

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene (7:35 p.m.), Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea,
Mayor Schaumburg
Absent - Harrison

Also Present – Elizabeth McManus, Planner (left at 8:15 p.m.)

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 Mr. Shea, to approve the minutes of the special meeting, December 27, 2007 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to approve the minutes of the Re-organization meeting of January 1, 2008.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Shea, to accept the monthly reports for the month of December as submitted:

Assessor’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Construction Control / Inspection Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Wastewater Treatment Plants Superintendent’s Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joelle Garber, 163 Leigh Street, spoke on behalf of the Emergency Services Foundation to announce a fund raiser that will be held February 10, 2008 at the East Tokyo Hibachi & Sushi Japanese Restaurant in Flemington. The event will begin at 2:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and tickets are \$35.00 each. Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis, there are ten tables with seating for ten at each. Contact Joelle Garber for reservations or further information.

WATER REFUND

A request has been made by Nancy Burgess, Water Collector, to refund \$10.76 to Ron and Kelly McDougall. The tenant is moving and the account has a credit balance after the final water billing was complete. A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded Mr. Ragozine, to grant the refund as requested.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #08-01 – BOARD OF RECREATION FEES

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, in adopt Ordinance # 08-01 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #08-01
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES TO BE CHARGED BY THE
BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A notice of this Ordinance will be published in the January 16, 2008 edition of the Hunterdon Review. A second reading and public hearing will take place February 12, 2008.

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

RESOLUTION #36-08 – PETTY CASH

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Resolution #36-08 establishing a Petty Cash Fund for the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL: De Cleene, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

Kathy Olsen, Finance Officer, requested Mayor and Council to vote on issuing a check for Petty Cash that was not included on the prepared Bill List. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Insel, authorizing the Finance Officer to issue a check as requested.

ROLL CALL: De Cleene, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SIGN ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Planner, Elizabeth McManus, attended this evening's meeting to address Town Council's comments on the draft Sign Ordinance. Ms. McManus prepared in a memo dated January 2, 2008

and addressed the comments. Council discussed the issues, compromises were made, and decisions were made as follows:

- Neon signs will not be allowed in the Historic District
- There will be no color restrictions
- Size of sign will not be larger than 10 x 24
- Fees will be reduced for applications before the Board of Adjustment to \$75.00
- The Sign Committee will be a sub-committee, or arm of the Board of Adjustment, rather than an independent body. There will be no escrow required for sign variances not relating to a site plan or a subdivision.

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Shea, authorizing the Planner, Ms. McManus, to make the changes to the Sign Ordinance as discussed.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

The amended ordinance will be forwarded to the Planning Board for their review and comments for the February 5, 2008 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notification received from New Jersey Department of Transportation advising the Town of Clinton that the \$150,000 grant money will not be available for the Clinton Knolls Phase II Project.
2. Thanks again to Pat Goehe, Shade Tree Chairwoman, New Jersey Forest Service awarded the 2008 Green Communities grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 to the Town of Clinton.
3. Princeton Newspaper, U.S. 1, published a beautiful 2-page article about Clinton in their December 12, 2007 edition. The title read, "A Little Victorian London with a Dash of Bedford Falls" The wonderful pictures brought the article to life.
4. A Citizen's Involvement form has been received from John Leddy. Mr. Leddy's interest is the Historic Commission. His educational specialty is historic restoration and residential construction. Mayor Schaumburg asked Mrs. Insel to contact Mr. Leddy and discuss his participation with the Commission. There are no openings available at this time.
5. The first Annual Susan G. Komen North Jersey Race for the Cure, will be held Sunday Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Essex County Branch Brook Park, in Newark, New Jersey.
6. The Federal Emergency Management Agency released a funding program for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning. Mayor Schaumburg asked for Council's authorization to sign and submit a "letter of intent" in support of a grant application to FEMA by the Hunterdon County Freeholders.
7. HART advised the Town of Clinton that there will be no funding in 2008. The Town applied for a \$6,000 grant. Mrs. Insel will be meeting with Tara Shepherd to seek other options.
8. Council is in receipt of a memo from Beth McManus regarding COAH. Mayor Schaumburg stated this will be discussed by the Planning Board, however, Council members should review.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Councilman Shea

1. Clinton Guild – Re-organization meeting, January 16, 2008.
2. Shade Tree – Resuming regular meeting schedule.
3. Environmental Commission – Resuming regular meeting schedule.

Councilwoman Insel

1. Smart Growth meeting - January 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Highlands TDR Grant discussion.
2. Historic Commission – Next meeting January 16, 2008.
3. Planning Board – Highlands Presentation – March 4, 2008

Councilman De Cleene

1. Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad held their re-organization meeting this evening prior to the Council meeting. Melinda Stortz, has stepped down from her position of President and Dan McTiernan has resumed the position.
There were 143 calls for the month of December reported.
2. Councilman De Cleene took this moment to reflect on Public Works employee, Howie Deemer, and how fortunate he was to get his family members and four dogs out of his burning house on January 1, 2008 approximately 3:00 a.m. Mr. De Cleene stressed the family is alive today because of the smoke alarms in his home and pleaded with everyone to make sure the batteries in their smoke alarms are replaced regularly. Mr. De Cleene stated the out pouring of generosity received from the local WalMart, Shop Rite, merchants, professionals, school, residents and employees have helped Howie and his family during this very difficult time.

Councilman Shea recognized the response of the Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad and the Clinton Fire Department following a bus accident that recently occurred. Passengers were brought to the Fire Department where they were housed temporarily.

Councilman Ragozine

1. The Municipal Court of North Hunterdon is near finalizing the lease agreement. Mayor Schaumburg thanked Mr. Ragozine for working on the negotiations and for the cost savings.

Councilman Pender

1. Board of Health – Rabies Clinic Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be a brief Board of Health Meeting following the clinic.
2. Clinton Fire Department – Checks in the amount of \$1,200 each were delivered to the Fire Department by Councilman Pender and to the Rescue Squad by Councilman De Cleene. The donations were funds raised by the Emergency Services Foundation.

Kathy Olsen, CFO

1. The Clinton Fire Department 2007 LOSAP list has been submitted. A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to post the list for 30 days as required.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator

1. Morris County Co-Op Purchasing has proven beneficial savings.
2. Red Mill water line project has been funded by the Red Mill, with the help from the town Road closure may cease on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, depending on weather.
3. Ann Marie Obiedzinski, Tax Assessor, has begun office hours on Thursday's from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
4. New compliant playground equipment has been set up at the Community Center playground. Children were lined up waiting to get their chance to play.

APPROVAL OF STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the standby and overtime pay as submitted for December 14, 2007 through December 27, 2007.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #37-08 - TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to adopt Resolution #37-08, a Transfer of Funds.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #38-08 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Pender, to adopt Resolution #38-08 allowing Council to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel at 8:30 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular Council meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene seconded by Mr. Ragozine to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor