

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

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. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Pender to approve the minutes of April 10, 2007 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Hetzel, Main Street, commended the Town Administrator and Public Works for the fantastic job of cleaning up the Town following the Nor’Easter that flooded areas of Clinton. Mr. Hetzel also applauded the Clinton Fire Department for pumping out basements and washing the streets. “You couldn’t ask for better!”

Joelle Garber echoed Mr. Hetzel’s sentiments and thanked Mr. Cutter, Chief Brett Matheis, Fire, Rescue and Public Works.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Schaumburg appointed Matt Maher to the Planning Board position filling the vacancy left by Larry Cagno.
2. Kid’s Day was held April 21, 2007 at the Community Center. The day was amazing, approximately 200 Child ID’s were completed. Attendees enjoyed all the activities which, included pony rides, music, face painting and much more. Mayor Schaumburg thanked everyone who helped and a special thanks to Officers Cohen, Crilly and McGuire. Looking forward to having the event again next year.
3. Chili Cook Off was held at the Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad. Bob Cutter was the winner of the top prize for his “Butane James” spicy chili. Approximately 300 people attended this fun-filled event complete with a fantastic band.

4. Reporting on the Nor'Easter, Mayor Schaumburg thanked Mr. Cutter and Chief Matheis for staying through the night to manage the flooding situation. Precautions were taken by the Chief by sending notices to property owners to secure garbage cans, etc. and Mr. Cutter was responsible for directing Public Works men to clean the Beaver Brook and prepare sand bags. Fire Chief Scott Wintermute and Rescue Squad President Melinda Stortz also worked through the night to assist. It was a cooperative effort. Public Works Department worked quickly to repair the parking lot at the museum that was washed out. Chief Matheis explained that the museum parking lot acts as a buffer to Lower Center Street and Main Street. Emergency Management recommended that this parking lot be repaired in case another flood were to happen, it could devastate Lower Center, Main Street, and the infrastructure. Chief Matheis stated that this is the first time since he has worked here that the South Branch of the Raritan River came over the Dike in three places. Mr. Cutter met with Civil Dynamics, the Engineering firm doing the study, and reviewed the pictures. As a result of this incident, there are hopes that this projects will now be accelerated. Future improvements of the dike will include extending the training wall and improvements to the parking area. Damage assessments have already been submitted to the County.

PROCLAMATION – ARBOR DAY 2007

Mayor Schaumburg read the Arbor Day Proclamation and named Friday, April 27, 2007 as Arbor Day in the Town of Clinton. A ceremony will be held in front of the new building on Main Street at 10:00 a.m. Clinton Public School third graders will take part.

PROCLAMATION - MUNICIPAL CLERK'S WEEK

Mayor Schaumburg read the Proclamation recognizing Municipal Clerk's Week April 29 through May 5, 2007.

BID AWARD – LEE COMPANY

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with The Lee Company, Route 46, Denville, New Jersey for a period of one year in the amount of \$229,428.00. The Lee company furnishes and delivers water main service line material and supplies.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #71-07 – TAX SEARCH OFFICER

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel seconded by Mr. Shea, to adopt Resolution #71-07 appointing Joy Wilson to the position of Tax Search Officer.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #72-07- PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLE

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #72-07 awarding a contract for the lease/purchase of a Police Vehicle to Warnock Fleet.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION 73-07 – HISTORIC PROPERTIES REVITALIZATION ACT

A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Resolution #73-07 HPRA that would create a 25% investment tax credit for owners of historic residential and commercial properties who substantially rehabilitate their properties.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #74-07 – PROCEDURES FOR AUCTION OF A PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LIQUOR LICENSE

Mayor Schaumburg read Resolution #74-07 in its entirety and a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene seconded by Mr. Ragozine to adopt as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Mr. Harrison asked “how much did the Holiday Inn pay?” Mayor Schaumburg replied that there was no ordinance in place at that time and the annual fee of \$2,000 is all that the Holiday Inn paid and that this procedure is fairly new. Mr. Cushing commented that this auction procedure is a new law, only about 10 years old. Mr. Harrison felt that the bid amount of \$315,000 is a lot of money. Mayor Schaumburg said that an appraisal was completed and arrived at this figure. Mayor Schaumburg asked Police Chief Matheis to comment on the matter and explain what this one time fee will be used for.

Chief responded, “In law enforcement, a hotel with a liquor license translates directly to increased calls for services that we didn’t have before. We have one hotel in Town with a liquor license and when that hotel was built, it’s bar was 20% of its current size and over the years they expanded it and expanded it. We spend quite a significant amount of time up there on Friday or Saturday nights, or any nights that they have a special event or high occupancy, like weddings or special functions. One of the things that I’ve experienced, I like to call it the convention mentality, when you have a hotel with a liquor license, a lot of people are there for just special functions, some are just for overnight accommodations, but the fact that there is on-premise liquor, the people who may have just come out for a night, in the back of their minds “Oh I can always spend the night if I want and I don’t have to drive home”. The problem is, a lot of people don’t spend the night. So basically, in a nut shell, liquor license in a hotel is an automatic translation for an increase in call services, that’s been my experience and experienced in other municipalities throughout the State. Another aspect with this particular property, it’s not an area of Clinton that we traditionally have been required to patrol other than just passing through or responding to a broken down vehicle on Route 31, or a quick way to get to the other side of Town, to the north end of the Town or the south end of the Town from Halstead Street. So we’re gonna be spending a lot more time up there than we have over the years for a variety of different things, as well as the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and other Town employees. So, that’s a little bit of my perspective. Just as a point of reference, we have two men on base schedule on duty at all times unless someone takes a vacation day or a sick day, then we’re a man short on that shift. Except, on Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights, we bring in a man on overtime so we don’t have just one guy on duty all by himself on a Friday or Saturday night to be the lone ranger at the Holiday Inn in case of a bar fight. That’s just good common sense business practice, not to set an employee up to fail, so that’s what we do, and we don’t just do it because my guy’s that are regularly off on Friday or Saturday night want to be up there for calls, but that’s just the necessity of the business.”

Mr. Cushing responded “Chief, I assume, if necessary, somebody could go through your records and document the number of calls and the time that is spent at the Holiday Inn. I’m sure your

records are complete with that". Chief, "absolutely, absolutely, our computer data base goes back to 1996 and we're up there for a variety of other reasons. I'm not just talking all liquor related, but one of the most difficult things that law enforcement has to deal with is someone under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, so naturally, any place that's got a liquor license is a concern to us. We're required to pay a little more attention than other locations". Mr. Cushing, "than can I assume, Chief, that obviously the Town wasn't aware that this type of burden would be placed on the Police Department, the emergency squad and the Fire Department before our current hotel with a liquor license came into existence. This is something we have learned through experience and watching the existing one operate, correct?" Chief, "to my knowledge the one we have now is the first one in the Town and it is my experience and I've learned over the years from policing in the Town of Clinton that a hotel with a liquor license is an added burden to police. Mr. Cushing, "so, Jack, I think the point I'm trying to make is that if we had known then what we know now about the burdens" Jack, "and if the ability to charge this significant fee had been there, that's the other point I'm asking, if this is new since the Holiday Inn came in about 1980 or whatever it was"

Jack continued, "let me ask this questions too, do you anticipate the need for additional staffing when that hotel opens as a result of it?" Chief, "Jack, I can give you my song and dance that I need additional staffing right now, but I don't know, let's see if that one particular property in and of itself compels me to come and request additional men." Jack, "it's a 100 room and the other is 130". Chief, "I don't know, I haven't seen the premises and I don't know what type of a restaurant or bar." Jack, "their idea was to have a Fridays type place or a Chili's type place". Chief, "we'll have to see." Jack, "they don't have that yet, they don't even have a place, but with 100 rooms and the Holiday Inn 130." Chief, "I think it would be foolish for me to say off the top of my head without doing research on what other municipalities that have TGIFriday's, what the impact is on their municipalities. We don't have any chain restaurant in Town, so I couldn't even answer that." Jack, "OK".

Mr. Cutter, "just compare the difference of calls you don't get at the Hampton Inn versus the other place and the stark reality, probably zero at the Hampton Inn."

Chief, "we get a lot of calls to Hampton Inn related because they're all coming from the Holiday Inn". Jack, "trying to find their way back!"

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE # 07-07 – CAPITAL ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Ordinance #07-07 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #07-07
CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON,
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF
CLINTON AND APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$50,000 FROM THE CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT FUND RESERVES

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A notice will be published in the Hunterdon Review edition of May 1, 2007. A second reading will be held May 22, 2007.

(A copy of this Ordinance will be attached to these minutes)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #07-08 – USE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Ordinance #07-08 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #07-08
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT FUNDS, SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND
WATER CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS ACQUISITIONS

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A notice will be published in the Hunterdon Review edition of May 1, 2007. A second reading will be held May 22, 2007.

(A copy of this Ordinance will be attached to these minutes)

AMENDMENT TO SIGN ORDINANCE

Mayor Schaumburg thanked the Sign committee for their hard work in reviewing the current Sign Ordinance and for listening and taking into consideration the comments of the merchant community. The Mayor recommended tabling this ordinance until the Planning Board has a chance to review it at their next meeting on May 1st. A motion to table the ordinance until the May 8th meeting of the Governing Body was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Insel.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PERMIT FEE WAIVERS

Requests for permit fee waivers have been received from two residents that had to have their electric power turned off as a result of the recent flood. A motion was made to waive the \$62.00 fee for Grace Meisner, 2 Halstead Street.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Pender, seconded by Mrs. Insel to waive the \$62.00 fee for Marcia Hansen, 4 Halstead Street.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Marjorie Nathanson, Executive Director of the Hunterdon Museum of Art, sent a letter of thanks to Bob Cutter for quickly assessing the damage following the flood and having the Public Works Department repair the museum parking lot.

2. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority has a meeting scheduled for Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Echo Hill Environmental Education Area. Mr. Harrison will attend and report back to Council.
3. Al Rylak also forwarded a letter of thanks to the Town workers for the magnificent job they did during the recent floods. Mr. Rylak also commended the Fire Department for their efforts.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Police Chief Matheis

Chief Matheis reported on the Special Olympics Run through the Lincoln Tunnel. Chief Matheis was joined by Jay Hunter, Tim McGuire and Joe Manghisi. Joe was in the 70 and over group and came in 5th. Joe is a healthy 82 year old. It was a great event for everyone.

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Bus. Administrator

1. Sewer Committee – All food establishments have been informed of the Grease Trap Ordinance. Public Hearing May 8, 2007.
2. Water – One quote has been received to repair a water main on Marudy Drive. Mr. Cutter is requesting authorization to move ahead with one bid due to the emergent situation. A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, authorizing Mr. Cutter to proceed.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Next Water Committee meeting Wednesday, May 2, @ 8:30 a.m.

3. HART Board of Directors meeting will be held in this building on Thursday, April 26 @ 8 a.m

Councilman Pender

1. Thank you on behalf of the Pender family to the Public Works crew for their help following the flood.
2. Emergency Services Foundation must submit additional paper work to Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission in order to file for a gaming license. The Foundation expects to hold a Power Ball in the Fall.
3. Newsletter deadline date – May 10th.

Councilman Ragozine

1. Parks & Playgrounds – Country Run, Saturday, April 28th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Bundt Park.
2. Senior Luncheon scheduled for May 6 at 12:30 p.m. at the Rescue Squad Building.
3. Community Center – Backboards are ready to be put up.
4. Hunts Mill Field is repaired following the flooding.
5. Buildings & Grounds – 47 Leigh Street is gearing up for a May completion. The exterior painting is now being done.

Public Comment – Joelle Garber brought attention to the fencing at Gebhardt Field, large holes are not very protective of the crowds in the stands.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Emergency Services Foundation signed up 13 new members at the Kids Day Event. Michelle Harrison made great signs for the table, nice job.

Congratulations to former councilwoman and current president of the Emergency Services Foundation, Arlene Quinones-Perez and her husband Jose. They welcomed a healthy baby boy on April 14, Jaden Jose.

Councilwoman Insel

1. Historic Commission will be meeting April 25. Work on the demolition ordinance in the Historic District is continuing. Committee will be preparing a mailing list of invitees for the opening celebration of 47 Leigh.
2. Vision Study Charrette will take place Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, May 30, at 7:00 and all day on Saturday, June 16. All will take place at Clinton Public School multi-purpose room.

Councilman Shea

1. Clinton Guild held their first successful Bingo night and will continue to hold Bingo the 3rd Friday of each month.

Garden Party on Main Street, May 5 & 6. The Guild asked if Main Street can be swept and spruced up. Whitney Wetherill, West Main Street, asked if garbage cans be emptied over the weekends. Some of the cans are overflowing and maybe an additional can by the Art Center would help. Mayor Schaumburg asked Mr. Cutter if the men on weekend duty could check the receptacles. Mr. Cutter said he will address the problem.

2. Shade Tree - Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m. on Main St.
3. Environmental Commission held the River clean up on April 21. Approximately 30 people attended and approximately 20 bags of garbage were collected.

Councilman Harrison

1. Personnel Committee will meet on Friday, May 18 at 9:30 a.m.
2. Chamber of Commerce ELC meeting is scheduled for Friday morning. County Clerk, Mary Melfi will be their guest.

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the Overtime and Standby Pay for the period April 6, 2007 to April 19, 2007.

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene seconded by Mr. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor