

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, 315 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK NJ
January 18, 2022

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso; James Ulrich, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, 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 pm by Council President Minniti. 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 (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Hawk, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark, by posting such Annual Meeting Schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements, the Official Website of the Township and the proper filing of said Notice. Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

Motion to Suspend the Regular Order of Business was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

1. Proclaiming January 23 - 29 Clark School Choice Week

Township Clerk, Edie Merkel read the Proclamation into the record. Proclamation attached.

2. Volunteer of the Year presentation

Ralph Bernardo, Recreation Director: presented the 7th Annual Volunteer of the Year Award to Fred and Jean Asal and their two daughters Lisa Dunn and Patty Palmer. Ralph's statement of appreciation is attached.

Mayor Bonaccorso: on behalf of himself and the Township Council thanked Fred and Jean Asal, their two daughters Lisa Dunn and Patty Palmer for being great volunteers, great friends and neighbors. Also mentioned that their volunteerism encompasses the children and Senior Citizen programs as well.

Motion to Resume the Regular Order of Business was made by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman Hund

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS:

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- wished everyone a Happy New Year
- mentioned Skate Night was a huge success, thanked Ralph and his staff and all of the people who attended
- spoke about the first snow of the year and that DPW did a great job
- stated that on the township's website there are snow emergency streets listed, if you live on one of those streets, you must move your vehicle off the street, if not on the list, it's highly recommended to do that as well
- reminded everyone to make sure portable basketball hoops are removed from the street, it makes it easier for DPW to remove snow, the town will not be responsible if they are damaged
- reminded everyone to not throw branches into the street, there's no branch pickup this time of year
- gave an overview report on COVID regarding the township

Township Clerk: Reports given this evening will be available in the Clerk's office and on the township website www.ourclark.com

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilwoman Albanese:

Library Report: see attached

Councilman Hund:

Police Report: see attached

Councilman Mazzarella:

DPW Report: see attached

Councilman O'Connor:

Finance Report: the Business Administrator continues to have the town running in a good position where we are able to meet all of our financial obligations current, and as well continuing to work on the budget for this year

Emergency Squad Report: see attached

Councilman Smith:

Recreation Report: see attached

Councilman Toal:

Environmental Commission:

- the first meeting of the Commission will be on Wednesday, January 19th in the Municipal Building, Room 30, discussion will be upcoming events for the year, public is invited

Council President Minniti:

Fire Report: see attached

Thanked members of the Clark Fire Department not only for their hard work and dedication in keeping the town safe, but also for a great job during the holidays spreading Christmas cheer throughout the town with Santa. Also thanked Ralph Bernardo for his presentation tonight and congratulated the recipients.

Jim Ulrich: reminded everyone not to put plastic bags in the recycling containers, they will not be picked up by the recycling company.

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

Ordinance 22-01

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48.5
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED
EMPLOYEE POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Council President Minniti opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 22-01

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

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 22-01 was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: This Ordinance is a periodic review of our Policy and Procedure Manual. Quite a few changes have been made for this year from the last manual. It has been reviewed by the township's Labor Counsel and has been found to be in compliance with all the New Jersey State Laws that we are required to address.

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

Ordinance Adopted

Ordinance 22-02

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A.40a:4-45:14)

Council President Minniti opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 22-02

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

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

Motion to adopt Ordinance 22-02 was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: gave an overview of the Ordinance

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

Ordinance Adopted

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 170, SECTION 4 ENTITLED FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey that Chapter 170, Section 4 of the Code is supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1:

Chapter §170-4E. Re-Inspection Fees

There is hereby established a fee for re-inspection of any retail food establishment receiving a posting of Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory in the amount of \$100.00. If upon re-inspection, any retail food establishment receives a Conditionally Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory posting, there shall be an additional fee of \$100.00.

SECTION 2:

Inconsistent Ordinances:

Any ordinances of the Township of Clark which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3:

Effective Date:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication, according to law.

Moved by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman Smith

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: gave a brief overview of the Ordinance.

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

Public Hearing February 22nd

**AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FIX
MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES**

WHEREAS said Ordinance reflects a change in salaries to be paid to certain employees of the Township for the year 2022 and forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that the proper officer or officers of the Township of Clark be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver checks on Township funds for the purpose of paying the following annual salaries to the employees of the Township of Clark within the range as set forth below opposite each job classification as in such cases made. The Schedule of salaries hereinafter set forth shall be effective as of January 1, 2022 and may be amended for those who may exceed the maximum.

	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Business Administrator	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Township Clerk	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Township Attorney*		
Mayor’s Confidential Secretary	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Confidential Assistant/H.R./Affirmative Action	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Assessor P/T	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Tax Collector	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Assistant Treasurer	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
Certified Finance Officer/Treasurer	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Construction Code Official	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 175,000.00
Technical Assistant to the Construction Official	\$ 45,800.00	\$ 77,000.00
Municipal Court Administrator	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Deputy Court Administrator	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Health Officer	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
Assistant to Health Officer	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Prosecutor P/T	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 35,000.00
Judge	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Public Defender P/T	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Supervisor of Public Works	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
Public Works Assistant Supervisor	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
Mayor	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Council President	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Council Members	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,000.00

	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Planning Board Secretary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Fire Prevention Official	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
Deputy Fire Prevention Official	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Fire Prevention – IT P/T	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
Fire Official Secretary	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
Director Public Safety	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 3,500.00
Director Senior Citizen	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 7,500.00
Director Public Works/Shade Tree	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 20,000.00
Fire Sub Code Official P/T	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Elevator Inspector P/T	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Plumbing Sub Code Official P/T	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Electrical Inspector P/T	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Deputy Emergency Management	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Fire Chief	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 20,000.00
Battalion Chief	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Deputy Chief #1	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 6,000.00
Deputy Chief #2	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 5,500.00
Deputy Chief #3	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 5,500.00
1 st Fire Captain	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 4,500.00
2 nd Fire Captain	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 4,500.00
3 rd Fire Captain	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
4 th Fire Captain	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
Public Information Officer	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,500.00
Fire Lieutenants	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Director of Recreation/Facilities Mgr.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Assistant Recreation Supervisor	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 40,000.00
Director Teen Center	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Assistant Teen Center	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Recreation/Senior Fitness P/T Personnel	\$ 500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Manager – TV 36	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Fire Training Officer	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Bus Driver – Part Time	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Property Maintenance P/T	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Sr. Building Maintenance	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
HOURLY		
Police Matron – on duty	\$ 40.00 event	\$ 40.00 event
Police Matron – on call	\$ 40.00 hour	\$ 40.00 hour
Seasonal Employees – Recreation/Sr. Citizen	\$ 13.00 hour	\$ 30.00 hour
POLICE – Base Pay		
**Chief (plus longevity and education)	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
**Captains (plus longevity and education)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 180,000.00

MUNICIPAL POOL	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Pool Director	\$ 8,450.00	\$ 20,000.00
Pool Facilities Manager	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Assistant Manager(s)	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 10,000.00
Water Safety Instructor(s)	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 10,000.00
Lifeguard(s) – Seasonal	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 10,000.00
Maintenance Worker(s) – Seasonal	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Gate Control Person(s) – Seasonal	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Activities Director – Seasonal	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 5,000.00

*Annual Professional Services Contract

**Contract(s) for each position is 10% above lower position plus longevity and education.

Any ordinance inconsistent with the provisions contained herein is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

Moved by Councilman O’Connor, seconded by Councilman Hund

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: gave a brief explanation of the Ordinance.

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

Public Hearing February 22nd

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Councilman O’Connor, Chairman of Finance Committee gave a report on Current and Capital expenditures received and encumbered through January 14, 2022 in the amount \$330,763.51

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 Minniti opened the Citizen Hearing on the Agenda

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

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Hund

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 22-28

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that the proper officer or officers are hereby authorized and directed to effect transfers of 2021 Appropriation Reserves according to the following schedule.

**CLARK TOWNSHIP
TRANSFER RESERVE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Current		
Finance: Salaries and Wages	60,000.00	
Buildings and Grounds	-	50,000.00
Animal Control	-	5,000.00
Elections OE	_____	5,000.00
Total	60,000.00	60,000.00

Moved by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Toal

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: gave a brief explanation of the Resolution.

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

Resolution 22-29

WHEREAS S. Brothers, Inc. has completed work on the 2021 Capital Roads & School Parking Lot Improvements and has requested Final Payment; and

WHEREAS the Township Engineer recommends payment in the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand, Three Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Seven Cents (\$230,351.07) including final quantities Change Order No. 1 which increases the adjusted contract amount by One Hundred Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Forty-One Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$108,841.89) and Change Order No. 2 which increases the adjusted contract amount by One

WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer and/or Business Administrator has ascertained there are available sufficient uncommitted appropriations in Bond Ordinance 21-12 as attached hereto as a “Certification of Availability of Funds”; and

WHEREAS Section 195-84 of the Code of the Township of Clark requires the posting of a Maintenance Guarantee in an amount to be determined by the Township Engineer prior to the release of the Performance Bond and Final Payment; and

WHEREAS the Township Engineer has determined the amount of the Maintenance Guarantee required to be posted by S. Brothers, Inc. to be One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and Forty-Three Cents (\$137,281.43); and

WHEREAS S. Brothers, Inc. has submitted a Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$137,281.43.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, New Jersey that it does hereby authorize Final Payment to S. Brothers, Inc., P.O. Box 317, South River, New Jersey 08882 in the amount of \$230,351.07 including final change orders and release of the Performance Guarantee.

Moved by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilman Hund

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: gave a brief explanation of Resolution.

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

Resolution 22-30

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that it hereby authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Woodbridge, maintaining offices located at 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095, for the clean-up, de-silting and de-snagging of Pumpkin Patch Brook, which is located within the borders of Clark.

Moved by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Councilman Mazzarella: Thanked the Mayor for his leadership and vision for spearheading with the Township of Woodbridge and the County on getting the area of dredging the Pumpkin Patch Brook started.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thanked Councilman Mazzarella for his comments. Also gave a brief overview of the cleaning of the Pumpkin Patch Brook and the dredging of the Reservoir.

Council President Minniti directed roll call:
Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

NEW BUSINESS ON THE CALENDAR:

Resolution 22-31

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TERMINATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY, AND AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY, INC., FOR THE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES FOR RECYCLABLE MATERIAL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK.

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority (hereinafter referred to as “PMUA”), as the lowest responsible bidder, was previously awarded the contract by the Township for the collection of and recycling services for recyclable materials for the Township of Clark (the “PMUA Contract”); and

WHEREAS, The Township of Clark determined on or about November 29, 2021, that the PMUA was unable to meet its obligations and pick-up the Township of Clark’s recyclable material pursuant to the specifications of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the PMUA is considering dissolving as an entity; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the PMUA agreed to discontinue the PMUA’s performance of the PMUA Contract effective on and as of November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as such, an emergency oral contract was let to Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., for the collection of and recycling services for recyclable materials for the Township of Clark commencing on and as of December 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 provides that, “any contract may be negotiated or awarded ... without public notice, advertising for bids, and bidding therefor notwithstanding that the contract price will exceed the bid threshold, when an emergency affecting the public health, safety, and welfare requires the immediate ...

performance of services;” subject to the award being made pursuant to the manner set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, the official in charge, James Ulrich, Business Administrator for the Township of Clark, submitted the letter that an emergency existed, and that immediate services to remedy the emergency were required; and

WHEREAS, the maximum amount of the contract is \$200,000.00 and shall be payable in an amount of \$25,000.00 per month to provide curbside recycling pickup and disposal services plus clean disposal fees not to exceed eighty-seven dollars (\$87.00) a ton and/or one-hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) per ton for contaminated material, which is not suitable for recycling; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been certified to be available in account number(s) 1-01-26-307-223, from December 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and/or the Business Administrator are hereby authorized to terminate the PMUA Contract.
2. The Mayor and/or the Business Administrator are hereby authorized to enter into, execute and deliver, an Emergency Contract with Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., for the collection and recycling services for recyclable material within the Township of Clark.
3. The Mayor and/or Business Administrator hereby are authorized to provide payment in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 to Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., located at 107 Silva Street, Ewing, New Jersey 08628, for a period not to exceed six (6) months from December 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 or such earlier date in the event that the Township publicly advertises and solicits, and receives at least one fully responsive bid from a responsible bidder, and awards a contract thereof to the lowest responsible bidder, prior to May 31, 2022, for the collection and Recycling Services for Recyclable Material within the Township of Clark.
4. The Contract was awarded without competitive bidding as an emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Act; and
5. A notice of this action shall be printed in the official newspaper of the Township of Clark and the Resolution and Contract shall remain on file in the Township of Clark’s Clerk’s Office; and

- 6. The Emergency Procurement Report shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within thirty (30) days pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.12.
- 7. All actions of the Mayor and the Business Administrator in connection with such Emergency Contract be and hereby are ratified, confirmed and approved.

Motion to add to the agenda was made by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion:

Jim Ulrich: gave an overview explanation of the Resolution.

Council President Minniti directed roll call to add to agenda:
Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

Motion to adopt was made by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman Smith

Council President Minniti directed roll call:
Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

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 Minniti opened the public portion of the meeting

William Caruso, 7 School St.: talked about public safety in regards to firearms, suggested legislation to hold gun owners responsible if they are negligent with their firearms.

Seeing no one else coming forward Councilman Toal made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President Minniti directed roll call:
Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, O’Connor, Smith, Toal, Minniti

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: From what Mr. Caruso talked about in the public portion of the meeting, the Mayor made mention that he would like to ask state officials about things they should worry about first before they worry about looking at registered gun owners.

Councilwoman Albanese: Congratulated Fred, Jean, Lisa and Patty on all of their contributions and their award this evening

Councilman Hund: Congratulated the recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Award. Also, thanked the Mayor and the BA for getting the new recycling contractor Waste Management.

Councilman Mazzarella: Reminded residents to keep their vehicles locked at all times and if they see something that doesn't seem quite right to call the police department.

Councilman O'Connor: Stated construction continues on the apartments across the street from Manny's and also with the research and development plant with L'Oreal on Terminal Avenue. Congratulated the Asal Family for their Volunteer of the Year award and thanked Ralph for bringing this forward. Also, thanked all of the volunteers throughout the township for their time and efforts.

Councilman Smith: Congratulated and thanked the Asal Family for their dedication to the town and helping Ralph out with the tradition every year. Also, reminded everyone with the cold weather to check on their neighbors especially the elderly ones.

Councilman Toal: Congratulated the Asal Family for their volunteerism and commitment to the township. Announced the passing of Clark residents throughout the township; Thomas Scalea, Charles Morris, Sr., Angelo Marconi, Joseph Kolibas, Michael Negri and Cari Cerasa.

Council President Minniti: Congratulated all of the volunteers and Ralph for a great job. Also, mentioned it's nice to see all of the kids out playing the different sports we have here in the township.

Jim Ulrich: no comments.

Township Clerk: no comments, thank you.

Attorney Dugan: no comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilman Hund

Council President Minniti directed roll call:

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

APPROVED



JAMES MINNITI
Council President

ATTEST:



EDITH L. MERKEL, RMC
Township Clerk

Mayor's Proclamation

Whereas, all children in Clark Township should have access to the highest quality education possible, and;

Whereas, Clark recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in Clark to be successful adults, and;

Whereas, quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of Clark, and;

Whereas, Clark Township is home to a multitude of high-quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home, and;

Whereas, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community, and;


Whereas, Clark has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children, and;

Whereas, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools, and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options.

Now, Therefore, I, Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor of Clark and the Township Council, do hereby proclaim January 23 - 29, 2022 as Clark School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

In Witness Whereof, the Mayor of Clark, New Jersey, has hereunto set his hand and seal to be affixed to this proclamation dated January 18, 2022.




Mayor Sal Bonaccorso
Township of Clark

7th ANNUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

Hard to believe this is already our 7th year introducing the Volunteer of the Year award. So many residents offer their services and volunteer their time to help the rec department over the year. We are so appreciative for all the parents that coach teams, hold classes, help set up for major events and general help whenever I reach out. There is not much we can do to show how much we appreciate the help, except to publically recognize these individuals and thank them for going above and beyond. I along with the Mayor and Council created, support and promote the “Volunteer of the Year” award.

I’m am beyond happy and proud to present our seventh-year recipients for this award. This year is a bit unique as we recognize 4 individuals all related to each other as Husband, wife, and two of their daughters. Our Clark Recreations Volunteers of the Year are Clark’s own Fred and Jean Asal, Lisa Dunn and Patty Palmer.

These individuals go way back to 2005, volunteering their time and talents to the township. They were instrumental in creating the Winter Festival or as we now know it the Tree Lighting. Freddy himself years ago built and free hand painted the original sign holders for every tree, the rides, the food and entertainment. Some of these items still survived all these years. Jean and her daughters Lisa and Patty have been decorating the ceiling of the cafeteria and hallways all these years as well. Jean is affectionately known as the Sergeant of this duty. The respect that our youth show Jean while taking her directions is a true testament to her demeanor and character. Not only do these three decorate, direct our youth and physically get on the ladders, but months before pick up the wreaths, and items, purchase decorations

out of their own pocket and update, fix and fluff existing items to save us money and to always make it look their absolute best. Never have they ever asked for a penny reimbursement. They look for no recognition. Throughout the years Freddy who visits my office daily, is the first one to help me set up tables and chairs, put things together, fix, paint, tinker and the list goes on and on. All of the lettering in the municipal building, roller hockey rink, Santa Mailbox, etc. is the talents of Fred Asal. For those that do not know Freddy gave 25 years of service in the early days of the Clark Police Department during the 50's and 60's and 70's. There is nothing more I enjoy more then to sit back and listen to Fred tell the old stories of early Clark, growing up as a child in the 30's and 40's.

Anything these four do, it's always with a smile, calm personality, humor and enthusiasm. They are assets to the Recreation Department and to the Township of Clark. They exemplify the meaning of hard work, dedication and especially giving of themselves and not expecting anything in return. On a personal level, I have known this family for over 25 years. I have a special place in my heart for them, especially Freddy who has been like a father to me. He is free with his opinions and advice and has walked me thru many issues and situations. The affection I have for Freddy and Jean cannot be expressed in words. I just feel honored and privileged for all the years of knowing them as more than just friends.

It is with great pride and pleasure to present Freddy, Jean, Lisa and Patty with these plaques:

Library Report for Town Council-January 2022

The library had a total of 9,508 website visits and social media reach in December 2021.

What is new at the library for January?

The Clark Public Library challenged our patrons to read throughout the month of January and track their reading through our Beanstack app.

Register at clarklibrary.beanstack.org or use the free Beanstack Tracker app.

- For all ages, babies to adults!
- Kids earn small prizes and raffle tickets for larger prizes based on how much time they spend reading!
- Adults and teens earn raffle tickets for prizes based on how much they read.
- Everyone receives a small prize for participating in the challenge!

The library offers Virtual Storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, please check our website and online calendar for further details.

The library is looking for teens to help the library:

[Virtual] Teen Advisory Board Meeting on Monday, January 24 at 7:00pm.

Teens - let your voice be heard at the library! The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) helps create, plan, and run teen programs and services they would like offered at the Clark Public Library. The Teen Advisory Board is a chance to gain creative, organizational, and leadership skills and a great item to put on your college application or resume. Open to teens in Grades 6-12. Members can earn volunteer hours for attending meetings and for participating in TAB activities.

[Virtual] Groundhog Day Craft for Kids on February 2 at 4:00 pm

Ages 4 and up are invited to join us in making a pop-up groundhog craft to celebrate Groundhog's Day via Zoom. Please register and we will get supplies ready for you to pick up in advance of the program.

Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, February 5 from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Celebrate this annual event by coming to the library and checking out a book for your child! Each child that visits and checks out a book on this day may be entered into a raffle for a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. Curbside pickup counts! There will also be a special take home craft kit for kids, while supplies last.

[Virtual] Black History Month Kahoot! Kids on Monday, February 7 at 3:30 pm

Celebrate Black History Month with a game of trivia on Kahoot! just for kids! The faster you answer, the more points you earn. A computer, tablet, or smartphone is needed to play Kahoot! Clark residents may borrow Chromebooks or iPads from the library. Prizes for winner and runners up. Prizes must be picked up, they will not be mailed.

[Virtual] Teen Tuesday: Valentine's Day Origami on Tuesday, February 8 at 3:00pm

Learn how to make origami hearts and flowers. These simple origami shapes are perfect Valentine's Day decorations. Open to grades 5-12.

[Virtual] Krafty Kids on Wednesday, February 9 and 23 at 3:30 pm

Join us as we make some fun and creative artwork. Using a few art supplies we will make a new craft each session! Don't forget to bring your imagination and creativity! Registration is required.

CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY

DECEMBER 2021

DECEMBER 2021 saw a total of 2,294 calls for service of which 118 were ambulance requests, 6 were fire department requests, 1 was for criminal mischief, 3 were motor vehicle and residential lock-outs, 68 were alarm calls, 82 were motor vehicle accidents and 2,000 were miscellaneous calls. There was a total of 6 adult arrests including but not limited to 1 for criminal trespass, 2 for theft, 1 for hindering apprehension and 1 for DUI. There was a total of 8 juvenile arrests including but not limited to 1 for theft and 3 offenses against the family. Of these, one was formally charged and 7 were in-house dispositions. The Detective Bureau handled 77 cases, clearing 63 of them. The Records Bureau collected \$95.00 in discovery fees.

DPW Report
January 18, 2022

Electronic Drop Saturday January 29, 2022 9AM- 1PM

With winter snow season upon us, please remove all basketball nets from the roadway; the township is not responsible for damage.

Christmas tree pick will continue through January 28, 2022 all lights and decorations must be removed. No plastic bags

***Recycling should be place curbside Tuesday night pick up starts by 5:30 AM
NO PLASTIC BAGS OR PIZZA BOXES**

Spring Clean up starts mid March please do not place debris in the roadway until then.

FIRST AID SQUAD REPORT FOR JANUARY 18, 2022

December 2021

Number of Calls: 101

Unit 514: 72

Unit 515: 29

Cancelled: 10

Refuse Medical Attention (RMA): 28

Mutual Aid: 20

Fall/Trauma: 24

Motor Vehicle Accident: 17

Altered Mental Status: 7

Respiratory Issues: 6

Cardiac Issues: 4

Pool and Recreation Report
Clark Council Meeting
Tues, Jan. 18, 2022

Saturday Jan. 15 was the annual Clark Family Skate night at Warinanco Ice Rink. The Clark Residents enjoyed getting out of the house during Covid to experience this successful event which was a complete Sell Out!

Winter Programs have begun, so if there are any that you are interested in, please contact the recreation office at once to register.

Indoor Soccer and Recreation basketball are off to successful starts.

Ralph Bernardo is working on Spring, Easter and the summer rec program.

If you have any questions please contact our Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo at rbernardo@ourclark.com or call 732-428-8400.

Councilman Bill Smith

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

January 18, 2022

In the month of December, the Clark Fire Department responded to 24 calls for the month.

The calls included but not limited numerous odor and alarm calls. One call was related to a Motor vehicle rollover and entrapment. The passenger was rescued from the vehicle.

Also, I would like to thank the members of the Clark Fire Department not only for all hard work and dedication keeping our town safe but also for a great job during the Holidays spreading Christmas cheer going block by block twice with Santa.

This concludes my report.

*The full fire department report is available in the Clerk's office.

