

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ  
June 26, 2014**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal  
Absent: Smith

Also Present: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, John Laezza, Business Administrator; Joseph Triarsi, Township Attorney; Theresa Mazzarella, Acting Township Clerk.

The Special Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Clark was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council President Toal. He asked all present to participate in a moment of silence, following the salute to the Flag.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE**

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by sending written advanced notice of at least 48 hours to the Union County Local Source, NJTODAY.NET and Star Ledger, by posting such Meeting Agenda on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said Notice with the Township Clerk of Clark. Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 14-94**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that Theresa Mazzarella is hereby appointed as Acting Township Clerk in the absence of Township Clerk Edith Merkel this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014 as the need may arise from time to time until December 31, 2014.

Moved and seconded by Entire Council

Council President Toal directed roll call:  
Aye: Albanese, Barr, O'Connor, Toal  
Abstain: Mazzarella

**Resolution 14-95**

**EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** Section three (3) of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS** this public body is of the opinion that circumstances presently exist; and

**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Council wish to interview the nominees to fill the Council seat of Councilman Richard Kazanowski for the Third Ward, in private session pursuant to NJS 10:4-12(b)(8).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the subject matter of this meeting will be released when the reasons for discussion and action on it in closed session no longer exists.

Michele Miller	7:00 pm
Marie Soyka	7:15 pm
Robert Weber	7:30 pm

Council President Toal: Ladies and gentlemen we are going to be in private session speaking to those wishing to fill Richard Kazanowski’s remaining term of his unexpired term which is now classified. And we will talk to each one of them for a duration of fifteen minutes. We as a consensus as a municipal council has decided that the Mayor will question and any additional questions will be brought forward by the council.

Motion to go into private session was made at 7:05 pm by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Barr

Council President Toal directed roll call:  
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Toal

Motion to Resume the Public Meeting was made at 7:31 pm by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman O’Connor

Council President Toal directed roll call:  
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Toal

**CITIZEN HEARING ON THE AGENDA:**

Each person addressing the Council shall first give his/her name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Council President Toal opened the meeting to the public

Nancy Sheridan, 26 Sandalwood Dr.: I just wanted to say that this has been a really difficult situation for us all. And I really from the bottom of my heart want to thank these three people here, I think the world of all of them; because I don't think you could go wrong, I'm telling you right now. And they have made this not easier, I wouldn't say easier, (Mayor Bonaccorso: bearable) I'm not even going to say that but this part of it because the first shock was like oh my God and then the next thought this part on how you even contemplate this. And they stepped up, they were very professional about it and they didn't hesitate and just want to thank them for that. And I just want to tell you that whoever you pick you are not going to be sorry and I will vouch for all of them, thank you.

Seeing no one else coming forward Councilwoman Albanese made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilman O'Connor

Council President Toal directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal

Mayor Bonaccorso: First off as Mayor of the town I would like to thank the three candidates; Michele, Marie and Rob for stepping and looking to fill Richard's seat. You know it's no secret that Rich was a real good guy, he worked very well with us and we appreciated his professionalism up here. In an instance like this Nancy you have three nice candidates and we want to thank you for that. You know we have to make a decision council; I really know out of the group is Marie personally because I've spent a lot of time with her. I'm sorry I spoke out of turn. But anyway again we thank three who seem to be very nice people. You guys are going to ultimately vote, guys you know with that being said I think the Chairlady had said it that you probably can't go wrong with either one. I'm a homer and I've worked with her, my opinion is for Marie Soyka. She has experience that the others don't have at this time. I think it's a definite a homerun for the Third Ward.

Councilwoman Albanese made a motion to have Marie Soyka fill the unexpired term of Richard Kazanowski, seconded by Councilman Barr

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to make a comment. I was siding with Robert Weber because to my understanding on what his resume shows and how he projected himself is that he really wants to get involved and getting involved in the ground floor. However, I do appreciate the comments of Mayor Bonaccorso. I've worked well with Marie for

many, many years with her commitment in the community, she was committed. And I would intend to agree with Mayor.

Councilman O'Connor: So with me actually with Michele Miller I like the breath of fresh air. I like the commitment to volunteering, I like the commitment to helping and I think throughout the years that's what you've done. You stood behind on what you believed in, you helped in any capacity needed and what I liked was you worked with every different sector of people that we've talked about. And you had the ability to deal with them and still come to resolution, so I like that. You know but looking at the situation we are in needing someone to hit the ground running and the history that Ms. Soyka has, I think you know for me I think that out ways for right now but honestly very nice.

Councilman Barr: I just have to say that we have three good people here. We took everything that was said and it's hard. But the only reason again which (tape inaudible) is that I'm kind of looking at Marie's Clark experience and it sits well. So this is why I kind of tend to go...and not getting (tape inaudible) other than I'm going for experience.

Council President Toal: I have my final comments... something Rich had said to me back around just before the Memorial Day holiday, he said act now, meaning to us act now on an issue. Rich was always like that. His constituents served as record and his constituent's service action was second to none, incredible. He went to the people's homes and he (tape inaudible) and was great at it. I always respected him for that because I do the same thing. But that kind of experience and that legacy will forever be a part of Clark. He will never be forgotten. But that kind of experience and act now must be carried on for the Third Ward residents because they deserve that. And to two wonderful people and Councilwoman Soyka as I've always called you and respected you, my support is behind because of act now for the experience for the Third Ward, they need it and they need it now to continue Rich's legacy and to create your own to do for tomorrow.

**Resolution 14-96**

**WHEREAS** a vacancy has occurred due to the passing of Third Ward Councilman Richard Kazanowski on June 3, 2014; and

**WHEREAS** N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11 requires the Governing Body to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term within 30 days of the date of the occurrence; and

**WHEREAS** the Democratic Committee has submitted the names of three prospective candidates for the office within 15 days as required by State Statute; and

**WHEREAS** the Governing Body has interviewed each of the candidates and discussed their qualifications.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey that it hereby appoints Marie Soyka to fill the Third Ward Council vacancy effective this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014 for the unexpired term of Councilman Richard Kazanowski ending December 31, 2014.

Council President Toal directed roll call:  
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O’Conner, Toal

Mayor Bonaccorso administered the Oath of Office to Marie Soyka and took her seat on Council

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman Soyka: Certainly I appreciate the confidence in the Council and thank you. And I will certainly try to do my best for the Third Ward people in Clark and let’s begin.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month. And tomorrow or whenever you can Marie at your convenience stop by the Clerk’s Office and Terri will give you the list of numbers and you know etc. and so on. If you want to stop and see John so maybe he can give you a little quick (summary) on how we try to do things here. What we do here is John would like you to always contact him if you have a problem anywhere with a department that you had a need. For example, I need a tree trimmed, there’s too much speeding...so this way he can follow up to make sure the department heads are servicing your needs. Because let’s say Marie you don’t and you’ve been here before and you know how sometimes things get slipped through but if you say at a council meeting, “hey guys I asked for that tree to be trimmed and they told me you know it’s going to be this week and it’s going to be three months it’s not happening,” we don’t want to look at each other and say like “what is she talking about?” And now we are going to say Marie shame on you because if you went to John...

Councilwoman Soyka: Well you have a chain of command.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right, right. I mean don’t get me wrong and I tease these guys. They will see the department heads in the hall and they stop by like we use to. And then they would say “oh by the way” and you know that’s fine I’m not going to get mad at anybody, it’s not about that. But we want to make sure that it gets done and if we don’t know we can’t follow it up. Because in fairness to everybody sometimes things get crazy, like if you look at all the building going on Mike goes running out of his mind. And you know Mike usually jumps on things when you need it but I can give him the great excuse to say why he forgot but at least John will remind him.

Councilwoman Soyka: I have a question for you. What committees was Rich on?

Mayor Bonaccorso: He was on the Pool. And the anniversary of the pool is this Saturday at 11:00 am. It's their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Councilwoman Albanese: So Bill Smith is also on the pool.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Bill Smith is the Chair and Rich was the Vice Chair. And you know what in all honesty Marie, Ralph Bernardo is now basically running the operation at the pool and he is our Rec Director. You will love him because everybody does. I mean you know he is the most popular guy in Clark by far. And he's just on top of everything. So if you want to stop by for a formal meet let me know. (Councilwoman Soyka: I would like that) All right you want to do that next week? (Councilwoman Soyka: next week would be fine) You know what day would be better for you off the top of your head. (Councilwoman Soyka: Monday) Monday yes I will be around, Tuesday and Thursday I'm going to be a little tied up. Okay then we will see you around 10:00 am. I'm half and half with the computer (Councilwoman Soyka: I'm ok) oh okay, Edie will send you...you know if you go into the Clerk's Office and see Edie, Terri and Dawn, they do the packet now online. So they will give you all that, cell phones, emails and this way you can jump right in. For anything you need I have, Marie, for you in the interim my cell and my email because if you need anything between now and Monday feel free to call at any time. (Councilwoman Soyka: okay thank you) You can always get me on my cell.

John Laezza: No thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: Welcome abroad. I sat through a year of meetings when you were on Council and I saw you in action how you've worked and certainly your many years of experience I think can add a lot to the council. To the other folks that applied, Michele and Rob, it's really a great tribute to Rich. It's great to have so many people out here tonight for this meeting, thank you.

Councilman Barr: Thank you Mr. President...I just want to say I wish that the two of you weren't good and one was outstanding, it would be so much easier. But all of you were good and are really just good people. And like I said my thing was I kind of went with the council and the Clark experience otherwise you were good, thank you.

Councilman Mazzarella: Yes repeating what everybody said but Michele, Rob I thank you for coming before us giving a very good presentation. I'm sure your involvements will continue years down the road and Marie, happy to have you back on board.

Councilman O'Connor: Councilwoman Soyka you haven't heard that in while right? Congratulations. I also want to thank the other two candidates for coming and again like you said a tribute to Rich and you said it felt like a duty. So again thank you for coming and doing a nice job, we appreciate it, thank you.

Councilwoman Soyka: I would like to thank the Council for their vote of confidence and also my two partners over here that came with me. When you spoke of quality or qualifying, certainly they do. And it would have been nice if Michele or Rob were picked

too, however, I know it's only one. I also want to just remember Rich because he was a really good guy. He worked hard and many times he would stop over at my house to sign petitions and what have you and we certainly will miss him, thank you.

Council President Toal: I will finish up quickly...Rich Kazanowski will always be a part of this chamber and a part of this township. His spirit will live on for years and years and years. And we just must do what he did to try to make a better Clark. I welcome Marie to the council, it's a little unusual I'm on this side but we welcome you. It's a long time since that but again we welcome you. Thank you very much for putting the time back in to the community. Please come out to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, please participate in Clark. Also Billy Waterson memorial July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 or 11:00 am outside the memorial, Clark PBA 125 has a wreath laying ceremony in front of the monument in front of police headquarters for Billy Waterson. If you are able to stop out, I think it's at 11:00 on July 4<sup>th</sup> morning and then the fireworks later in the day.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman O'Connor

Council President Toal directed roll call:  
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Soyka, Toal

**ADJOURNMENT**

**APPROVED**

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BRIAN P. TOAL  
Council President

ATTEST:

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THERESA MAZZARELLA  
Acting Township Clerk