

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, 315 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK NJ
November 16, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Joseph Triarsi, Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk.

The Regular 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 mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger and the Union County LocalSource, by posting such Annual Meeting Schedule 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.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes good evening Mr. President, Members of Council, ladies and gentlemen. I have a very brief report tonight; two of them are on police matters. I would like to congratulate the Clark PD on one that was last week. I was coming down Raritan Road towards Central and I saw a lot of activity and I thought it was you know God forbid an accident. And as I got closer to Barnes and Noble's parking lot, I saw some officers and I pulled in. And they made a great arrest on two people from New York who came here robbing something off someone's front porch of packages that I think they obtained through credit cards or whatever. And it was an excellent job on the police department. I watched it go down or watched a lot of it go down. They were very professional and very strong in what they had to do and it was just a great feel of good police work.

The other is the other night an officer on patrol found two youths from Winfield breaking into cars over up in the Third Ward. And they were apprehended by several officers and taken into custody. The thing I'm telling the community about is please when you see people walking down the road at night whether you know them or if you don't know them or you think they look okay or not, call the police department. Just say "look there's been a lot of car break-ins and there's people walking up and down the street and its 10:00 at night, its 11:00 at night, its 9:00 at night." You know maybe if it's a guy with Rover you might want to decide to say well he is walking his dog but you know the PD will go out, they never complain, they'll go out and do it.

And I would also like to thank the Clark Fire Department and Police Department on a house fire the other day on Janie Lane. The fire was knocked down very quickly by the fire department, they did an excellent job. And I would like to thank them and the PD for their work on that job, it was very good.

Our leaf clean-up continues. We've been through the town several times. I'm just going to ask everyone again to please keep the branches out of the leaf piles; they are going back on your lawn. We are not taking them, we cannot take them, and one of the problems is we get about fourteen thousand cubic yards of leaves brought into our DPW, they need to be stored, and then trucked out. We do not have room to put branches, it's not that we even don't want to; we just don't have the room. So put them on your property in a corner somewhere and when branch clean-up continues we will be glad to take them then. And that concludes my report for this evening Mr. President.

Township Clerk: Thank you. I have the police and fire reports for the month of October, 2015 received and filed in my office.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilwoman Albanese: Thank you Mr. President. First I want to advise everyone that the ALJ High School will be conducting their play this Thursday and Friday evening. The play is a drama. As you know they have a drama in the fall and in the spring they'll have their musical. The play's title is "Play On" by Rick Abbott. So there is no Saturday performance but I hope to see all of you on Thursday or Friday at the show. All tickets are \$5.00 and the show starts at 7:00 pm.

For my Library report; we have a lot of great resources and programs available. First you know in the past I've told you about all of the magazines that they have online. Forty magazines are online and you can access them from your home, from your desktop computer, your laptops, smartphone, or your tablet. Well this Thursday on November 19th at 2:00 pm there will be a step by step workshop on how to use it. So if you bring down your mobile laptop or your smartphone they will help you step it up and you can get rolling on using Zinio.

On Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 pm there will be a holiday concert. It involves twenty women singers. The name of the group is called "The Notables". They have performed there is the past and they are really terrific. So if you have time on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 pm you might want to stop by and enjoy the concert. We also have a great concert coming up on Wednesday, December 14th at 2:45 pm at the Library. And the performance will be by the ALJ High School Brass Ensemble. So that will also be a holiday concert and there will be refreshments provided.

On Saturday, December 12th this pertains to the Library and information for readers; on December 12th they will have from 2 to 4 local authors from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. They will be featuring all types of genres from children to adult books. So the authors will have signed books available for sale at that event. Don't forget there are laptops available at the Library for free, you are permitted to use them for two hours and they have all the 2013 Microsoft office software and the Librarians are there to help you.

For some of the holiday activities coming up for the kids; December 29th we will have at 2:00 pm a Mammal Mania. So again while the kids are off they will actually have real live animals there. They have had animal programs in the past and they quickly get booked, so if you want to register in advance please do so. And then they are going to have a cute program on New Year's Eve. New Year's Eve noon celebration for the kids and it will start at 11:30 am.

And just a quick note on the Friends of the Library; I just want to thank all of the vendors and the businesses that contributed to the raffle gifts that were there. It was a huge success, we had a great turnout and I just want to thank everyone. And just a note for the future; on January 23rd they are going to host an indoor miniature golf fundraiser. So if you want to sponsor or participate it should be a lot of fun. We will be golfing up and down the aisles of the Library.

And then finally unrelated to the Library but I just want to mention that the Dr. William Robinson Plantation will be opened on Saturday, December 12th from 11 to 5. So if you haven't been over to the old house it's a great opportunity to go see what it's all about. You'll get some tours, Santa will be there and they will have pictures with Santa and they will also be performing open hearth cooking as well. So that concludes my report thank you Mr. President.

Councilman Barr: Thank you Mr. President. The Clark Police Dispatcher had the Clark Volunteer Fire Department respond to 48 calls in October. And as the Mayor mentioned this past Friday the fire department did respond to a working house fire. They had the fire under control fairly quickly and nobody was home at the time but I saw them bringing out an unconscious dog. And whether you are an animal lover which I am or not an animal lover your heart just goes out when you see the fire department put the dog down and start working on her. You keep saying to yourself "come on puppy, come on start breathing." Well they certainly knew what they were doing because I saw the dog blinking her eyes and started to breathe. They continued to work on her until she seemed fairly stable and then our police department took the dog to the animal hospital. And you could actually see a smile on everybody's face. So I just want to say to the fire department and the police department, a great big thank you from everyone for not only getting the fire under control quickly but for saving the life of that dog. That concludes my report.

Councilman Hund: Thank you Mr. President. For the Clark Police Department monthly report for October we saw a total of 3,155 calls for service of which 104 were ambulance requests, 7 were fire department requests, 4 were vandalism, 19 were motor vehicle and residential lockouts, 103 were alarm calls, 102 were motor vehicle accidents, and 2, 783 were miscellaneous calls. There were a total 30 adult arrests including 7 for theft, 2 for simple assault, 1 for violation of a restraining order, 2 for forgery, 4 for drug abuse, 2 for DUI, and 12 warrants. There were total of 6 juvenile arrests including one for disorderly conduct, 1 for incorrigible, 1 for short term custody and 1 for an offense against a family. Of these one was formally charged and five were in house disposition. That concludes my report.

Councilman Mazarella: Yes thank you Council President. I have a brief DPW report for this month. As the Mayor has mentioned please do not place branches in your leaves because they will be removed and put on your lawn. But if they are mixed in with the leaves your leaves will not be picked up, so please make note of that. And it is certainly underway our efforts and please

do not pile the leaves on the catch basins (sewer) and leave the leaves approximately one foot from the curb, this will allow for a clear runoff and lessen the amount of build up on the catch basins and potential flooding that might occur.

Please do not park on the leaf piles; the exhaust can start a fire. Also please leave room between your vehicle and the leaves so the DPW can come there and swing by your vehicle and pick up all the leaves. If it's too close to your vehicle they won't pick it up. So please leave a little room for that.

Spring clean-up will resume in March 2016 weather permitting. Bulky and appliance pick up will resume again in March weather permitting. And the electronic drop off scheduled for January 30, 2016 has been cancelled by the County. Thank you and that's the extent of my report.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you. From the Finance Committee; tonight on the agenda you are going to see (a resolution) authorizing the transfer of funds within the 2015 Municipal Budget. That's something that happens every time this year. They take funds from accounts that have too much money in it and move it to accounts that need more money. And I would say that the amount for tonight is eighty-five thousand and eighty-five thousand on about a twenty million dollar budget is pretty good budgeting, so thank you Mr. Laezza.

Additionally the department heads have submitted their budget requests for 2016 and the budget is currently being prepared by Mr. Laezza and his group for the Council's review. And lastly the township is taking advantage of the market and they will be refinancing debt which will save the town about a quarter of a million dollars over the next four years. Thank you and that concludes my report.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. President. I'm just going to address some concerns of residents on Rolling Hill Way; that's off Madison Hill Road. A few residents that came to me and laid issues of the condition of the old Madison Hill Rest Area. If anybody remembers that, that's the old rest area on the Garden State Parkway and it's under the control of the DOT (Department of Transportation) and it use to be the old Parkway Authority. They took the old rest area and have been using it as a staging area for trucks and materials and other things for the Parkway use. The neighborhood around it, we are talking about Hayes, Holland and State Street, we are talking about Rolling Hill Way, and Grouse Lane has become concerned with the safety of the issue as well as the fencing conditions and the conditions of the fence facing Clark and the residents of Clark. This issue has been brought to the Mayor's office as well as we sent out to a contact to the DOT asking for assistance to upgrade and to rebuild the fence and check out the safety conditions of the area. That's on that one, so we will get back to you as soon as we here from the DOT.

To the residents along Westfield Avenue, Kathryn Street, Washington Street, Stanton and Harrison, there's been a lot of construction going on with the water main road and the construction of the new water pipes going along Westfield Avenue. I realize that the residents are getting an in fluxed of extra traffic because the traffic has been diverted from Westfield Avenue onto Kathryn Street and then spilling out onto Washington and it's a major hassle. It's a

disgusting mess and we apologize to you but we're just trying to say to you that it's a temporary fix because they are trying to get the water lines fixed and corrected. They are old and they are being updated and it is an inconvenience and we wanted to get it done before the holidays as quick as possible. So to the residents who have been calling me saying "this is ridiculous, we have all these trucks coming down and the traffic." The Clark Police Department is doing a fantastic job keeping the traffic flowing, keeping it safe and making sure everyone is okay during this transitional time. Thank you Mr. President, that's all I have on this issue.

Council President Smith: The Recreation Report; the winter program brochures will be going out through the schools this week and next week. And on Sunday, November 29th is the Annual Holiday Festival with the tree lighting and the menorah lighting. It's from 3 to 6 pm in front of the Brewer Municipal Building. There will be rides, carolers, the middle school and high school choirs usually preform and there will be some light refreshments and beverages. If anybody is interested in volunteering and help setup, Ralph Bernardo needs assistance on Saturday, November 28th between 8 am and 12 when they set up all the Christmas trees throughout the hallway as well as the decorations on the front lawn. And that's all I have this evening.

ORDINANCES, APPROPRIATIONS AND CLAIMS:
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

(No objections have been received in connection with the proposed Ordinance)

Ordinance 15-18

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$400,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOD ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Council President Smith opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 15-18

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

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 15-18 made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Barr

Discussion: None

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

Ordinance Adopted

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: Councilman O'Connor, Chairman of Finance Committee made a motion to approve the payment of claims on current and capital expenditures in the amount of \$190,940.38 for the period ending November 12, 2015, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

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 Smith opened the Citizen Hearing on the Agenda

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia St.: I see that we have received bids and will be voting on an award for Associated Humane for our Animal Contract for 2016. They have been pretty good in posting the animals that they find in Clark on their page and in turn we then post them on the Union County Lost Pets Page and then also the Clark Police Department will post it on their page. And you know I'm not really a fan of Associate Humane but really that's your bids. And basically what I was going to say I hope we have continued rapport with them. And just make sure that you microchip your pet so that they don't have to go to Newark. We have several people in the township that do have chip readers and hoping one day that the Clark Police will get one and they will use it, thank you.

Seeing no one else coming forward Councilman Toal made a motion to close the Citizen Hearing on the Agenda, seconded by Councilman Hund

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 15-131

WHEREAS the County of Union is accepting applications for funding for the Year 42 Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that it hereby authorizes the Mayor and Business Administrator to submit the following projects to the County of Union for Year 42 of the Community Development Block Grant Program:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Senior Citizen Program | \$55,000 |
| ADA Curb and Ramp Improvements | \$63,000 |

Council President Smith opened the Public Hearing on Resolution 15-131

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

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

Motion to adopt Resolution 15-131 made by Councilman Barr, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion: None

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

Council as Board of Health

Resolution 15-132

WHEREAS there exists a need for Animal Control Services for the Township of Clark; and

WHEREAS in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5 proposals have been solicited through a fair and open process as advertised on the Official Website of the Township of Clark; and

WHEREAS two (2) proposals were received for Animal Control Services and publicly opened at 10:00 am on October 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS the Health Officer and Business Administrator have reviewed all documents required by the Request for Proposals (RFP) and recommend award of contract to Associated Humane Societies, 124 Evergreen Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07114-2133 for the year 2016 in the amount of \$36,492.50.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby awards a contract for Animal Control Services to Associated Humane Societies in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and/or Business Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to sign a contract with said organization.

Moved by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

Discussion: None

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

Resolution 15-133

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that the Health Officer and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement between the Township of Clark and the City of Elizabeth, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health; Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic for the period commencing January 1, 2016 and shall remain valid through December 31, 2016.

Moved by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman Barr

Discussion: None

Council President Smith directed roll call:

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

Resolution 15-134

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the last two (2) months of the year, when it has been determined it is necessary to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may, by Resolution setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than two-thirds vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be and the same is hereby authorized to make transfers among the 2015 budget appropriations in accordance with the following schedule of transfers.

| | | <u>To</u> | <u>From</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 5-01-20-155-200 | Law - Other Expenses | 15,000.00 | - |
| 5-01-20-165-200 | Engineering - Other Expenses | - | 15,000.00 |
| 5-01-23-210-223 | Insurance and Bonding | 25,000.00 | - |
| 5-01-25-240-200 | Police - Other Expenses | 10,000.00 | - |
| 5-01-25-266-100 | Fire - Salaries | 1,500.00 | - |
| 5-01-25-266-200 | Fire - Other Expenses | 8,500.00 | - |
| 5-01-26-290-100 | Roads - Salaries and Wages | - | 25,000.00 |
| 5-01-26-305-223 | Grass | 15,000.00 | - |
| 5-01-26-307-223 | Recycling - Other Expenses | - | 25,000.00 |
| 5-01-26-310-102 | Buildings and Grounds - Salaries | - | 5,000.00 |
| 5-01-28-370-200 | Recreation - Other Expenses | 10,000.00 | - |
| 5-01-31-440-223 | Telephones | - | 5,000.00 |
| 5-01-31-430-223 | Gas & Diesel Fuel | - | 10,000.00 |
| | | <hr/> | |
| | | <u>85,000.00</u> | <u>85,000.00</u> |

Moved by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 15-135

WHEREAS in accordance with a request from the Tax Collector for authorization to refund and/or transfer overpayment of taxes; the Mayor has recommended to Council that such authorization be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to make refund(s) and/or transfer(s) in accordance with the attached schedule:

| CLARK TOWNSHIP | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|--------------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|----------|
| TAX REFUNDS- 2015 | | | | | | | | | |
| BLOCK | LOT | QUAL. | NAME | # | ADDRESS | REFUND | AMT TRN5 | TRAN5 FROM | TRANS TO |
| 88.01 | 39 | | Ginesi Builders | 37 | Harrison Street | \$ 1,324.25 | | | |
| 68 | 10 | | Kevin Kanach | 45 | Charles Street | \$ 35.45 | | | |
| 139 | 1 | | Maciej & Karollina Mojsa | 358 | Carolina Street | \$ 780.52 | | | |
| 181 | 13 | | Jinal Marvaia | 416 | West Lane | | \$ 298.14 | 2015/3 | 2015/4 |
| | | | | | Totals | \$ 2,140.22 | \$ 298.14 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
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Resolution 15-136

WHEREAS in accordance with a request from the Treasurer/CFO for authorization to refund overpayment of 2015 sewer fees; the Mayor has recommended to Council that such authorization be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, that the Treasurer/CFO is hereby authorized and directed to make the following refund(s) as per the following schedule.

| REF # | Account | Name | # | Address | Reason | |
|--------|---------|--------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 15 25R | 1871-0 | Charles & Diane Serson | 37 | Doris Way | overpayment | \$ 112.50 |
| 15 26R | 4707-0 | Lisa Cymbalak | 61 | Colonial Drive | overpayment | \$ 137.00 |
| 15 27R | 1458-0 | Joaquim & Lidia Ferreira | 4 | Avon Road | overpayment | \$ 307.31 |
| 15 28R | 2473-0 | KAS Realty Holding LLC | 1075 | Central Avenue | overpayment | \$ 111.62 |
| | | | | Total Refunds | | \$ 668.43 |

Resolution 15-137

WHEREAS the Treasurer/CFO has certified that sewer utility account(s) require balance adjustments; and

WHEREAS the Business Administrator has reviewed and approved the sewer fee adjustment(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Treasurer/CFO be authorized to apply the sewer account balance adjustments according to the attached schedule.

| SEWER BILLING ADJUSTMENT 2015 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|-----------------------|-----|------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| CLARK TOWNSHIP | | | | | | | | | | |
| REF | # | Account # | Name | # | Address | Reason | Original | Revised | Credit | Additional |
| 15 | 36 | 3745-0 | Dawn Pencinger | 50 | Union Street | dis SCD | \$ 100.00 | \$ 225.00 | | \$ 125.00 |
| 15 | 37 | 2576-0 | Clark's Parkway Diner | 237 | Westfield Avenue | vacant | \$4,425.00 | \$ - | \$4,425.00 | |
| 15 | 38 | 2373-0 | Bajger Home Improve | 84 | Dawn Drive | dis SCD | \$ 100.00 | \$ 225.00 | \$ - | \$ 125.00 |
| 15 | 39 | 3907-0 | Ana Maria Rey | 96 | Georgia Street | dis SCD | \$ 100.00 | \$ 225.00 | \$ - | \$ 125.00 |
| 15 | 40 | 2895-0 | Ryan Flatley | 67 | Cornell Drive | dis SCD | \$ 100.00 | \$ 225.00 | \$ - | \$ 125.00 |
| 15 | 41 | 2216-0 | Martin Flynn | 13 | Terry Lane | dis SCD | \$ 100.00 | \$ 225.00 | \$ - | \$ 125.00 |
| Totals | | | | | | | \$4,925.00 | \$1,125.00 | \$4,425.00 | \$ 625.00 |

Resolution 15-138

WHEREAS the Clark Special Events Committee in conjunction with the Department of Recreation desire to conduct a Community Bonfire; and

WHEREAS the Township has received a Certificate of Insurance for this activity under the Township's Community Insurance Policy along with the required consent and approvals of the Board of Education, Fire Department and Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, New Jersey that the Clark Special Events Committee and the Department of Recreation are hereby authorized to conduct a Community Bonfire under the supervision and control of the Clark Fire Department and the Police Department at the Arthur L. Johnson High School JV Soccer Field on Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Resolution 15-139

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that it does hereby approve the Meeting Calendar for the Year 2016 as outlined below.

CLARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 2016 MEETING DATES
Reorganization Meeting January 4, 2016
315 Westfield Ave. – 7:00 PM

WORKSHOP MEETINGS 7:30 P.M.

430 Westfield Avenue
 Room 30

January 4 **
 February 1
 March 7
 April 4
 May 2
 June 6
 July 5 (Tuesday)
 August 1
 September 6 (Tuesday)
 October 3
 November 9 (Wednesday)
 December 5

PUBLIC MEETINGS 7:30 P.M.

315 Westfield Avenue
 Council Chambers

January 19 (Tuesday)
 February 16 (Tuesday)
 March 21
 April 18
 May 16
 June 20
 July 18
 August 15
 September 19
 October 17
 November 21
 December 19

** Council Chambers 315 Westfield Ave.

Resolution 15-140

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that the following dates, in addition to one floating holiday of each employee's choosing, will constitute the official Township employee holiday calendar for the year 2016.

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| New Year's Day | Friday | 01/01/2016 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Monday | 01/18/2016 |
| Presidents Day | Monday | 02/15/2016 |
| Good Friday | Friday | 03/25/2016 |
| Memorial Day | Monday | 05/30/2016 |
| Independence Day | Monday | 07/04/2016 |
| Labor Day | Monday | 09/05/2016 |
| Election Day | Tuesday | 11/08/2016 |
| Veteran's Day | Friday | 11/11/2016 |
| Thanksgiving Day | Thursday | 11/24/2016 |
| Day after Thanksgiving | Friday | 11/25/2016 |
| Christmas | Monday | 12/26/2016 |

Resolution 15-141

**RESOLUTION AMENDING CHAPTER 145, SECTION 145-3E(1)(C)
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

WHEREAS Chapter 145-3 Section 145-3E(1)(c) of the Code of the Township of Clark sets forth the fee for use of police vehicles during outside details; and

WHEREAS the Police Chief recommends a change to the above mentioned section; and

WHEREAS Section 145-3E(1)(d) states “Future changes in fees shall be by resolution of the Governing Body.”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey that Chapter 145, Section 145-3 E(1)(c) is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

(c) Use of a police vehicle (local use only) shall be at a flat rate of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). This fee shall be placed in a separate account dedicated for police vehicle maintenance and repair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all prior ordinances or resolutions or portions thereof of the Township of Clark inconsistent herewith be and they are hereby repealed.

Motion to Adopt Consent Agenda made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Smith directed roll call:
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzaella, O’Connor, Toal, Smith

NEW BUSINESS ON THE CALENDAR: None

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

The following residents expressed their concerns regarding the proposed Rahway Stadium:
Alice Fernandez, 33 Emerson Road, Clark
Susan Salamac, 989 Hamilton Street, Rahway
Jeff Freeman, 122 D’Antonio Drive, Rahway

Mayor Bonaccorso Response: Mrs. Fernandez first let me start by saying you're a very eloquent speaker, nice job, very good, excellent. I hear a lot and I see some other folk here so maybe we can answer some questions for you all. I heard everything you had to say and it was very well done again. A lot of what you have said; I've had I don't know five or six meetings with the Freeholders, representatives from the County I should say, and even the Mayor of Rahway has been at very many of these. And a lot of your concerns we have discussed with them time and time again. As a matter of fact it was a year ago October at my very first initial meeting that I was able to bring it from five thousand seats down to twelve hundred and I told them that I think twelve hundred is a stretch because I'm a very avid follower of high school sports here in Clark. And I know, I mean, Thanksgiving Day rivalry Clark and Rahway if they get five or six hundred people there it's going to be a lot. So that greatly was reduced right at that time. Myself and Third Ward Councilman Hund have attended some of the meetings, some of them are done during the day when he's (Councilman Hund) at work and he's been abreast. Everyone who sent me an email last October for my initial meetings, all their concerns were discussed and given to the County. I've had discussions with the Mayor of Rahway and of course Union County. If this stadium does come to fruition there are a lot of issues that they know I have taken an issue with right from the beginning. Some of what you say I understand how you feel. I can't necessarily agree with, okay, about like the noise and the lights because Johnson football field abuts residential homes, we don't have any problem what-so-ever. Actually I've always said those are some of the nicest people in town because they don't complain about it. They participate with it.

If you look at most high school football fields and this is the stuff that we've talked about across the conference room table, most high school football fields are in the middle of residential zones. The one that's in Rahway now Veteran's Field is in (interruption from resident in audience mentioned Warianco Park) There's Warianco Park and there are exceptions (interruption from resident stating that's a private one) But Cranford is not, Westfield is...that's residential there too we'll give you that, Kenilworth is, Roselle is, Roselle Park is, Clark is, Linden is...I mean just (interruption from resident) sir please this is not a debate, I'm just given you what I'm telling these people. I know you know maybe we are here to vent, first off this is the wrong venue, we are not voting on this. Secondly they have been made aware clearly where Clark Township stands in this and what our concerns are. So I don't want to be rude or please don't take it that way but I'm not going to debate this because we are debating with the wrong people, you or I are not rolling the dice in the game. We are outsiders here. But the facts remain we have a football field that abuts residential property here and that was thrown to my face at a meeting, "really Mr. Mayor, where does Johnson High School play?" "Didn't you put a turf field and lights out there?" yes I did but it's not good enough for here. So you know lets watch what we ask for because I need ammunition and I do bring good ammunition with me. But the fact remains high school football fields are in residential areas, absolutely so, there's a few that are not most are.

Secondly, the parking and my Police Chief is sitting right here and him and I already had numerous discussions on. What you have given me is complaints and what you may call me about in the future I could only tell you we are going to give our absolute best to work for you because that's what we are elected to do, work for you, to make sure that this doesn't become a problem. We are not going to allow overflow parking onto the streets of Clark; we have no intention on doing that. We have asked already if this comes to fruition because I believe it has but that's just me, okay. I have asked for curfews, buffers, and things of this nature, okay. The

water runoff right now this project is in DEP. I had conversations today about it. It's in the DEP and it has to be down there for ninety days before they award a bid. We know through township work that stormwater runoff is a major issue and very costly in projects here in Clark and throughout New Jersey. The DEP are the people involved in taking over and watching that. Parking I said to the Mayor and folks I want you to understand too I have a daily working relationship with these people and I have to say my relationship with the Mayor of Rahway has been excellent. Anytime we have worked on something together he is always true to his word. And with the County Freeholder Board I have daily work with these people and I work hard with them and we usually get problems resolved. I said well the Mayor of Rahway said you are worrying about the football game and I said "well yeah Mayor and I went on to tell him" and he said "Mayor we had ten thousand people in there on the Fourth of July, did you have any problems in Clark?" I said "well we had Clark's fireworks but I didn't hear anything from my Chief." So you know sometimes I like to play cards and play some poker and be able to you know worry about everything, but when I hear something like that I kind of turned and looked and said to myself "well okay touché." Football you will get five to six hundred people in there on a Saturday or Friday night I should say, Saturday or Friday night depending when they play. And I'm only going from Clark what I know that goes on in Clark because I'm very close to it. Soccer is drawing flies, not many at all come out for Soccer. Clark has more athletic programs than the City of Rahway does in the high school, we have more programs. They do not have a field hockey team; they do not have a lacrosse team, okay? We do. They play on the turf field. They have soccer, they have track, they have football and I think that's about it that we play on the turf field there.

Now you are correct they could loan it out to other people. They could loan it out to Clark too for that matter. Because they made that clear to me that your athletic teams and recreation would be able to apply for time. Such as that happens over here on Esposito Park on Madison Hill Road, people apply for time to use that softball field/baseball field there, so it goes on. So Mrs. Fernandez most of what you said in your letter I have sat with the County officials and had brought those problems to the table which are the concerns of myself, Councilman Hund and the rest of our Council.

I also talked about the overall flow of traffic and they said they are going to park cars down at the school that's nearby and they can bus people in. Now I'm going to be honest with you folks, again I hope it doesn't happen, I don't really see that kind of crowd coming to a football game. Like I say I will probably be at the Rahway/Clark Thanksgiving Day game like I usually am and if there's five or six hundred people there, there's a lot. You look at Johnson here on a Friday night; it's been a really great place for our little ones to come with their Dads to watch a game. They run around and throw footballs and we watch the ballgames. But the truth is the Clark bleachers are usually pretty much filled and the visitors are usually about half filled. And that I think holds about eight or nine hundred people off the top of my head don't hold me exactly to that number. So you know we had made these arguments for you folks believe me, believe me we have. I don't go to the Freeholder meetings ladies and gentlemen because quite frankly I'm awarded the opportunity to sit across a conference room table and talk with these folks and that's how as a Mayor and Council we do our business. I would be at that meeting if they didn't give me that opportunity. Both the County and Rahway has given me that opportunity like I said probably five or six times off the top of my head. We, myself, Councilman Hund and the rest of

the Council are willing and able to work with you folks moving forward on this if it does come to fruition. My debate with them has always been I believe intelligent and on issues that matter; and the issues that matter are like you said noise but there's also curfews. We have two Little League fields that abut homes here on Hutchinson and they have a 9:30 curfew. I can't argue with that, that's the norm is most communities around us. We have it here at Johnson the same thing. Maybe on a Friday night by the time everybody shuffles off the field and gets out of there it might be 9:15/9:30, I saw maybe the latest 9:45, but it's gone. During the day, look during the day is during the day, it's not that bad. You know even over here at the school you don't have massive crowds that are going to be filling these venues. And I even said five thousand seats like wow, what do you think is coming here? It's a high school football game. And I think that kind of just was....look to be honest with you I think it was just a number that kind of got put out there, not saying it wasn't a real number at the time, but I think you know as an initial...but when cooler heads started to prevail and started thinking about it, they are like yeah, because when I said that Mayor Steinman from Rahway said yeah the Mayor is right, that's crazy, that's a lot. I said guys Clark I think we seat nine hundred, you know maybe they are a little bigger community so twelve hundred seats, I don't think you are going to have it, I really don't think you are going to have twelve hundred people at a game. Track and Field is a huge crowd; now they have the eight lanes, we don't we have five at Clark. And when I put the five lanes track in at the time I took some fire from some of the track enthusiast saying why you didn't put in six lanes, we could have tri school meets three schools coming in. And our Athletic Director came to a council meeting, Mr. Kalikas, and said "I don't want it, our facility isn't big enough to host three schools." Now being naïve because I wish I had the answers to everything but I don't, I said "what do you mean? Johnson is big." he said "Mayor he goes, track teams, one team comes with three/four/five buses, he goes we don't have the parking for that, we don't have the parking for the fans." And folks you don't have that at Rahway Park either unless they are going to do a total bus in and park down at Franklin School I think it's called. I think if that's the right name, or park at Rahway High School and have them bus them down. You are not going to have the parking. When I spoke about the parking at the Park again your concerns and ours they said they have not only parking spots but they have areas in the Rahway Pool that will be able to host cars for the parking.

Now again I don't know folks what the exact number is, I'm not quite sure, they know our concerns. We are not allowing overflow parking on the Clark streets. Now I'm going to ask you folks who live in the neighborhood show hands...no, no, no not yet...I was going to say who wanted to take me out for dinner and drinks afterwards (laughter in audience) but seriously back to saying this, tell me because I was at Brewer on the Fourth of July, on the Fourth of July did we have a lot of overflow parking out into the streets, (from audience: they were parked up on Church Street about two feet) no, no I'm talking about in Clark sir, (someone in audience: oh I'm sorry) in Clark did we have overflow of parking? That was ten thousand people in Rahway Park that night. (someone in audience: where did they park then?) Ma'am I don't know I was here. (someone in audience: and then afterwards with all the garbage that was another disaster). Sir different horse, different racetrack, we're talking about right now. But I'm saying I know the Chief is here with me and we didn't have any problems of overflow parking in Clark.

Now look this isn't going to make it any better for you trust me, we get it. We are with you there's no argument about that. The only thing I'm going to tell you folks, the fear of the

unknown sometimes is a heck of a lot worse than what happens. I tell this story here all the time. Back in December of 2000 Councilman Nevargic and I fought the TD Bank from right there in front of the Clark Planning Board. And I really thought that the TD Bank was going to have a tremendous mess of traffic on that corner, it was an old home if you remember. And we were wrong. They voted in favor because during a planning session you are not allowed to knock down an application for traffic on the street, only on site. I didn't know that then I was naïve. And I've also sat here at this venue more than a dozen times in fifteen years I was completely wrong about the TD Bank. It's been an asset to the community. A lot of people use it, and we haven't had any traffic. So I was man enough to stand up and say that night "you are wrong don't do this" and now I'm willing to say again in front of all of you and the community I was wrong. And God rest Pete he was wrong, we were wrong together. But the only thing that I can assure you folks is we will always work for you. When and if that problem occurs and we, myself, the Township Council, the Administrator and the Clark Police Department...I say the Clark Police Department because a lot of it falls on what they would have to handle. We are going to be looking at this stuff prior to that stadium being built or as it's starting to be built and start to take the adequate measures immediately upon knowing there's an action we need to take. I'm not going to assume that there's going to be traffic all over the side streets up in the Third Ward and tomorrow we are going to go out there and start posting no parking signs. Because remember it's for them and it's also for you when those signs go up. So we have to look at it logically and honestly.

Now we will have plans in places. We will have ordinances ready that if that is an issue they will be up before you can say your name that I do promise you. If we have to step up patrol up in that neighborhood to make sure that people are not racing up and down side streets and doing things that they are not supposed to be doing, we have a very aggressive police department right now. And I will be very happy to tell you they will be out there and have a lot of pride doing so. Now can cars travel through Clark folks, yes, we travel through other towns. You know I always like to give the analogy well we have no problem going to Menlo Mall, Woodbridge Mall or Short Hills Mall, or Bridgewater but we are going to get mad at people coming into the Clark Commons, it's kind of hypercritical when you think about it. So I mean I try to look at things on a fair and balanced level and so does the Council. And I can assure you that we've had these conversations folks, we didn't let you lay out there in weeds. I've been there and when I meet with these people on other issues completely unrelated to Rahway Park it comes up again. And like I said and I can just tell you I had a discussion with the Mayor of Rahway just the other day and we got talking about we are on another issue about our brine, we share the brine we put down on the streets in the winter, and I brought it up and he said "Mayor look I'm not here to hurt you, I like #1 as a person, you and I get along" and he said whatever your people need I'll work with you on it. He goes I don't want to hurt the Clark residents, I have no reason too. I'm trying to provide for my kids. And you know what folks; I might too if I was in his seat. I'm just being honest with you, I probably would too. They play in an area that's a swamp and I know the field very well. So I don't hold a grudge towards him trying to do for his community. We get what you all have to say, so we are going to keep working on it for you. We have emails, we have phone numbers call us, send out or email if you have a thought or an idea. We're glad to bring it forward for you, it's very easy for us to do that.

Mrs. Fernandez: I just want to respond to what you are saying. None of us are against the kids having a place.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We know that and we understand.

Mrs. Fernandez: What we're saying this park is too small for this size stadium.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Mrs. Fernandez I do agree with you.

Mrs. Fernandez: And it's not a special event. This will be used and it's going to be used and it's going to be used quite a bit because Union County College will be using it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I'm not sure about that but they are not a big draw trust me either with people. But wait folks you all can have an opportunity; I was trying to cut through the chase to help you out with some of your questions that you have. So Mrs. Fernandez was the first speaker and that's who I was so called answering although I was talking to everybody, I know she doesn't mind.

Mrs. Fernandez: I want to simply say that you can't compare with the high school football game, that's very specific. Rahway Park when they come into the stadium they are competing with other people coming to that park. I mean we have a lot of activity in that park and if you go there on a weekend you can't even get a place to park.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Absolutely I agree with you. The only thing I will say Mrs. Fernandez you are right absolutely that's a great comment. The only thing I think you are going to see would be Friday night football would probably be the biggest draw this time of year. When it gets dark you know earlier where less people use the park at that point. I think if you are looking at Saturdays, they won't have anything there on Sundays because high school does not play on Sundays. You are going to have soccer or maybe some small track stuff which I don't think is going to draw a lot of people. The biggest soccer draw in all of Union County happens once a year. They had the finals here this year which was Scotch Plains and Westfield and it drew bleachers full of people. But up to that if you go to like any of our Johnson's soccer games there's not very many people there. Field Hockey doesn't draw a lot of people, Rahway doesn't even have that. Lacrosse doesn't draw a big crowd, Rahway doesn't have that. But I do get what you are saying about you know competing with the residents who use the park, that's a very good comment. And again Mrs. Fernandez we have ours right here and it abuts homes and we don't have any problem with it. If it's very, very loud I'll be down that way trust me.

Mrs. Fernandez: Well I'm talking about the lights.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well Mrs. Fernandez the lights that are out now and I don't want to seem like a know it all but I've done this work already for Johnson when we put it in. The lights today are from Musco Company, is the big light company. Their whole thing is there's very little to know spill at all to any spill over. And those lights are made to focus down on the fields. The most like Kenneth Place gets is they call it a moon glow. To tell you a very funny story...we have lights right here on Bartell Soccer field. My first year as Mayor or second year we put lights

up there, I think it was my second year. And I had the residents come out and they were up in arms saying "how dare you, how dare you, how dare you." And I'll be very honest with you we had a million kids in soccer and we needed to use the fields at night. And I said "we're putting lights in and that's it." And we put the lights in and we never had one complaint. As a matter of fact Bob Weisense was the Soccer League President at the time and it's a funny story. There's a little buffer of woods between the residents on King Street I guess it is and the field, and one day he was there and a lady came over and she was a complainer about the lights and she said can I ask you a favor and he said "sure" and she said "what time are you shutting the lights tonight?" and he said "well we're going to be done here by 9:00." It was a Saturday and everything will be shut off by 9. She said "can I ask you to keep it over to 11:00 because we get such a beautiful moon glow on our property we are having a bbq. I swear I'm not lying, you can ask Bob. We get such a beautiful moon glow that we are having a bbq and we would like to have the lights and he's said "sure why not." And I said hey good politics keep the neighbors happy you'll never have complaints, right, have a party and invite the neighbors. So stuff like that I mean is all very high tech stuff. The lights they put up twenty years ago, yeah they would probably would be shining at my house on Featherbed Lane believe me when I tell you. But today it's all high tech; they go right onto the field. You can see them right here at Johnson anytime and maybe when you leave here tonight they might be on tonight if there is some activity.

But again folks we get it that you don't want it. One problem, we don't vote on that here. We represent your feelings and I can confidently tell you I have and Councilman Hund has and the rest of Council is in agreement with it. Why do I mention him because he is the Third Ward Councilman and as courtesy he gets first bite of the apple to represent his people. And he has been doing that with me. And like I said we're there for you by getting up and telling us you don't want it we get that, we don't vote on it. Just continue to give us your concerns what you might like as far as screening goes and things of this nature and we will be glad to represent it for you.

Mrs. Fernandez: Are you aware of the environmental impact.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes I am Mrs. Fernandez. But I'm going to be honest with you; I'm not an expert in the environment. And we're leaving that up to the Department of Environmental Protection, that's who is governing over that project. So like I said ma'am just please you know my email is simple mayor@ourclark.com. You can see it on our website. Send me your emails, call me and leave a message with my secretary or whatever we will be glad to help you work through your concerns, thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: (answering Susan Salamac) Mrs. Salamac with all due respect we're covering the same stuff that I've already heard and I've answered for you. I'm not going to believe somebody from Colonia who lives two miles away that the announcer is like sitting in his living room. That's not even a little bit true and I'm not there and I can tell you because I live less than two miles away from Johnson Field, I live on Featherbed Lane, I hear the crowd, I hear the band and you know in the distant not in my living room and I don't hear the announcer. So look with all due respect we know about the parking and we know about the sound systems. Sound systems are legal in the State of New Jersey; you are allowed to use them up until a curfew hour that the township has set. People are allowed to use these things, you don't like it I

get it, we get it, and they all get it. But with all due respect ma'am we're continually going over it, we don't vote on it here. Your venue is the Board of Freeholders, I think everybody has been there and they know that. We are here as a conduit to you to relay your concerns and try to make those concerns go away. I can only pledge to you that I'm going to try my best to do that for everybody. But I really with all due respect ma'am don't want to hear that an announcer can be heard two miles away like he's sitting in this living room. We are being dramatic, you're not, but whoever said it. We are being overzealous on this and we're getting nowhere with this because we don't vote. We've been there and we've brought these concerns down. I see familiar faces out here that I've spoken to many times on this project. You don't like I get it, but you know we're only telling you we're doing what you want us to do for you. To tell us that this is illegal and this is wrong and Colonia has this problem, I don't know that to be true. I don't want to sit here and deal on innuendo and what if's and what happens. We want to get this accomplished. If the Freeholder Board goes through with this they are going to do it whether we like it or don't. It's on the facts of what they want to do in one of their County parks. They have heard from me and Councilman Hund, me at least six times and Councilman Hund two or three times with me and they know everything we are telling you and you've told them the same thing at the meeting. Again I don't want to be rude please don't take it that way (Ms. Salamac: I appreciate it) but we can't do anything for you. I just want you to understand we are on those issues. But folks you know we can be here till midnight going over things we can't help you with. I've been there and I'm going to continue to be there for you and also my Councilman and the rest of Council will be there if we need too. You know just to tell you how crazy stuff gets...I had a fellow who I kind of know a little bit. I see him a lot at Quick Check. And one day I'm sitting there at my satellite office, the Quick Check parking lot in the morning getting a cup of coffee at about 8:00 and he walks over to me and he says "hello how are you?" he's a nice enough fellow and he says "I know you are in favor of the field" and I said "excuse me who told you that?" "Well that's what we thought" and I said "well what are you talking about?" And he went on and I said "look I don't go to public meetings." If the people I'm going to talk to allow me to sit across from a conference room table with them and speak as the Mayor, that's how I handle it, public meetings are for the citizens. Let's say if one of you were here tonight with an issue, let's say you have one issue, and you can call me and say "Mr. Mayor I have an issue, can I come to your office and meet with you?" I would say "sure come on in" and we could resolve the issue there or over a phone call, there's no need to come to a public meeting. Now a lot of times you don't have the time because it's hard to schedule we get all that stuff. But public meetings are for elected officials when the other body is not willing to give you the venue and the time to speak your mind. And we have that folks, so please understand that on behalf of yourself and our community we've had that kind.

Mayor Bonaccorso: (answering Mr. Freeman) Mr. Freeman I don't want there to be a voice out there saying we have some kind of lawsuit, we do not. See prior to our party getting here the other party was sue crazy and that almost came into bankruptcy. We have legal counsel here that I don't think without speaking for him would go along that we are just going to sue to stop something that we can't stop. As far as we understand and I've spoken to different Mayors about this, this is a park that is looking to put an athletic field in. The DEP is going handle the stormwater runoff. I mean your speech is wonderful and I agree with a lot of it but the problem is we just don't go and saddle up lawyers here in Clark and start to sue because I've got fourteen thousand people to answer to everyday. And as much as a concern that this is to the Third Ward,

it's not a concern at all to the First Ward. And if I start running up catastrophic legal bills here I'm going to have a whole community sore at me especially when I don't believe I'm in a position to win any lawsuit. Lawsuits in New Jersey are made to be settled not to win, trust me when I tell you this; ninety-six percent of the lawsuits in New Jersey are settlements, not wins. So with all due respect sir you live in Rahway we're not going to spend the Clark taxpayers money here by starting to recommend litigation and these folks that live in my town are going to go home and say "well why isn't that Mayor suing?" very simply you can't afford it, it costs too much and you are not going win.

Julie, 33 Emerson Rd.: My question is, if I'm right about this. Originally this park was supposedly what I heard that the proposal was for it to go into Oak Ridge Park across from the Clark Municipal Pool.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No.

Julie: It was never supposed be that, so that's false. That's why I said it the way I said it. Because I heard that the residents came out and turned it down.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No. What had happened the only thing that we ever heard at Oak Ridge Park was one night that meeting in Cranford, I'm going to say the Freeholder meeting, I could be wrong but they don't meet in Cranford, so I think I am wrong. It was something to do with Union County College. And they were going to cut down like seventy odd trees which would cause a water table problem. And I guess maybe the Freeholders had a traveling meeting that night and the Cranford residents came out in droves to oppose it. And somebody said what about Oak Ridge Park in Clark and one of the Freeholder's said "yeah great idea, we'll look at it". So the next morning you know my phone blows up, I don't even know what people are talking about and I called the County Manager and I said to Al Faella "hey Al it's Sal from Clark, what we don't have dialogue anymore, you are going to put something in there" and he said "no let me tell you how it happened." So it was that innocent.

Julie: That's why I said it the way I said it. One other thing, if it comes down to the fact that we actually have to have the Clark Police Department put out signs, us as Clark residents could we have like say what they call permits, like Cranford or Westfield does?

Mayor Bonaccorso: We'll look at all that for you. But let's hope it doesn't come to that but yes we will look at things for you, no problem.

Brandon Bennett, 304 Parkway Drive: Good evening Council, Mr. Mayor, Chief, outstanding job thank you. I'm up here tonight...I walk to the Valley Road School; my daughter goes to the Valley Road School. My son and my youngest daughter will eventually be going to Valley Road School. Blake Drive is a mess, the road itself...I don't know...I rarely see Councilman Hund he lives four houses away from me and when I do see him he's with his kids and I'm with my kids so to ask him about this stuff sometimes it just doesn't happen so I'm here tonight for the first time, my family has been here since "51". I just didn't know if there's anything in the future for paving that road. All the roads that have been paved in this town are awesome.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I will say to you Mr. Bennett I was up there with Councilman Hund last year, we spent quite a lot of time up there. And the road is definitely one of the streets that will be getting done. (Mr. Bennett: okay) There are other streets ahead because the planning is like almost a year ahead. So for what we are doing for next year has already been planned. But we will actually put that into consideration because it is a school area and safety issue.

Mr. Bennett: I walk that road and a lot of families do. I broke my ankle last spring and I called and like I said McCabe's guys were out there the next day and they patched everything, they do an awesome job. The other thing is the arteries that spill out to Parkway Drive, Emerson and all the roads that go out, there are no stop signs and it is a winding road and I walk that road as well with my kids, any chance I get to go outside I do. It's a beautiful road and I know it's a County road but there are no stop signs.

Mayor Bonaccorso: On which street is this now sir?

Mr. Bennett: Any road that the arteries that go on to Parkway Drive.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So you would say there should be a stop at the end.

Mr. Bennett: Well a lot of turns and there's a lot of bends and there were a couple times where cars just go flying down and they look one way but not the other way and you know myself and the kids are on the other side and we have to step back on the road. Many people do fly down that road and again I know it's a County road.

John Laezza: Can you put that in a note so then I can have my traffic people look at the roads and then we will have a traffic meeting on it.

Mr. Bennett: Sure absolutely. I think there was a stop sign years ago going on from Emerson to Parkway Drive.

Mayor Bonaccorso: If you want to shoot me an email at mayor@ourclark.com and I'll be glad to do it. We will give it to our traffic department to take a look at it and if we can do stuff like that not a problem

Mr. Bennett: Awesome, thank you very much.

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia St.: I just want, since some of you didn't have a pleasure to hear this or you didn't look at it on Facebook; unfortunately this is what we had to listen to and you can't really hear the loveliness of this for twelve hours and the light shining in your house that look like stadium lights for twelve hours. But I do want to thank the Mayor, Councilman O'Connor, and Chief Matos for contacting Conrail. I know it was a struggle and we and a few of us in the neighborhood may want to meet with you (Mayor Bonaccorso: anytime) and Chief Matos to find out what is happening to the area behind our street because they are using it as...I know it's the third rail, they told me at Conrail that they use it for maintenance. But this should have never happened, the Chief should have been made aware of it. I know you were out there early in the morning (Mayor Bonaccorso: yes) and I thank you for it but it was horrible.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Delia we agree with you...I know Pat you might touch on it later. But to the people up on Georgia, Carolina and Picton...the Chief called me bright and early and he said you are not going to believe what's going on down here. A rail grinder that cuts the rails parked right in back of Georgia Street with the lights running. Folks you would pray for a stadium in your backyard if you heard this. I mean it was brutal. The Chief lives two blocks away, he heard it clear as day. We went up there and we approached them and we were like "what gives guys?" like really and the police were there all night. And you know you hate to kill the messenger all the time. The poor guy is working there and he's like look guys we don't want any problems. We were supposed to go into Newark and it was stopped this year because there was a problem on the tracks. And they said that they were only using a four cylinder battery to run the train that night to do some repairs. So the Chief said "you are out of your mind, that thing was blasting, that was no four cylinder engine." And we saw Delia out there and we you know got on the phones and the Chief followed up on it and we apologized to everyone in that area. That was living hell to say the least and I got the morning version of it, I felt bad for you folks at night.

Delia Collins: I mean it was worse than when they did the dirt train with the golf course.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Oh absolutely. And like I said Delia we are going to try everything we humanly can to make sure that doesn't happen. But like the gentleman said to us...he said "guys we just got a radio transmission that said stop there and we did."

Delia Collins: Oh no I understand that it wasn't their fault but I'm saying they should have at least made the Chief aware of it because it is a safety issue.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Absolutely.

Police Chief Matos: The other thing what was explained with the conductor and the contractor operating the machinery was that through; due to Federal Safety Regulations they could not shut that machinery, (Delia Collins: Yeah I know that) they had to keep the lights on because they were on the tracks. And every time a train went by they also had to pull that horn that was going off.

Delia Collins: Yeah like Saturday afternoon.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It was brutal.

Delia Collins: I wasn't home but they were there from 7:00 pm to 8:00 am. So it was almost thirteen hours of this. And I felt bad for the people that you know had children and kids that couldn't sleep. But I want to thank you for coming out, I saw that. And the people from Conrail they never called me back. But I assume that they spoke to all of you and hopefully it won't happen again. But we would like to find out what their plans are for back there because they are always back there, they are always doing something. Oh and then they also said the rail line that is behind Access Self Storage and behind Karnak, they are not allowed to put anything there like when they did with the dirt train, they pulled the engines behind there and we didn't hear them. But they told us that they weren't allowed to use that rail.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know why. I know some of the trains are federally regulated and that becomes another issue. But I spoke to our attorney Mr. Triarsi and I said can we hit them with work violations? You know we are supposed to be 7:00 am on a weekday till dark and you know it's just out of control. They just pull up with those trains and think they can do anything anywhere they want. And the problem is I can get in touch with the Pope easier than I can get in touch with someone from Conrail to try to stop the nonsense.

Delia Collins: Well the original gentleman that I left a message for he didn't call me back, it was another gentleman.

Police Chief Matos: Actually he called me back the next day in the afternoon and he assured me that the train had already left. And I asked him to let me know what was their plan, they have been grinding the rail doing work on that rail a little bit further down Edison. They were supposed to be bringing the machine into Newark and they got stopped there for whatever reason and they got ordered to stop there and it's not the employee's fault who was working there. And he assured me that they are done.

Delia Collins: And then he also had said that they do own that rail from the Bloodgood line.

John Laezza: They do.

Delia Collins: They own those rails all the way to behind 24 Hour Fitness. And I don't know maybe that particular company is called Loram, maybe they are not permitted to be on that.

Police Chief Matos: Loram is an outside company. (Delia Collins: right)

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah they ride the rails.

Police Chief Matos: That specific track there at Bloodgood trail that comes off the main trail just maybe hasn't been serviced over the years because no one is using it. And they are not going to pull in a train in there unless...

Delia Collins: Well they moved two cars back there because I know Pat was notified of the cars that were parked back there, the actually freight cars that were parked there and they moved them back, I guess because they needed to bring in this grinder.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well if you remember also Delia about cutting the weeds back there what they were doing over the years. And Chief Connell was our original hook when he was the Police Captain and then Police Chief here; it was almost you know an act of congress to get that cut. I mean if we have a problem with the water, gas, electric we can pick up the phone, we have contact people and we can get things done usually. With the rails, like we have nowhere to go, there's no directory saying for police or municipal officials to contact these people, it's like they are aloof and are above everybody it seems.

Delia Collins: Alright well I thank you anyway. I appreciate that we got to sleep the next night. I'm sure your family enjoyed sleeping.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We're sorry again.

Delia Collins: Just another thing on another topic just to let people know. There are going to be two pet micro-chipping events in our area coming up in the next two months in case anyone needs it, it's low cost. One is going to be in Garwood at the Self Service Dog Wash on North Avenue on the 24th and then another one will be in Westfield, I don't know the date I forgot. But please people get your dogs and cats micro-chipped because you don't want them to go to the pound, thank you.

Loretta Decker, 41 Union County Parkway: My street goes into Rahway Park and I felt compelled to advise you Mayor that on the Fourth of July with all of the traffic they park in front of my house. (Mayor Bonaccorso: okay) From Valley Road as far as the eye can see up towards Stiles. And a matter of fact when these people park facing the water and they back up into my driveway over my Belgium Block and one went into my spruce tree. So that's how congested it is with the traffic. (Mayor Bonaccorso: I know Ms. Decker) So when you look out you see hundreds of cars and then these people walking back in the dark to their cars and dropping containers and glasses and whatever. And if it's wet out you have mud all over and if they back out crooked, they back onto my front lawn.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Ms. Decker I know Councilman Hund has sent me a request from people about trying to get more street lighting up on Union County Parkway for you folks.

Loretta Decker: We don't have street lighting; we are part of the county.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Okay. I know Steve had sent that to me. I guess I don't know if he had spoken to you or someone else because we had a couple of requests.

Loretta Decker: I've lived there for forty-eight years and after they didn't put any lighting, I put my own, so I really don't want any now. I have one dozen lanterns around my yard.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Councilman put one in the no column.

Loretta Decker: Well why would I want to pay.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No not you pay, they pay.

Loretta Decker: You know I pay monthly on my electric bill. I bought the lanterns and I have all the landscape lighting and I'm okay. And I take care of my neighbors too, so we do not need street lights. (Mayor Bonaccorso: okay) But as far as the parking I would not like to see this become a habit if we have the stadium. Because now when they have their bike races you'll wind up with the same thing, a hundred cars from one end to the other. And when they back up they break my sprinkler system, the heads, they back right over them. So and when they make ruts in

my grass I go to Bartell's buy soil come home and fix and quite honestly I am really turned off over the parking over there that is what I want to say.

Seeing no one else coming forward Councilman Mazzarella 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: Yes thank you I'll make it brief. First off to all of the speakers up here that came out tonight, thank you very much, you were very eloquent in your words and the way you came across. Please understand folks I personally wasn't trying to shut anybody down but we know what your concerns are. You have asked us and you have email us and we are representing them for you. Any other concerns you have please contact myself at any time, Councilman Hund your Third Ward Councilman or Councilman Smith, Albanese or Barr who are your at-large council people will all be willing to help in any way we can. Sometimes things happen that we don't necessarily agree with or like but the thing is if we are going to have to live with something then we are going to have to make it as tolerable as possible for us all. I don't live there on that side of town but you do and as your Mayor if you have a problem then it automatically becomes my problem, I understand that, so that's why I tried to do that and we try to work in good relations with all. You know I've been Mayor for 15 years and I'd been a Councilman for four. And while I was on the council I use to have a lot dents in my head from banging my head against the wall and then you kind of get smart and you learn and you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar. So we try to keep a great working relationship with the county and the towns that surrounds us because we all are intertwined from day to day. It seems like it works pretty well, it has for me for fifteen years. We are going to continue on with this project to try if it's not going to get stopped to make it as palatable as possible for everyone. So thank you all for your remarks this evening.

Secondly, I would like to say to everyone we're a very short time away from Thanksgiving. I wish you and all your family and the community a Healthy Happy Thanksgiving. Be careful out there driving the night before Thanksgiving that's like a mini New Year's Eve. Be careful you don't get trampled on Black Friday, that's more dangerous than driving. But anyway just to wish you all a Happy Healthy Thanksgiving. Spend time with your family; it's very important to do that, God Bless, thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: Thank you Mr. President. I don't want to repeat everything that the Mayor said but yes a very good exchange, thank you for all of your comments this evening. I'm glad the Mayor had an opportunity to summarize the events that have gone on in the past twelve months and we are working to make it as tolerable for everyone.

In closing I just want to wish everyone a Healthy, Happy Thanksgiving holiday. Perhaps I'll see you at the tree decorating on Saturday on the 28th and if not I'll see you at the tree lighting on the 29th, thank you.

Councilman Barr: Thank you Mr. President. The residents of Clark know me for a long time now and I can say from the bottom of my heart this Mayor and this Council sincerely cares about the residents of Clark and what's best for them. And what really made me feel very good was when we had some very nice residents from another town come up and say we can't even speak to the people and to the council in their town like that. And the gentleman was wondering if he would be able to come and speak, of course, we never stop anybody, we care. And thank you all and Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Hund: I just want to reiterate the remarks of my fellow councilmen and woman. And with regards to the Mayor's comments with any concerns that you may have, I know I spoke to Mrs. Fernandez on the phone, please continue to send them to myself and the Mayor and I will convey them to the Mayor if they come to me and we will continue to fight the fight for us and for you. We, as the Mayor said we talked to them behind closed doors and tried to work out the deals that we can., so anymore feedback that you need and if you want to share your reports to me I can forward those over to him, okay. And everyone have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Mazzarella: Yes I want to thank all the residents that came out this evening whether you are from Clark or a neighboring community. It's nice to see your comments in knowing that we as a governing body would listen to your concerns. Maybe you might not like what we have to say or the answers but at least there's open dialogue and we've always been about that and we will always continue to be about that. To all of the residents have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving and please try to keep in your prayers those individuals in Paris that succumbed to these cowardly acts of terrorism. We could never forget. That's why we get together every 9/11 as a body, we can't forget, we have to stay vigilante and we have to understand that that element is out there but we must stay unified. But please try to find some time to say a pray to give them strength, thank you.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you very much. Actually that leads into some of the comments I was going to make. I had the opportunity to be at the Veteran's Day Ceremony with the Mayor and the rest of the Council. And for those of you who haven't been at the Veteran's Day Ceremony they actually bring all the kids from the high school out onto the front lawn to watch the ceremony and to listen to the speeches that are given. And again this is to thank those who sacrificed everything or those who sacrificed their time to give back to this great nation. I know Chief Matos is a Veteran from the Marines, thank you for your service. And again when you say thank you for your service it seems you know hey thank you for your service is easy to say. My Uncle retired full Colonel from the United States Marines and I'm proud to say that and my cousin is in the Marines as well. But I don't know firsthand the sacrifices they gave up because again it was extended family but to be away from your family to fight for this country is a lot to do. So thank you to all of the Veterans and I'm glad to see that they still involve the kids at the high school for this.

Delia sent me the train sound on my Facebook page, so Delia I did hear it. My Facebook is Councilman O'Connor, so please request as a friend and you can get information on the town. But again Delia used it to send me what I was missing that night, so thank you Delia for that. But

I do want to thank Delia as well as the residents of Georgia Street who did call me and give me their concerns about the train and trust that I would work with the Mayor to get this situation resolved. So thank you again for those for having trust in me to helping you get your problem solved.

Lastly Happy Thanksgiving, I would like to wish good luck to the Johnson Football Team. We're still in the playoffs. They had a very nice win the other day. They are going to continue on but before we do that we have to beat Rahway. Because I as an ALJ Alumnae did play on the football team and I know the Mayor is an alumnae and so is Brian, you know we have to win those Thanksgiving Day games. So thank you very much, those are my comments and have a good night.

Councilman Toal: Something that the Mayor just said, it's my turn here and I'm going to speak because that's what I believe just the way you have and that's what makes the country and a community and a county great. Ladies and gentlemen very simple, he said we don't have a vote here and he is absolutely right. I don't, but if I did I would be voting no. Why? Because that is a pristine plot of land in our 21 municipalities in Union County that's been designated Public Park, not stadium, not a stadium folks. I was a little boy growing up in Clark and my parents took me over to Rahway Park. I rode my first time on a bicycle over there or at the junior high school. Very simple folks, it's a park for the people not a stadium. There's other land in Rahway where they could designate and adhere and adapt for a park or a stadium use, that's all I have to say, the kids come first absolutely, the kids come first. But it's a park for the people not a stadium, that's all I have to say. I don't have a vote and the Mayor is absolutely right. I don't have a say in this issue but you do. Union County came in and took over Esposito and it saved a farm. They took thirteen acres and made a park out of it, right? Then they turned around and they said we are going to put eight acres and we are going to create a children's museum. I fought like heck along with this administration in telling them stick it in your ear. We want a park and that's what you told us and now you are going to take open space and put an eight acre children's museum. You know where it went, nowhere. It was supposed to go to Kean College and it never went another bright idea. So they never did it. If you work here and keep diligently saying "no not here, another spot, we'll work with you", but if it does happen the Mayor said it best, adaptive modification, buffering, trees, berms whatever you have to get, get it all to stop the harsh reality. Please keep up the good work.

They said it all...Happy Thanksgiving. I always say this every time when the holidays start up...ladies and gentlemen shop Clark, buy Clark, these businesses in the Township of Clark need your support. I'll say it this month and I will say it next month. Please come out and do your shopping within the borders of Clark, the businesses are part of us and a part of our family and they need your help.

Last but not least I do this every month of those we have lost; Hugh (Skip) Bisset III, Margaret Archibald, Thomas Voynick, Thomas Laird and Richie Sarnecki, Richie Sarnecki and I grew up together, we went to school together, we were the ALJ Class of 80. He was Bob Sarnecki's brother. Another Clark kid who grew up in the town who has left us way to soon and again to the Sarnecki Family my heart goes out for Richie, we will never forget him. That's all I have Mr. President thank you.

John Laezza: No comment.

Attorney Triarsi: I have no report this evening Mr. President.

Township Clerk: Happy Thanksgiving.

Police Chief Matos: Happy Thanksgiving.

Council President Smith: Thank you for coming out this evening and voicing your concerns. Again the Mayor's email is mayor@ourclark.com for all of your concerns. Remember the tree and menorah lighting on November 29th. It's a great evening for the families of Clark and that's all I have. Happy Thanksgiving everyone and we'll see you next month.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Toal

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