneously in 2006. Mrs. Pender is concerned with the impact this will have on area merchants. With projects taking place at Exit 15 and on the Halstead Street Bridge, the impact can be severe.

Mr. Cutter explained that at the meeting with the Department of Transportation, Clinton Guild, Red Mill Museum and the Hunterdon Museum of Art events were discussed. A list of events will be forwarded to DOT. Mr. Cutter stated that he will take it upon himself to mail letters of notification to area residents and businesses. Starting dates for construction are not certain, Exit 15 is expected to take place in 2006, however, the County project on the Halstead Bridge is uncertain.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Correspondence received from Chief Matheis requesting Mayor and Council to accept the resignation of Patrolman Jeff Glennon as of January 22, 2005. A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to accept Patrolman Glennon’s resignation with regrets.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PROCLAMATIONS AWARDED

Mayor Holt began, "if you attended the Clinton Fire Department's Christmas Party, you were made aware of two men that together, have given over 100 years of service". Approaching the audience, Mayor Holt announced Bill Langston, 60 years of service and Bill Wintermute, 45 years of service. Mayor Holt read the proclamations which highlighted "cooking home-made sausage and serving numerous banquets". Both men presented with framed proclamations and a resounding round of applause and ovation from the audience took place. Congratulations, gentlemen!

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #05-10 – DEVELOPMENT FEE ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to open the public hearing on Ordinance #05-10:

ORDINANCE #05-10
DEVELOPMENT FEE ORDINANCE

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

There being no comment, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve Ordinance #05-10 on second reading as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg, Holt

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

BANNER REQUEST

Council is in receipt of a banner request from the Hunterdon Medical Center Heart Forum for an event being held at the Clinton Holiday Inn on Thursday, February 16, 2006. The request is for a banner to be displayed January 13 through February 14, 2006. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg to approve the request as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Confirmation received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, regarding the requested signal revisions at Route 173 and Leigh Street. Review by engineers have been completed and the job has been forwarded to the Electrical Bureau to complete the electrical design.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Councilwoman Garber

1. Next S.W.A.C. meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2006. Mrs. Garber handed material over to Mr. Harrison, the new S.W.A.C. liaison for the Town.

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator

1. Mr. Cutter explained that the Town received notification from Garden State Inspection Agency that they will be claiming Bankruptcy and will no longer be conducting inspection for electrical permits. Peter Ball currently fills in for John Leonard whenever necessary and Mr. Leonard is requesting that Mr. Ball be permitted to conduct inspections and to serve as interim Fire Sub Code Official until a decision to re-bid a third party agency is decided. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg to grant the request permitting Peter Ball to serve as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

2. Leaf collections will cease January 13 and chipping will resume the week of January 16, 2006.

Police Chief Matheis

1. Chief Matheis thanked Mayor and Council for allowing him to attend the FBI Training School and stated it was the highlight of his career. Chief Matheis returned to the Department on December 19 and commended Sgt. Kubinak on doing keeping the Department running smoothly and said it was better than when he left.

Nancy E. Smith, C.F.O.

Councilman De Cleene

Councilwoman Pendergast

Councilman Harrison

Councilwoman Kovach

Councilwoman Schaumburg

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to pay the attached lists of overtime and standby pay for the period of December 1-14 and December 15-28, 2005.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Holt addressed the Council and audience with his farewell speech. After being a part of this Council for over 10 years, standing on any street corner reminds him of jobs and projects the Town has undertaken. Mayor Holt joked about all the letters and correspondence that would be waiting for him in his mailbox and compared them to a book that he is reading, "65 Letters to the Presidents". It began with President Washington receiving a letter stating he had been elected President, the last with a letter from Astronaut, John Glynn, to President Clinton. Mayor Holt said "currently, President Bush receives 40,000 to 100,000 letters daily, and to think, I thought I had a lot to read!!"

Mayor Holt thanked the Public Works Department and stated he couldn't have asked for a better Sewer and Water Department, with superb leaders, Tom Tharp and Paul Klitsch. He thanked the Police Department and their leader, Chief Matheis; Nancy Smith, CFO and Allison and Joy; John Leonard and Jack Daniels, Ceil Covino, Lois Terreri before her, Sharon Greer, Sara and Nancy; and most of all, thank you to his wife, Megan, and son, Justin for allowing him all the free time to do the job he adored. "It has been a pleasure and a honor to serve the people of Clinton. Thank you all and keep this Town in mind."

The entire room stood and applauded Mayor Matthew Holt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mayor Holt, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to enter into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss Contract Negotiations.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Council returned to the regular Council Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

ATTORNEY COMPENSATION

A request has been made by Richard P. Cushing of the firm Gebhardt & Keifer to be a part-time employee of the Municipality, not to receive any benefits such as medical, dental, vacation, sick leave or any other benefits provided to employees, except attorney will qualify for pension benefits as a municipal employee. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to move that Richard P. Cushing, Esq. be granted the part-time employee retainer option at an amount of \$43,500. The following changes to the request are attendance at governing body meetings until 11:00 p.m. and attorney be required to track hours.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg
Abstain: Holt

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Holt)
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

J. Matthew Holt, Mayor