

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – DeCleene, Garber, Harrison, Insel, Kovach, Ragozine, Mayor Schaumburg.

Robert Fodero, Esq. of Gebhardt & Kiefer, attended tonight’s meeting in Mr. Cushing’s absence.

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. Ragozine, seconded, by Mrs. Insel, to approve the minutes of March 14, 2006, as submitted.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve monthly reports for the month of February as submitted by Treasurer and Tax Collector.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

1. Repairs to the Pony Truss Bridge have been completed and the bridge is now open. The Mayor expressed her thanks to PW/Bus. Admin., Robert Cutter, Road Committee Chairman, Eugene De Cleene, and Dir. Hunterdon County Roads, Bridges and Engineering, John Glynn.
2. Left turn arrows and pedestrian countdown work has been completed at the intersection of Rt. 173 and Leigh Street. Thank you to Administrator Cutter, Mr. Szwedo, NJDOT, and Town resident Bernadette Andrejco for her persistence in this matter.

APPOINTMENT OF TAX COLLECTOR – DIANE LAUDENBACH

Mayor Schaumburg introduced Diane Laudenbach, who will be hired as Part Time Tax Collector, effective April 3, 2006. A motion to approve the hiring and appointment of Ms. Laudenbach was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

The oath of office was administered by Attorney Fodero.

2006 BUDGET:

Mayor Schaumburg noted that a line item has been added to the budget for Preliminary Improvement Costs for Capital Planner, which will be needed if we receive a grant for a Smart Growth Vision Plan that is being applied for by Councilwoman Insel.

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt the 2006 Budget.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Insel, Ragozine, Mayor Schaumburg.
Nays – Kovach

Ayes – 6
Nays - 1
Motion carried

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PAYROLL COMPANY:

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to award the contract for payroll services to the lowest bidder, Action Data Services , 17 Sherwood Lane, Fairfield, NJ 07004, for 2006.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CLINTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD – FEE WAIVER REQUEST:

It has been determined that out of the \$239.00 construction permit fees for renovation work being done at the Church, \$174.00 is eligible for waiver. Attorney Cushing has advised that Council needs to look at our Ordinance with regard to permit fees and how to handle non-profit organizations. Mr. Ragozine asked if construction permit fees could be handled in the same way as fire inspection fees. Mr. Harrison stated that the purpose of the construction fees is to cover the costs incurred by the Town for inspections. Mrs. Kovach suggested the possibility of a percentage reduction. Mr. Bahto, Alton Place, asked if adjustment could be made based on the hourly rate of the inspector. Following this discussion, Mayor Schaumburg summarized the options as follows: adopt a policy to reduce fees by a percentage, waive fees altogether or deny the request.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to deny the request from the Clinton Assembly of God for waiver of construction fees.

Discussion: Mr. Harrison mentioned not wanting to set a bad precedent. Mrs. Kovach suggested more history be gathered in order to make educated decisions in the future. The Mayor noted that fire inspection fees have already been refunded.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #49- 06 –VETERAN’S DEDUCTION:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #49-06 for the Veteran’s Deduction application which has been approved by the Town of Clinton Assessor.

Vote all ayes
Motion Carried

(A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.)

RESOLUTION #50-06 – WELLHEAD PROTECTION:

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to adopt Resolution #50-06 for the enforcement of the State Wellhead Protection Program.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #51-06 – NORTH BRANCH OF THE ROCKAWAY CREEK

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #51-06 petitioning the NJDEP to change the surface water classification of the North Branch of the Rockaway Creek.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #52-06 – OPPOSING SENATE BILL S 1219:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #52-06 opposing the adoption of Senate Bill 1219 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #53-06 – STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #53-06 to join the Statewide Insurance Fund.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #54-06 – APPOINTMENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #54-06 to appoint Caroline Conboy, of Brown & Brown Metro, as Risk Management Consultant.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #55-06 – SEWER AGREEMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #55-06 authorizing Mayor and Council to execute the Sewer Agreement with Ansuya Enterprise of Clinton LLC.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #06-07-AUCTION METHOD IN AWARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE:

Attorney Fodero explained that a municipality can issue a plenary retail consumption liquor license to a motel containing at least 100 guest sleeping rooms by the auction method, in accordance with provisions of Title 33 of New Jersey Statutes. Council may set a minimum bid and all bidders shall be prequalified.

Mr. Robert Smith, 10 Water Street, asked for clarification of the auction method. Mr. Fodero explained the process more fully and stated that the Resolution establishing a minimum auction price of \$250,000. will not be adopted until after the Ordinance is adopted.

Mr. Raymond Bahto, 47 Alexandra Way, asked if another person could submit a bid for this license. Mr. Fodero explained that only the owner of the establishment is eligible.

A motion was made Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Ordinance #06 –07 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #06-07
ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32 OF THE CODE
OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON ENTITLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
TO PROVIDE FOR AN AUCTION METHOD IN THE AWARD OF
CERTAIN LIQUOR LICENSES

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A copy of this Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review April 5, 2006 edition. A public hearing will be held April 28, 2006.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION AND BANNER REQUEST – ART IN THE OPEN:

Chief Matheis commented that the police department will work closely with those parties on Lower Center Street that will be affected by this event in order to keep things running smoothly.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to approve the application and banner request for the event which, will be held at the Hunterdon Museum of Art on June 4, 2006.

Mrs. Dena Pender, 9 Lower Center Street, on behalf of Clinton Canoe & Kayak Company, expressed her concerns. Chief Matheis reassured her that the concerns would be addressed with sensitivity, as in the past.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Louis Tranquilli regarding the Rupells Road speed platform issue.
2. The Mayor recognized Nancy E. Smith, CFO/Tax Collector, noting that this would be her last Council Meeting after 31 years with the Town, and expressed the gratitude of Mayor and Council for her many years of dedicated service and best wishes for a happy retirement. At this time the Mayor read a letter from Charles Vose, Prime Sites Realty, commending Mrs. Smith on her helpfulness in assisting him with researching property ownership.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS:

Councilwoman Insel

1. Shade Tree Commission – Arbor Day celebration will be on April 28, at 10 am. CPS Third Grade Students will be planting a tree in front of the Music Hall.
2. Historic Commission continues to work on plans for 47 Leigh Street.
3. TBTN cable would like to make a presentation to Council with reference to enhancement to the cable information channel that would be beneficial to the school and the municipality. Presentation date to be coordinated with the Clerk.

Councilman Harrison

1. Plans to attend Interlocal Services Summit on April 5th given by League of Municipalities.

Councilwoman Kovach

1. Highlands Council - Attended Technical Advisory Committee sessions on March 28 & 29.
 - Will attend Brownfields meeting in Trenton on March 31st.
 - Main Street New Jersey is interested in doing a presentation at a Clinton Guild meeting. Council and other community groups will be invited to attend.
 - Main Street New Jersey also has a 2 day session scheduled for April 26 & 27.

2. Environmental Commission – South Branch cleanup is scheduled for April 22nd and there will be a River cleanup on June 3rd. Also, the Environmental Inventory Report is to be added to the web site. Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled for July 8th and Computer and Propane Tank Collection for June 10th.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Clinton Rescue Squad – Teddy Bears which were donated by New York Life for the comfort of children were delivered to the Squad on March 18th by Mr. De Cleene and Mrs. Kovach.
2. Roads Committee Meeting – scheduled for April 4th at 8:30 am.

Councilwoman Garber

1. Newsletter Deadlines: June Issue – May 12, Sept. Issue – Aug. 11, Dec. Issue – Nov. 10.
2. Parks and Playgrounds – Town Picnic scheduled for Sept. 9th (rain date – Sept. 10th). Clinton Township Skate Park is open to residents of surrounding municipalities; registration by March 31st. Senior Luncheon will be May 7, 1:00 pm, at the Clinton Rescue Squad Building. Next meeting of Parks and Playgrounds is April 20th.
3. Clinton Fire Department Meeting – April 3rd.
4. Clinton Guild Meeting – April 19th.
5. Emergency Services Meeting – April 18th.

Councilman Ragozine – No Report

Nancy E. Smith, CFO

1. Mrs. Smith commented “It has been a pleasure working with the Town”.

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator

1. Special spring curbside leaf collection continues through April 7th.

Police Chief Matheis

1. Overnight parking restrictions will end on April 1st. Also, the police department will be conducting extra radar enforcement activities throughout the Town.

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to approve the attached overtime and standby pay for the period of March 9 – 22, 2006.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Motion by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to approve the voucher list, attached to these minutes, for payment.

Vote all ayes,
Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mayor Schaumburg, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters of Personnel and Litigation at 8:25 p.m.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to come out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Vote all ayes,
Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Vote all ayes,
Motion carried.

Sara J. Peterson, RMC
Deputy Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor