

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. Intrabartola to approve the regular council meeting minutes of September 24, 2019 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson seconded by Ms. Dineen to approve the executive session meeting minutes of September 24, 2019 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Karsh)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS – SEPTEMBER

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

Administrator’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Construction Control/ Inspection Report, Cat & Dog Licensing, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Report, Zoning Officer Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Ann Seccia-Harden, 15 Alexandra Way, wished to thank Mayor Kovach for her assistance in ironing out issues with Comcast. The service is now stable but they continue working on the credits due.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce is hosting “An Evening of Leadership” with Stedman Graham. Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Tuesday, November 12, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m. For more information and tickets, contact www.hunterdonchamber.org.
2. Smart Cities Workshop, October 17, 2019 at the Woodland in Maplewood, 9am to 1pm.

3. League of Municipalities is holding a contest “Show Off Your City”! Entries due February 3, 2020. Send in photos of your municipality to showcase our beautiful state. Send photos of tourist attractions, downtown areas, economic development initiatives, parks, city halls community groups and new projects! Spread the word! Also available on Town website for more information!
4. On November 12, 2019, the Council meeting will be called to order and then assemble at the main entrance of the Municipal Building where the Honor Roll stands for a re-dedication ceremony. The honor roll was originally erected on Independence Day in 1943. Two criteria must be met, the person must have been a resident of Clinton when entering the military service, and must have received an honorable discharge.
5. Mayor Kovach attended the Sunrise Rotary meeting on October 3, 2019. Russian visitors, architects, engineers and other professionals were among the invited guests. Mayor Kovach toured the Town with the group and pointed out the Red Mill and Hunterdon Art Museum. The group was enthralled with the Red Mill and the working of the wheel. They presented Mayor Kovach with a silk scarf with the Clinton Sunrise Rotary printed on it.

PRESENTATION – MARK DEMAYER

Mayor Kovach invited Mark Demayer to the forefront and read a beautiful letter to him expressing sincere thanks for his outstanding service to the residents on his mail delivery route. Many residents have shared stories of Mark, pulling garbage cans up the driveway, checking on folks, sending flowers to residents in the hospital! After reading the letter, Mayor Kovach presented Mark with a “Key to Clinton” as a token of our gratitude! A round of applause filled the room!

RESOLUTION #131-19 – RECREATION COMMISSION PETTY CASH FUND

The Board of Recreation has requested a petty cash fund for the purpose of being able to purchase items or arrange short trips where a purchase order is not accepted. A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to adopt Resolution #131-19 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #131-19

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RECREATION COMMISSION

TO MAINTAIN A PETTY CASH FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund for the Recreation Commission of the Town of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, said Petty Cash Fund was established by resolution dated October 8, 2019 by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, said Petty Cash Fund received approval from the Director of Local Government Services on September 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council that said fund be established and be allowed to continue under the control of the Chief Financial Officer,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Kathy Olsen, Chief Financial Officer, be and is hereby appointed custodian of petty cash and is authorized and permitted to establish a Petty Cash Fund in the amount not to exceed \$250.00 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21. Said Petty Cash Fund will be used by such office or department to pay claims for small miscellaneous expenses not to exceed \$25.00.
2. Kathy Olsen, Chief Financial Officer, having custody of the Fund be bonded in an amount not less than \$1,000.00 and will maintain said Fund in accordance with the laws and regulations governing its operation.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #132-19 – POLICE DEPARTMENT – PETTY CASH

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adopt Resolution #132-19 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #132-19

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN

TO MAINTAIN POLICE PETTY CASH FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00

WHEREAS, Chief Brett Matheis was custodian of the Town of Clinton Police Department Petty Cash Fund, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21, the Town of Clinton is changing custodians to Chief J. Cory Kubinak; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kubinak is bonded in the amount of at least \$1,000.00 by virtue of a surety bond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon hereby authorizes such action and two copies of this resolution be filed with the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approval.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #133-19 – AWARD OF CONTRACT

A motion was made by Mr. Smith seconded by Ms. Karsh to adopt Resolution #133-19 as submitted:

RESOLUTION #133-19

RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR
WATER VALVE EXERCISING AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT PHASE I

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton (“Town”) received and opened bids for the Water Valve Exercising and Replacement Project Phase I on August 28, 2019, pursuant to the authority of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the following bids were received;

Water Valve Exercising and Replacement Project Phase I

John Garcia Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,255,515.00
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WHEREAS, after review by the Water Engineer, Purchasing Agent and the Town Attorney, John Garcia Construction Company, Inc. has been determined to be the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, a certificate of available funding has been presented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that a contract is hereby awarded to John Garcia Construction Company, Inc, in the amount of \$1,255,515.00 for the Water Valve Exercising and Replacement Project Phase I, and that the Mayor and Town Clerk of the Town of Clinton are hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with John Garcia Construction Company, Inc., pursuant to bid specifications.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #134-19 – HIRING OF LABORER

A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to adopt Resolution #134-19 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 134-19

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton Water/Road Department Utility requires the hiring of one replacement laborer, and;

WHEREAS, the position was advertised for, applications accepted and interviews performed, and;

WHEREAS, the Public Works/Business Administrator , Water/Road Superintendent and Road/B&G Foreman recommend that the following person be hired to fill the open position at a rate of \$18.40 per hour;

KYLE MONTHONY

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hire Kyle Monthony to fill the open position at the Town of Clinton Water/Road Department effective October 9, 2019.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #135-19 – CANCELLATION OF LIEN

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to adopt Resolution #135-19 as submitted:

RESOLUTION # 135-19

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Town of Clinton has been paid \$61,675.53, the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #2017-8 on Block 11 Lot 13, assessed to Pina Giuliana and purchased by US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 8th day of October, 2019 by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$61,675.53 and Premium check in the amount of \$34,100.00 to US Bank Cust BV002 Trst & Crdtrs, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA, 19102-2513 upon receipt of the Original Tax Sale Certificate endorsed for cancellation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel Lien #2017-8 on Block 11 Lot 13, assessed to Pina Giuliana, from the Town of Clinton Tax Records.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #136-19 – SUPPORT OF DEAWARE TWP vs PENNEAST PIPELINE

A motion was made by Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Intrabartola, to adopt Resolution #136-19 as prepared and to forward same to NJDEP Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe.

RESOLUTION # 136-19

SUPPORT OF DELAWARE TOWNSHIP VS PENNEAST PIPELINE COMPANY LLC

WHEREAS, the Township of Delaware is continuing to oppose the PennEast Pipeline Company. L.L.C. plans to construct a 36” diameter natural gas pipeline within Delaware Township that will cross preserved farmlands, open space, environmentally-constrained lands, Category One streams and tributaries, habitats of species protected by the Endangered Species Act, and properties of significant historic and cultural value; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2015 the Town of Clinton passed Resolution #124-15 by a vote of 4 to 2 to support the efforts of Delaware Township protecting their land and landowners. Roll call was

as follows: Ayes: Dineen, Rylak, Sosidka, Mayor Kovach; Nays: Carberry, Pendergast; Abstain: Smith; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2019, PennEast Pipeline Company submitted new applications for environmental permits to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) including a Freshwater Wetlands Permit, a Water Quality Certificate under Section 401, and various Flood Hazard Permits, among other submissions, having had a prior application by the corporation rejected by the NJDEP in January 2018; and

WHEREAS, PennEast has planned open cut trenching and horizontal directional drilling which, according to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, damages channel formation and water quality and causes numerous forms of measurable harm to a creek, including but not limited to: loss of vegetative buffer, changes in temperature that threaten fish, changes in stream biota and habitat that can harm macro invertebrates and long tailed salamanders, sedimentation, reduction in water quality as a result of storm water and erosion, and aesthetic changes, as well as a reduction in recreational values and negative effects upon our local economies that rely upon agritourism, fly fishing, tubing, birding, hiking, and camping; and

WHEREAS, many of the creeks and waterways affected are tributaries to the Delaware River and feed the Delaware and Raritan Canal; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will add new impervious surface to local watersheds, exacerbating sediment loading in the D&R Canal, and threatening a drinking water source for millions of central New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, the planned pipeline route disturbs a fifty-three acre well service area and over 2,000 acres of Hunterdon County farmland and conservation easements which the taxpayers have paid millions of dollars to preserve; and

WHEREAS, the PennEast Pipeline project does not directly affect the Town of Clinton, but it does impact our Hunterdon County neighbors, and does impact the natural beauty of Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, many Hunterdon County residents choose to live here due to the commitment of the local and county officials to preserve open space, and be environmentally responsible stewards of the land; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2019 the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted a resolution opposing PennEast Pipeline Company's August 8, 2019 applications to the NJDEP citing the serious economic and environmental issues associated with the pipeline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton support the Board of Chosen Freeholders' resolution, and continue to support Delaware Township in their efforts to protect their land, citizens, and landowners.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION and DEVELOPMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

As a matter of background, Mayor Kovach explained that a grant was received from the Hunterdon County Economic Office for Clinton and Clinton Township to review the Land Use Code and update the checklist for land development. Town engineer, Robert Clerico, prepared a very thorough checklist that will streamline the process for applicants and explains clearly categorize major and minor subdivisions, site plans and variances. A motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, to approve the new checklist as submitted. The new checklist will be available on the new website as a fillable document.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

SPEED HUMPS – HAVER FARM

Residents Carrie Cardace, 32 Haver Farm and Beth Sosidka, 1 Haver Farm, attended the meeting following a letter to Mayor and Council asking them to reconsider posting so many signs alerting motorists to speed bumps. Mr. Phelan explained the reasoning is the amount of traffic of non-residents in the development who use Haver Farm as a means of access to Hunts Mill Park. Mr. Clerico, Town Engineer, prepared an email explaining the requirements for the number of speed hump warning signs and the mounting height of the sign plaques. Ms. Sosidka and Ms. Cardace feel the (6) two-way signs placed on both the left and right sides of the road at each speed hump is “shocking in their number, size and height and seem excessive and out of place for our quaint residential street”. Following the discussion, Ms. Sosidka respectfully requested the Road Committee to reconsider their letter. Councilman Smith said the Road Committee will sit and talk to the engineer again.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Comcast sent a letter announcing that on or shortly after September 24, 2019 a new government access channel will launch on Channel 90 in Clinton Township. This letter will be forwarded to the Clinton Township Municipal Building.
2. Mayor Kovach, along with Councilman Humphrey and Ross Traphagen, attended a meeting of the Sierra Club and discussed their “Choose to Reuse” program. The topic is the use of single use bags and their request that municipalities make residents and shop owners aware of not using single use if the state decides to ban them. Mayor Kovach as Ms. Karsh to bring the discussion back to the Clinton Guild and Mr. Humphrey will be discussing it with the Environmental Commission as well.
3. A letter received from Union City regarding a problem utility work that take place on their municipal roads after they have paved them. Mayor Brian P. Stack is asking other Mayors if they have problems with utility companies conducting their improvements with little accountability and leaving the municipality responsible for the costs and repair of damaged roads. Mayor Kovach asked Mr. Phelan if we have similar problems and was assured we do not have problems like that here in Clinton.
4. An email received from Jim Burd, Citizens Improving Affordable Housing (CIAH) requesting all Mayors and members of councils to read information and addresses for every State elected official and their districts and to reach out to them regarding affordable housing.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Chief Kubinak

The live scan has been installed. Department had another officer go through crisis intervention training. Chief Kubinak is placing an order for plastic police badges for children when they visit the police station.

Councilwoman Johnson

Board of Recreation – final phase of playground planning before applying for the grant from the County.

Nj.com is holding a contest for the best downtowns and Clinton is in the Central Jersey category. Go to Facebook to vote.

Councilman Humphrey

Clinton Fire Department responded to 28 calls for September.

Active participants at the 9/11 dedication at the Community Center

On October 12, grilling at the Pre-Race and Superhero event on Main Street.

November 2 is the 4th annual Beerfest

November 12, meeting with multiple fire departments

Environmental Commission - Deadline for Sustainable New Jersey

Sierra Club made a presentation to the commission – trying to create a program to encourage shop owners to use alternatives to single use plastics.

Communications Committee – Next newsletter is targeted for the second week of November. Articles due October 29th.

Discussed in Buildings and Grounds and for the new website, to have E-signature capability on all PDF Forms. Preparing for future payments on line for utilities and taxes.

Councilman Smith

Water Committee – State school bypass piping has been replace and will be putting in new meters. Earlier this month the water valve exercising and replacement project Phase 1 in the amount of \$1,255,515.00 was awarded.

Rescue Squad – met once again to discuss the merger of High Bridge squad with the Town of Clinton. A Consultant provided a boiler plate for the squads to work with. The merger may be completed by July, 2020. Tentative name may be North Hunterdon Rescue Services. LOSAP is another item to address as High Bridge has a different approach to handling the Length of Service issue and may be made as a public referendum question. All in all, they have hired an attorney and the squads are making progress.

Councilwoman Karsh

Clinton Guild – the group continues to discuss signage and considered a swappable hanging sign on the bottom of the Welcome to Clinton signs. Many questions as to caring and storing signs. This is an initial idea, many details need to be flushed out. Discussions will continue to get worked out regarding signs. Pumpkinfest is October 18 on Main Street from dusk till 9 p.m.

EXPO on Main Street, Saturday, October 12, with the pre-race marathon and Superhero's Race.

The group discussed a resident interested in a Sunday morning "coffee and cars" event. Shop owners were concerned with pop-up events and not being notified in advance. The timing of the pop-up event was a poor choice as well, 2 – 5 p.m. Ms. Karsh bringing it to the attention of council to consider for the future.

Economic Development Commission – rescheduling meeting.

Councilwoman Dineen

Land Use Board – meeting October 1, 2019 heard a variance application for 72-74 West Main. October 15, the Land Use Board will meet to make a determination for a redevelopment plan.

Shade Tree – Continue working on Community Forestry Plan.

Mayor Kovach stated that she sent a picture to John Kashwick, the Chairman of the Commission, of a tree near the street where a resident felt the tree might be dying because it lost its leaves so much earlier than the others. It was noted that others are being observed as well but the Commission is going to wait until Spring.

Buildings and Grounds – expanding the rear corner next to the barn to accommodate more vehicles and equipment.

Addressed garbage can issue on East Main Street in front of the post office. There is one garbage can and no recycling can. It over flows with junk mail and newspapers, therefore the Town will be putting a recycling can there in the near future. Mayor Kovach asked if there were extra cans out for the Haunted Mill weekends. Mr. Phelan stated we have 51 cans and they will all be out. The crew from the Red Mill take care of the garbage generated and the folks running the pre-race marathon will be taking care of that garbage generated.

Locks will be changed at the Hunts Mill Park restrooms.

Facility usage form has been updated and will be placed on the website soon.

Councilwoman Intrabartola

The Communications Committee is moving along with the website and working on navigation, making it user friendly. Committee is contacting everyone for information. Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. for a tutorial on using the new website.

STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Rielly to approve the standby and overtime submitted for the period of September 20 through October 3, 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. Intrabartola, seconded by Ms. Johnson adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Janice Kovach