

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

Flag Salute

Roll Call: Present – Dineen, Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, Karsh, Smith, 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 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Ms. Karsh to approve the regular council meeting minutes of August 13, 2019 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Intrabartola)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson seconded by Mr. Humphrey to approve the executive session meeting minutes of August 13, 2019 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Intrabartola)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – AUGUST

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

Administrator’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Construction Control/ Inspection Report, Cat & Dog Licensing, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Tax Collector’s Report, Treasurer’s Reports for June, July and August, Water Collector’s Report, Zoning Officer Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

SWEARING IN OF PATROLMAN MICHAEL DEL RUSSO

Mayor Kovach welcomed Michael and his girlfriend, Cara Byrnes, to the front of the room for the ceremonial swearing in as Patrolman 10th Class. After the swearing in, Michael’s family joined in for group photos!

SWEARING IN OF PATROLMAN JOSE GONZALEZ

Mayor Kovach followed by welcoming Jose and his wife, Megan, to the front of the room for his official ceremonial swearing in as Patrolman 10th Class. After his swearing in, Jose’s family joined him for group photos as well!

Congratulations to the new officers joining the ranks as Clinton’s finest!

5194

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Councilwomen Johnson, Karsh, Dineen and Mayor Kovach received Certificates of Recognition from Congressman Tom Malinowski for Women's Equality Day!
2. Mayor Kovach received a gift from Mark Zhutinali following the documentary he produced of the Clinton Music Hall which premiered July 30, 2019. Mark had crystal designer, Bill Healy, design a crystal plate, a blue velvet box, and a little plaque which reads "The Story of the Clinton Music Hall, May 15, 2016" the day of the devastating fire for an original brick from the music hall. The brick will be on display in the clerk's office.
3. Hunterdon Helpline is hosting their 50th Anniversary Gala on November 2, 2019. Anyone interested should contact the clerk.
4. KNOCK OUT OPIOID ABUSE Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at the Hunterdon Medical Center From 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the community.
5. New Jersey League of Municipalities 2019 Conference Resolutions. Member municipalities wishing to submit resolution for consideration by the committee at the annual conference must send a summary of the resolution by October 4, the full text of the resolution is due to the league office by October 18.
6. Habitat for Humanity, affordable homeownership opportunity for moderate income families. Information sessions will be held September 21, 22 and 25, 2019 in Montgomery Township. For more information call 908-704-0016 ext. 14.
7. Mayor Kovach informed council members that using their Clinton Town badges is now illegal, please do not attempt to present them.
8. Mayor Kovach witnessed Patrolman Matt Ellis up at the Community Center where he bent down to a little boy for a "fist bump"!

RESOLUTION #123-19- CERTIFICATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to adopt Resolution #123-19 certifying that Mayor and Council have reviewed the 2018 annual audit and made special note that there were no recommendations made by the auditor.

RESOLUTION # 123-19

CERTIFICATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2018 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.S.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations” and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27 BB-54 to wit:

R.S.52:27 BB-52 – “A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the (Director of Local Government Services), under provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Town of Clinton, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Karsh, Smith, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Following the vote, the Mayor and Council signed the Group Affidavit which will be forwarded to the State along with a certified copy of the resolution and the newspaper affidavit.

WITHDRAWN - ORDINANCE #19-05 – FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT

Mayor Kovach explained that the Clinton Fire Department is not pursuing this at this time, however, a statewide endeavor is on-going and delegates will be meeting with the Division of Local Government Services.

ORDINANCE #19-10 – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Mayor Kovach informed Council and the public that this ordinance is going to move ahead with an AD HOC committee to review ordinances from other towns and address any issues that were previously discussed. The Committee will consist of Councilwomen Dineen and Intrabartola and Councilman Smith. Mayor Kovach asked that the committee report back in January 2020.

5196

BANNER REQUEST

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to approve the banner request for the Clinton Fire Department 4th Annual Craft Beer Fest, October 28 through November 4, 2019.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT - MAIN STREET MARATHON AND PRE-RACE FESTIVAL

Eric Eisenhart came to answer any questions that council may have pertaining to the two day event. Following the pre-race superhero race last year, a few children became scattered and Ms. Intrabartola asked what consideration has been given to that. Mr. Eisenhart assured council that more barricades will be set up and more volunteers available to corral the children safely. A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Dineen, to approve both events as requested. October 12, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. pre-race and October 13, 2019 Main Street Marathon 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Chief Kubinak suggested submitting only one application with both dates in the future.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPECIAL EVENT – RUN O’THE MILL 5K

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Karsh, to approve the Run O’the Mill event for March 14, 2010.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #122-19 – OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to adopt Resolution #122-19 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 122-19

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has received overpayments for following blocks and lots,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to refund the overpayments to the following accounts:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1	5	Lubsen, Brian & Emilia Riehl	\$ 2,394.85
8.04	19	Tota, Matthew & Kimberly	\$ 24.78
25	7	Baumann, Peter & Margaret	\$ 2,827.59

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector remove the overpayments on the above block and lots for the 3rd quarter 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Johnson, Karsh, Smith, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter received from Salvatore Latino requesting a waiver to the five (5) year moratorium in order to install water and sewer connections to two lots so that they may be sold. However, at this time, Mr. Latino discussed with Mayor Kovach that he is moving ahead with documentation and proceeding with a subdivision for 2 – 2 family houses and will return in October to proceed with his original request.

Attorney Cushing gave background to an unwritten policy of the town regarding a newly paved roadway and the five year moratorium of not being able to cut into it. Mr. Cushing explained that at times it may be possible to allow for the disturbance of the roadway. Mr. Cushing asked Mayor Kovach if she would like him to prepare an amendment to the road opening permit to which she agreed.

2. An email received from Beth Sosidka, 1 Haver Farm Road and Carrie Cardace, 32 Haver Farm Road, regarding the speed humps on Haver Farm and the signage the women feel is excessive. Mayor Kovach reached out to Engineer Clerico who sent an email late this afternoon for the council's review. Therefore, Mayor Kovach is asking to postpone the discussion until the September 24 meeting, giving Council a chance to review Mr. Clerico's findings.
3. A letter of resignation was received Tara Stone, stepping down from the Economic Development Committee. A motion was made by Ms. Karsh seconded by Ms. Dineen, to accept her resignation with regrets.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Police Chief Kubinak

A letter of thanks to Officer McGuire and the Clinton Fire Department from a resident on Marudy Drive for a call they responded to for a strong odor. Everyone was professional and Ms. Powers appreciated all they did.

The sergeant process is moving along. Officer Robbins will be training as detective and will hold the title even after Detective Hunter retires. Officer Bonilla will be training and will be the officer at Clinton Public School.

Officers Del Russo and Gonzalez are sworn in and have been training. All is going very well.

The new patrol car has been delivered and is being outfitted.

Councilwoman Johnson

Board of Recreation – update on park grant and redesign- engineers are waiting on quotes on equipment.

Once prices are finalized they will be submitting documents to the county for the grant.

Last movie night of the season will be Friday, "The Secret Life of Pets II".

Councilman Humphrey

Clinton Fire Department – Congressman Tom Malinowski visited with Clinton officials, Police, Fire and Rescue Squads recently. A three hour visit included a question and answer session with Chief Walt Dorf and a few of the department's fire fighters. Congressman Malinowski will try to help out the department on a federal level.

5198

Fire department responded to 23 calls for service in August, the breakdown is as follows:

- 5 Fires (buildings or vehicles)
- 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 7 Smoke or gas odor investigations
- 5 alarm activations
- 1 public assist

FF/EMT Monticello achieved his National Registry EMT as well as started his career with United States Coast Guard and will be in training at Coast Guard Base Cape May for 8 weeks. He will then receive his assignment. The department wishes him the best of luck!

FF/EMT J. Pyle started his career with the City of Cape May Fire Department! Best of luck, Pyle!

CFD held its August grill night as well as their summer appreciation picnic for members and their families.

CFD assisted Whitehouse Fire Department with the funeral for Ex-chief Clarence F. Hackman. Rest in peace, Chief, CFD will take it from here.

Squad attended Kid's day at the Red Mill.

CFD staffed the North Hunterdon Fire Alliance "Squad 51" twice, answering numerous bells each shift.

Application for junior membership for Tanner Rogers, 121 Center Street, Clinton, NJ. A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to accept the membership.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Environmental Commission – The Sustainable NJ Green Team for Clinton certification for 2019 is being pursued. Finished application must be submitted by November 17th. There is a focus to build a bigger team for 2020 so Clinton has enough time and volunteers to go after the coveted Platinum Certification. Members of the commission will be attending the Volunteer Fair on September 11 and will also be representing the Conservancy at the table.

Communications Committee / Newsletter update – The newsletter was mailed in the days surrounding the Labor Day weekend. We mailed to all residents in town, although several in the town houses and apartments reported that they had not received them, so we will double check all addresses in town. We also dropped off small piles at several businesses and the County Library. The Committee is pursuing less expensive delivery options for the November issue. That issue is set to go to print by the second week of November. It is expected that all advertising spots will be filled for that issue.

Volunteer Fair – September 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A 9/11 remembrance ceremony will take place at approximately 6:45 p.m. with remarks from mayor Kovach and Fire Department Chaplin Larry Coyne, and music played by Clinton Public School students. More than a dozen organizations exhibiting. Please use social media and email to get the word out.

Councilman Smith

Rescue Squad – calls up over 7% from last year at this time. The merger discussions are continuing, many

sub-committees working diligently and the next meeting will be in October.

Roads Committee – West Main Street Pedestrian Safety Project has been completed. Good feedback from locals and the Clinton Guild.

Projects on dead end streets cannot be funded by state aid, however, we have repaved Helen, Hunts Mill, Hancock and Riverside Drive with the help of Morristown Co-Op. The Town saved money on material and the contractor.

Water – Bypass is being completed at the Developmental Center.

Hydrant flushing is complete

Plans are to go out for bid for the Lebanon water main replacement project in 2020 for 2021 construction

Sewer - Clinton Township Sewerage Authority made an improper bypass around the meter pit at Beaver Brook III pump station.

Councilwoman Karsh

Attended the Clinton Guild meeting and they are happy with the improvements in front of the Clinton House. They were also very happy of the process of notifications that took place, very little impact on the community was experienced. The Guild was asking for an attractive sign directing visitors to the downtown shopping district. Signage will be addressed with Allison Witt, Zoning Officer and Rich Phelan, Administrator.

Discussion about the Guild having permission to erect pop up tents during special event has been taking place and is being worked out.

Economic Development Commission - Ms. Karsh and Ms. Dineen have been working with the Communications Committee to design a new website and boost a presence for the Town.

Ms. Karsh will be attending the State Economic & Housing Conference September 16 and 17, and hopes to bring back information to help the committee and grant information.

Councilwoman Dineen

Land Use Board – meetings October 1 and 15, 2019.

Shade Tree Commission met and continues working on the Community Forest Management Plan.

Buildings and Grounds – Committee discussed the big ash tree at the community center and had two companies looking at it for advice. The tree is failing and may only have a life expectancy of two to three years. With the playground being newly designed, now is the time to consider the tree. We may have to allocate funds in the next budget year.

The municipal barn has had the roof replaced and air vents added. Excellent job!

Mr. Phelan addressed the neighbor next to the Finance/Water/Zoning office that her trees were encroaching on our building at 47 Leigh. The resident was kind enough to have the trees taken down.

Continued discussions regarding the facility usage form and the final copy will be on the website.

New business – State mandate of equipment for the police is putting stress on the department as they are running out of space.

5200

Councilwoman Intrabartola

Historic Commission did not meet.

The Communications Committee is moving along with the website redesign and working on navigation, making it user friendly. Hopes are to have it ready by the end of September

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the standby and overtime submitted for the period of August 9 through August 22, and August 23 through September 5, 2019 attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, Karsh, Smith, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to approve the bill lists attached to these minutes

ROLL CALL; Ayes: Dineen, Humphrey, Intrabartola, Johnson, Karsh, Smith, Mayor Kovach

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Dineen seconded by Ms. Karsh adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach