

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – Dineen, Johnson, Karsh, 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 COUNCIL MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to approve the Council minutes of December 26, 2017 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Johnson, Karsh)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF RE-ORGANIZATION MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Sosidka, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve the re-organization minutes of January 2, 2018 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – DECEMBER

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to approve the monthly reports for the month of December as submitted:

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PROCLAMATION – BUCKY BUCHANAN and TIM SHANAHAN

Mayor Kovach called Deputy Chief Bucky Buchanan and EMT Tim Shanahan of the Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad to the forefront to present them with a proclamation of gratitude for their efforts in helping with hurricane disaster recovery in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The men gave a brief slide show of the devastation they experienced. A full house erupted in applause!

RESOLUTION #39-18 – BYOB – YULETIDE BONFIRE

A motion was made by Ms. Sosidka, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #39-18 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 39-18

WHEREAS, the Code of the Town of Clinton, Chapter 32, Section 7, prohibits consumption of alcoholic beverages in, on, or upon any public street, or land owned or occupied by any federal, state, county or municipal government, or as further explained in the Section 32-7 A through D; and

WHEREAS, alcoholic beverages may be consumed at occasions or events held by bona fide nonprofit organizations or other groups if specifically permitted by resolution of the Mayor and Council; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, that BYO (Bring Your Own) consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted at the Hunts Mill Park during the Town of Clinton Yuletide Bonfire Winter Festival to be held on January 27, 2018 beginning at 6:00 PM

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Rylak)
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #40-18 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to adopt Resolution #40-18 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 40-18

WHEREAS, various 2017 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills were not covered by order number and/or recorded at the time of transfers between the 2017 Budget Appropriation Reserve in the last two months of 2017; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the year are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allow transfers to be made from unexpended balances which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months of the succeeding year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that transfers in the amount of 10,000.00 be made between the 2017 Budget Appropriation Reserves as follows:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Water Utility		
Other Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	
Sewer Utility		
Other Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	
Water Utility		
Salary & Wages		\$ 5,000.00
Sewer Utility		
Salary & Wages		\$ 5,000.00
TOTALS	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Johnson, Karsh, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

BANNER REQUESTS

Banner application received from Immaculate Conception Church to display a banner for their 17th Annual Parish Festival to be held June 20 through 24, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Rylak, seconded by Ms. Karsh to approve the banner dates of June 18 through June 25, 2018.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Banner application received from the Hunterdon Art Museum to display a banner for HAM It UP! to be held February 11, 2018. A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to approve the banner dates of January 29 through February 12, 2018.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilman Smith

1. Rescue Squad reported 3,089 calls for 2017.
2. Buildings and Grounds – January 24, 2018, the Ash tree at the Community Center will be taken down. The Holiday star that has been displayed at Christmas on the cupola of the municipal building is in disrepair. A new one will be purchased.
3. Roads Committee – met with a resident who is running a water line up from the river.
4. New changes regarding stormwater management and stormwater discharge are being enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection. More stringent rules will be in effect.

Councilwoman Dineen

1. Clinton Guild – attended meeting with merchants and an ongoing topic is trash collection. Discussion held to hire someone during big events to take care of trash. Next meeting will be January 17, new councilwomen Johnson and Karsh are invited to attend. Meeting will be held 8:30 a.m. at the Hunterdon Art Museum.

Everyone is sorry to see Bill Healy's Crystal store leaving Main Street at the end of the month.

Councilwoman Sosidka

1. Environmental Commission did not meet this month. At the next meeting they will have to vote on a new chairperson.
2. Citizen Involvement group met to talk about buying the Moebus Tract by raising funds from a consortium of environmentally conscious agencies and organizations starting with the County.

Councilman Rylak

1. Clinton Fire Department – Councilwomen Johnson and Karsh attended the Fire Department meeting on January 2, 2018, met the firefighters and took a tour of the facility. Mr. Rylak reported on the number of man hours for all the activities the members participated in for the year 2017.

266 calls	1090 hours
Training/Drills	2508.7 hours
Fundraisers	1024.2 hours
Meetings	472.4 hours
Other Activities	1859.35
Stand-bys/Duty crews	1265

2. Three applications have been received for membership.
Myles Murphy, 7 Christopher Lane, - Junior member
Caroline Cianciara, Morristown – Active member
Thomas Schaefer, 9 Magnolia Lane – member

A motion was made by Ms. Sosidka, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to accept the individuals for membership to the Clinton Fire Department

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilwoman Karsh

1. Smart Growth Committee has not met, plans are to morph into an Economic Development Committee.

Councilwoman Johnson

1. Board of Health will be holding the Annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 8am to 11 am. Board of Health meeting will follow.

Mayor Kovach

Mayor Kovach addressed Ross Traphagen sitting in the audience. Ross is an Eagle Scout, resident and college student who has taken on promoting Clinton as a destination to visit!

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Dineen to approve the standby and overtime submitted for the period of December 15, 2017 through December 29, 2017 attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Johnson, Karsh, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen seconded by Ms. Sosidka to authorize the CFO, Kathy Olsen, to pay the bills when the computer problem is resolved. A list will be provided to Mayor and Council for their review.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Johnson, Karsh, Rylak, Smith, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes

Motion carried

RESOLUTION #41-18 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter of potential litigation at 8:05 pm.

RESOLUTION #41-18

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*:

A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon:

_____);

_____A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

_____A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof (Specify contract:

_____A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____ Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____ Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (the general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is:

_____ OR _____ the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.)

_____ Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that

confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; (The general nature of the matter is: Land Acquisition OR _____ the public

disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality's position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists);

_____ Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; (The employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is _____

OR _____ the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists.;

_____ Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Town Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Town or any other entity with

respect to said discussion. That time is currently estimated to be: _____

(estimated length of time) OR upon the occurrence of

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: Upon returning from Executive Session and there being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Sosidka, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach