

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Ragozine, 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 Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the minutes of December 29, 2005 Council meeting as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
1 Abstention (Ragozine)  
Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the minutes of January 1, 2006 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to accept the monthly reports for the month of December as submitted: Clerk’s Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control Account, Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Report, Zoning Officer/Construction Official Report.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

1. Mayor Schaumburg stated that she will begin holding office hours the first Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning in February.
2. Memorandum received from John Leonard Construction Official, regarding a request to amend the Town Fee Schedule and to include charges for in-house electrical inspections.

**COUNCIL VACANCY**

The process to fill a Council seat vacated by Christine Schaumburg who was sworn in to office as the mayor on January 1, 2006, was scheduled for this evening. The Democratic Committee submitted the names of three individuals for consideration and Council will give each an opportunity to make a short presentation.

Laurie Insel  
52 Center Street

Arlene Quinones-Perez  
164 Leigh Street

Louis Tranquilli  
11 Rupells Road

Ms. Insel stated she has been very involved with the Town as a volunteer over the years. A member of the Historic Commission, giving tours of the Red Mill to school children and helping organize the Booster Club at Clinton Public School. Ms. Insel has attended Council, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meetings frequently over several years and feels she understands the issues confronting the Town and now has the "luxury of time" to devote to the being on Council.

Ms. Perez, a two-year resident of the Town, works with the state Securities Fraud Office and said she wants to get more involved at the local level but said she would be attending law school full-time in June.

Mr. Tranquilli, a member of the Board of Adjustment and recently appointed as liaison to the Planning Board, said he would like to see this beautiful town stay beautiful. He would like to bring in capital to ease the burden on taxpayers. Mr. Tranquilli admitted time would be an issue for him.

All three candidates spoke on the issue of property taxes as one of the challenges facing the Town of Clinton.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. for Personnel.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Council returned from the Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. Mayor Schaumburg thanked the candidates and appreciates all their service to the community.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to appoint Laurie Insel to the vacant Council seat. Ms. Insel was joined by her husband, Jim, while being sworn in and then proceeded to take a seat at the Council table. The audience applauded.

**RESOLUTION #27-06 – DEDICATION BY RIDER - MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #27-06 approving the establishment of a Dedication by Rider for North Hunterdon Municipal Alliance on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and permission for the Town of Clinton to pay expenditures for the Municipal Alliance.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**RESOLUTION #28-06 – SENSUS WATER METERS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #28-06 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**RESOLUTION #29-06 – MAILING OF UTILITY BILLS**

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #29-06 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**RESOLUTION #30-06 – SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY**

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber to appoint Warren Korecky, of the Firm Suplee, Clooney and Company as the auditing firm for the year 2006.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**RESOLUTION #31-06 – APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL INSURANCE AGENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to appoint Caroline Conboy of Brown and Brown, to serve as the Insurance Agent for the Town of Clinton for the calendar year 2006.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**RESOLUTION #32-06 – OVERPAYMENTS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #32-06 authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund the overpayments of taxes as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**FIRE INSPECTION FEES**

Discussion continued regarding the Fire Inspection fees for non-profits in the Town of Clinton. All three (3) churches have been refunded the fees at this time. Mr. Ragozine questioned exempting the churches and suggested a discounted fee, Mr. Harrison agreed. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to create a fee for non-profit, non life hazard uses regardless of size. Fee of \$35.00 for all non profits and authorization to Mr. Cushing to draft an amendment to Ordinance Chapter 77.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**HUNTERDON HUMANE ANIMAL SHELTER**

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to enter into an Animal Control Contract with the Hunterdon Humane Animal Shelter for the calendar year 2006 at a cost of \$3,708.60.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**NAME PLATES**

Mr. Ragozine suggested researching the cost of having new name plates printed for all Council, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment members. The cost is approximately \$240.00. The first and last names of all members will now appear. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, authorizing the Clerk to order new name plates showing the full name of all members.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence received from the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, recognizing Chief Matheis' efforts for two successful education-enforcement programs this past year; "Click It Or Ticket" and "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose".

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS**

**Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator**

1. Recommendation from the Water Committee to lessen the water restrictions imposed in July, 2005. Residents would now be able to wash their cars but lawn watering is not allowed. A motion to relax the water restrictions until further notice was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Kovach.  

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried
2. Curbside leaf collection will take place once more this year, with warm temperatures and no snow it remains possible. Chipping will resume week of January 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Awaiting a meeting date from New Jersey Department of Transportation to schedule public meeting regarding Exit 15.  
Bruce Johnson, Hunterdon County Engineering Department. County will provide a detour map for merchants to observe during the Halstead Street project.

**Councilman Ragozine**

1. Building and Grounds Committee met January 3, 2006, discussed proposed improvements for De Mott Pond. Also discussed quotes for a new floor at the Community Center. Cleaning Services for the Municipal Building and other miscellaneous issues were addressed.

**Councilwoman Garber**

1. Fire Department – applications for membership have been submitted for:

Michael Iglesias  
17 Alexandra Way  
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

Darrell J. Dulak  
22 Union Road  
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to accept the membership applications as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

2. Clinton Guild will be holding their reorganization meeting on January 28, 2006 at the Clinton Holiday Inn at 6:30 p.m.
3. Parks & Playgrounds Committee will meet on January 11, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

**Councilman De Cleene**

1. Rescue Squad – Attended the January 2, 2006 meeting. Discussed the budget and the newly formed Emergency Services Foundation. Two volunteers from the Squad, President, Melinda Stortz and Joe Korkuch.
2. Roads Committee – next meeting February 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.

**Councilwoman Kovach**

1. Mrs. Kovach reported that Commissioner Bradley Campbell will be moving on from his position at the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Campbell has been a friend to the Town of Clinton and Mrs. Kovach recommended recognizing the Commissioner by inviting him to a Council meeting and honoring him with a Proclamation. Mr. Campbell's will be taken over by Lisa Jackson.

**Councilman Harrison**

1. Sewer Committee met January 4, 2006 and discussed their budget. Meetings will be held the first Tuesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m. The next meeting is February 7, 2006.
2. Board of Health will be holding their annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, January 14, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mr. Harrison also encourages residents to be aware that there is a dog waste ordinance in the Town of Clinton and reminds residents to clean up after their dogs.

**Councilwoman Insel**

Welcome! Mr. Cutter offered to meet with Ms. Insel briefly on Wednesday, January 11 to discuss procedures.

**Mayor Schaumburg**

Budget meetings are scheduled to be held Thursday, January 12, 26 and February 2, 9 and 16<sup>th</sup> if needed. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by seconded by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine to enter into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss Personnel and Contract Negotiations.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Council returned to the regular Council Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #06-01 – FIRE SUBCODE FEES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to introduce Ordinance #06-01 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #06-01  
AN AORDINANCE AMENDING UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES,  
SECTION 73-3 (G) (5), FIRE SUBCODE FEES

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

This Ordinance is for the purpose of having fees in placed to be charged in connection with inspections conducted by an in-house inspector and to issue new fire permits. Garden State Inspection Agency will no longer be conducting inspections. The State Fees will be used.

A copy of this Ordinance will be published once in the Hunterdon Review. A public hearing will be held February 14, 2006.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Harrison seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC  
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

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Christine Schaumburg, Mayor