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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Kovach 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. Carberry, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to approve the amended minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 9, 2016.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Carberry, seconded by Mr. Rylak to approve the Budget Meeting minutes of February 16, 2016.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – FEBRUARY

A motion was made by Mr. Carberry seconded by Mr. Rylak, to approve the monthly reports for February as submitted:

Administrator’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Clerk’s Account, Construction Control/ Inspection Report, Police Report, Road Foreman’s Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Tax Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Zoning Officer Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT –None

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Former Mayor and League president, Art Ondish of Mount Arlington, passed away following a battle with cancer. He was a good friend and an advocate for municipalities.
2. Mayor Kovach requested a motion to authorize the hiring of two police officers, Anthony Higgins and Alberto Bonilla, Jr. A motion was made by Mr. Pendergast seconded by Mr. Smith to hire the two officers.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PRESENTATION OF HUNTERDON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

J. Paige Stiger, Chairman of the Hunterdon County Planning Board attended this evening's meeting to talk about a program called community outreach where the county visits Hunterdon municipalities to offer assistance on behalf of the County Planning Board. A municipality possibly attempting to reach the Department of Environmental Protection for a project or advice and has not heard back can now contact the County as they have been able to reach Cindy Randazzo of NJDEP for information if it is lagging to a municipality in need. Mr. Stiger gave an overview of the County's demographics and population as recently reported to the Town of Clinton by Freeholders Holt and Lagay on behalf of the CEDS program (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy).

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK - PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovach received a request from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School asking for support of the Town of Clinton to bring awareness to exposure of poisons and to designate March 20 through 26, 2016 as National Poison Prevention Week.

RESOLUTION #9-16 – JUDGE APPOINTMENT AMENDED

Resolution #9-16 was adopted at the Re-organization meeting naming Judge Eric Perkins to a one year term. Hunterdon County requests the appointment of a three year term. Therefore, Resolution #9-16 has been amended to make the appointment of Judge Eric Perkins to a three year term. A copy will be forwarded to the Town of Clinton Municipal Court. A motion was made by Mr. Pendergast, seconded by Mr. Carberry to adopt Resolution #9-16 as amended.

RESOLUTION #9-16

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON TO ENGAGE A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, has entered into an interlocal municipal services agreement for the creation of a shared municipal court with the Township of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, this court will be known as the Municipal Court of the Town of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Court requires the services of Municipal Court Judge for the Calendar Year 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Court of the Town of Clinton has authorized the appointment of the person named herein as the Court Judge.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, hereby ratifies the Appointment of Eric Perkins as the Certified Court Judge of the Municipal Court of the Town of Clinton for a three year appointment expiring December 31, 2018.

Vote all ayes

Motion carried

RESOLUTION #50-16 - CLOSE OUT OF CURRENT ESCROW ACCOUNT

A motion was made by Mr. Carberry, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to adopt Resolution #50-16 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #50-16

WHEREAS, in July of 2015 Access Property Management deposited funds in the amount of \$1,500.00 to establish an escrow account with the Town of Clinton, 4326

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding bills from the Town's Professionals to be paid from this account, and

WHEREAS, Access Management has requested the return of the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$941.08,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to issue a check to Access Management in the amount of \$941.08 to close the current escrow account.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

BANNER REQUEST

Council is in receipt of a banner request for Immaculate Conception Church to display a banner for the Church festival June 15 through 19, 2016. The banner dates are June 13 through the 20th. A motion was made by Mr. Carberry, seconded by Mr. Pendergast to approve the request.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

The Hunterdon Art Museum (HAM) is requesting permission to host HAM It UP! on Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 1 – 4 pm. The museum further requests the closing of a portion of Lower Center Street near the Art Museum and the terrace. Chief Matheis has reviewed the request and has approved the street closure. Ellen Maher of HAM attended this evening to answer any questions Council may have. Councilman Pendergast asked why is a street closure necessary when the terrace is wide open? Ms. Maher replied that many activities are planned and the extra space is necessary. Chief Matheis does not feel an officer is required because the Museum will have sufficient volunteers to deal with the street closure. Mr. Rylak asked if Dicken's Jewelers is aware of the street closure, and Ms. Maher said the property owner, Nick Villa, is aware and will notify his tenants. A motion was made by Ms. Sosidka, seconded by Mr. Carberry, to approve the request.

Vote all ayes
1 Nay (Pendergast)
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #16-01

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Mr. Carberry to introduce Ordinance #16-01 on first reading:

ORDINANCE #16-01
CALENDAR YEAR 2016
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et.seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said final budget appropriations to 0.00% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous years final appropriations; and,

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WHEREAS, a municipality may, by ordinance, bank the difference between its final budget appropriations and the 3.5% increase authorized by this ordinance when said difference is not appropriated as part of the final budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, hereby determines that this difference in the amount of \$106,774.89 that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to the final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

A copy of this ordinance will be published in the March 16, 2016 edition of the Hunterdon Review. A public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2016.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Kovach announced that Council, Finance Officer, Kathy Olsen and Administrator Rich Phelan have worked on the 2016 and happy to announce we are able to introduce it this evening. A motion was made by Mr. Carberry seconded by Mr. Rylak to accept the 2016 Municipal Budget on first reading. A public hearing will be held April 12, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A summary of the 2016 Municipal Budget will be advertised in the Hunterdon Review March 6, 2016 edition.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Police Chief Matheis

Chief Matheis reported that the Police Department is ready for Saturday, March 12th Run O' the Mill 5 K beginning at 8 a.m. and Sunday, March 13, St. Patrick's Day Parade! Street closures will take place, residents have been notified.

Councilman Smith

1. Roads – Mr. Smith distributed a DRAFT ordinance regarding the Georges Place Extension which has been re-written to protect the Town for insurance and costs. Upon Council's review,

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the ordinance will be introduced at the March 22 council meeting. Mr. Carberry commented that Council will be given the choice to rescind or amend the current ordinance or to adopt this new ordinance.

2. Van Cleef Engineering Firm is getting prices from contractors for the parking lot repaving. It may be possible for a contractor working on another municipal project that Mr. Clerico represents to “pony up” on this project. The Town is also applying for a Pedestrian Safe Grant Opportunity to purchase new signs that stand in the crosswalks for pedestrian crossing.
3. Buildings and Grounds is overseeing the final steps of the Municipal Building renovations and has compiled a punch list for the contractor to complete such as the front steps and a leak in the roof. Also seeking bids to move the electrical panel out of the basement where flooding occurs which would have to be completed on weekends when the office is closed. The first bid came in at \$35,000, other bids are being sought.
4. Spring Clean Up will begin April 4, leaves only; May begins chipping once again. Electronics Clean Up at the County facility on Route 12 will be held Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 9 – noon. Mr. Rylak asked about disposing of old air conditioners, freon must be removed and a sticker proving it and then it can be out with the regular trash. Mr. Rylak also commented on the options for the proposed Georges Place Extension ordinance, one option to rescind, one option to amend and a third option to let the current ordinance remain.

Councilman Pendergast

1. Clinton Fire Department has posted no parking at the fire house this coming Saturday or Sunday because of the scheduled events, the 5K and the Parade.
Eagle Scout project to be undertaken by Jeremy Decker who will be restoring the shed in the back alley of the fire department lot.
Clinton Fire Department has requested assistance from Union Township to fund a service truck, estimated cost \$50,000 to \$75,000. Union Township does give a small stipend to Clinton for responding to calls but Clinton is now looking for a larger stipend. Awaiting response.

Councilman Rylak

1. Smart Growth Committee – Mr. Rylak proudly modeled the new Conservancy shirts now available! The Smart Growth Committee has formed this conservancy and will begin by taking small steps to improve the “look” of Clinton. They will be sprucing up the five” Welcome to Clinton” signs and doing some plantings. Mr. Gulshan Chhabbra of the Holiday Inn is interested in funding some new shrubbery. Mr. and Mrs. Madden of Clinton are joining the group. Mr. Rylak also reported that Roger Mellick of the Land Use Board is a member of the New York Conservancy and will be a valuable participant to Clinton’s endeavor. Mr. Rylak then gave a brief history on the origin of the Central Park Conservancy. Ms. Sosidka asked if the Town could solicit funds and the response was no we cannot.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Pendergast, seconded by Mr. Carberry to approve the standby and overtime submitted for the period of February 12 through February 25, 2016 attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Mr. Rylak to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Carberry, Dineen, Pendergast, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Dineen seconded by Ms. Sosidka to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach