

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
May 4, 2015**

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting Township Attorney; Edith L. Merkel, 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 Smith. 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 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:

Public Hearing on the 2015 Municipal Budget as Amended

Resolution 15-59

Adoption of the Municipal Budget of the Township of Clark for Calendar Year 2015

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Clark, County of Union, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

\$15,014,382.50 (Item 2 below) for municipal purposes, and
\$ 788,588.50 Minimum Library Levy

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

General Revenues	
Surplus Anticipated	\$ 2,150,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	\$ 3,606,263.91
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$ 460,000.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	\$15,014,382.50
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY LEVY	\$ <u>788,588.50</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 22,019,234.91

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SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

General Appropriations:	
Within "CAPS"	
Operations Including Contingent	\$14,375,696.00
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures – Municipal	\$ 1,945,538.00
Excluded from "CAPS"	
Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	\$ 1,722,685.91
Capital Improvements	\$ 100,000.00
Municipal Debt Service	\$ 3,000,315.00
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Include Other Reserves, if Any)	\$ 875,000.00
 Total Appropriations	 \$22,019,234.91
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It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 4th day of May, 2015. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2015 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Council President Smith opened the Public Hearing on the Municipal Budget

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

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

Motion to adopt the Budget made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: Mr. President in a year per our duties as council members of this governing body we are here to make decision on behalf of the residents of Clark. One of the hardest things to do is to be voting on their wallets making decisions that are affected their income and what they are paying to keep their homes together and being a part of the Clark family. And it's always difficult to come up and just say yes or no to it. And all that work that went into it to make this budget possible and I know a lot of thought of what it takes to run this town. I just thank the Mayor, the Business Administrator and our Finance Committee Councilman O'Connor and Councilwoman Albanese. It's not an easy task to just say "yes" to hard earned money of the residents. I will be voting in favor of this tonight but just again I want people to understand it's one of the most difficult decisions we have to do as council members voting on their hard earned money. And we just want to let them know that we just don't do it nonchalantly, we care and we just want to make sure this town is safe and sound at all times, and we need things to do to make it run properly. We don't just vote "yes," we vote with a conscience and caring about them and their money and what they are doing in their homes. Thank you Mr. President.

Councilman O'Connor: I made my comments at the public meeting but I'll just take this time to reiterate thanking Mr. Laezza and the Administration for all of their hard work and efforts that they put into delivering an outstanding budget, thank you.

Councilman Mazzarella: And as the third member of the committee I want to thank John for a real good budget.

John Laezza: I would like to make some comments. I left the State of New Jersey in 1979 and my legacy was to have a computer user friendly budget in 1979. And the State and the speed of Flash Gordon it has gone through that

era ration since 1979 and last week they finalized it so we now have a user friendly budget which has to go down to Trenton tomorrow morning with this document. If you look at a user friendly budget, it has a lot of different information in it and I'm just anxious to see what the user friendly citizens can understand when they look at this document. But it does have a lot of good information, it has a lot of personal information, it has a lot of breakdowns of our appropriations which are good. I would say that we were one of the few communities that took to accommodate this in five days when it came out because they would not have accepted our budget unless we had a user friendly budget to adopt tonight. So tomorrow morning each of you will have one of these copies in your file to accommodate it.

Council President Smith: Excellent and will that be up on the website.

John Laezza: It will be up on our website and it will be sent to Trenton online and they will use this to compare Clark with every other municipality in the State of New Jersey.

Councilman O'Connor: And realize there is no comparison to Clark.

John Laezza: And realize that there is no comparison to Clark. And I'm happy to say that we are an AA2 rated bond rating for the new Moody's.

Council President Smith: When that goes down to Trenton, does Trenton put all of the towns on the website.

John Laezza: Yes.

No further discussion

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

Budget is Adopted

Resolutin 15-60

WHEREAS an application has been filed for a Place-to-Place transfer of pocketed Plenary Retail Consumption License Number 2002-33-003-003, issued to Whole Foods Market Group, Inc., with a mailing address of 550 Bowie Street, Austin, Texas 78703; and

WHEREAS the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term 2014-2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Township of Clark does hereby approve, effective July 10, 2015, the Place-to-Place transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License from the pocket to its new location at 1255 Raritan Road, Clark, New Jersey 07066 and does hereby direct the Township Clerk to endorse the license certificate as follows: "This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to premises located at 1255 Raritan Road, Clark, New Jersey, 07066 effective July 10, 2015."

Moved by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman Hund

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: If I could just get an explanation where this is coming from. We know it's going to be known as Applebee's but what business did this come from.

John Laezza: It's coming from Applebee's to Applebee's. It was transferred from Steak and Ale to AGPC Management LLC to Applebee's.

Councilman Toal: Right, that's what I wanted to get on record, thank you.

John Laezza: That was two years ago.

Councilman Toal: I understand.

No further discussion

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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 Smith opened the public portion of the meeting

Seeing no one coming forward Councilman O'Connor made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hund

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I'll wait till the next meeting.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: No comments.

Councilman Hund: No comments.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comments.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments.

Councilman Toal: No comments.

Council President Smith: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

APPROVED

WILLIAM F. SMITH
Council President

ATTEST:

EDITH L. MERKEL, RMC
Township Clerk