

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**April 3, 2023**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Also Present: Salvatore Bonaccorso, Mayor; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith L. Merkel,  
Township Clerk;

Absent: James F. Ulrich, Business Administrator

**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, as well as the Official Website of the Township, and the proper filing of said Notice.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

**1. Amending Chapter 195 Land Use and Development**

**Council President Smith:**

- explained that this is a zoning ordinance update of the Master Plan
  - added the last time it was updated was in 2012
  - said there have been changes over the last ten year, so it is a lot of overlays, zones and pilots
  - also said it will be consistent with the Master Plan

**Mayor Bonaccorso:** It is basically staying in line with every other town.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance  
Mover: Minniti                      Second: Albanese

**2. Amending Chapter 122 Uniform Construction Codes, Section 2 Fees**

**Council President Smith:** The last time fees were updated in the construction code was in May of 2019. This (action) is just updating codes to be more in line with the going rate in the surrounding towns.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance  
Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Minniti

**3. Amending Chapter 347 Traffic, Section 63 Fire Zones**

Council President Smith:

- explained the need for updated fire zones in town
  - said the traffic department came up with all the necessary areas that we needed to codify

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Albanese

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**4. Budget Compliance Resolution allowing the Budget to be read by title**

Township Clerk: I sent the budget over to the library, making it available through their website and also in person. The library director signed off that she received it, and because of that, rather than rereading the whole budget resolution, as we did last meeting, I can just read it by title.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Minniti                      Second: Albanese

**5. Public Hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget**

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Minniti                      Second: Mazzarella

**6. Appointing David DeRosa as full-time Health Officer effective May 4, 2023**

Township Clerk: Our current Health Officer Nancy Raymond will be retiring. David has been the Assistant Health Officer for quite some time now. He is well qualified and he will be stepping into that position.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Mazzarella

**7. Appointing David DeRosa as Registrar of Vital Statistics and confirming the appointment of Gail Paterno as Deputy Registrar effective May 4, 2023**

Township Clerk: Also, for the same reason that I explained in the last resolution.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Mazzarella

- 8.** Accepting the Master Plan Reexamination Report for implementation of the recommendations of the Planning Board

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Smith

- 9.** Designating Block 77, Lots 2 and 4, located at 175 and 181 Westfield Ave. as a Non-Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment (pending Planning Board recommendation after public hearing on April 6)

Council President Smith: I believe that it is the property across from QuickChek.

Mayor Bonaccorso: (across from) O’Johnnie’s.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Minniti                      Second: Albanese

- 10.** Authorizing the Business Administrator to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Clark Board of Education for fuel usage

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Minniti

- 11.** Award of Contract for Grass Disposal to Frank Galbraith & Son Excavation and Demolition LLC at a rate of \$18.50 per yard plus \$50 fuel surcharge per visit with the total amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for the 2023 grass season.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Minniti

- 12.** Authorizing submission of a strategic plan for the Clark Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$11,973.00

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Smith

- 13.** Authorizing submission of an application for DMHAS Grant funding for the Clark Municipal Alliance for Grant Term Two 9/1/2023 to 9/30/2025 in the amount of \$3,403.00

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Albanese

- 14. Authorizing the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Atlantic Health System to perform Occupational Health Services including pre-employment physicals and employee random drug testing

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Minniti                      Second: Albanese

- 15. Authorizing the Business Administrator to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Buy Board National Purchasing Cooperative

Council President Smith: I believe that Jim said this gives (us) another alternative, another co-op, that we could go out for.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this resolution

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Mazzarella

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

- 16. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of taxes in the amount of \$3,507.85
- 17. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of sewer fees in the amount of \$730.00
- 18. Authorizing the Tax Collector to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$4,005.00 and an additional charge in the amount of \$280.00

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this consent agenda

Mover: Toal                      Second: Albanese

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Each person addressing the Council shall first give their name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 5 minutes in duration.

Michael Shulman, 382 Carolina Street:

- questioned the resolution regarding random drug testing

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- explained it is more for the Clark Public Works Department
  - said a CDL license is a nationwide license, and they have to submit to drug testing (according to the DOT)
  - added testing is done three to four times a year

Michael Shulman:

- asked if the budget will be voted on the next meeting (April 17<sup>th</sup>)

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Michael Shulman:

- questioned the “general government” line item

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- suggested that comments (regarding the budget) should be emailed to the Business Administrator Jim Ulrich

Michael Shulman: Not a problem. What I am going to do it this, I am going to reserve the rest of my questions with an email to the Business Administrator and I am sure we will have a discussion in a few weeks. Other than that, good seeing everybody.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you.

Mark Dugan:

- stated that (because the BA was not available at the time) there may be a delay with regard to the Business Administrator getting back to Mr. Shulman right away

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- mentioned he spoke to the Business Administrator, and the BA will respond to Mr. Shulman

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

Council President Smith directed roll call: All Ayes

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- announced that the Easter egg hunt (held in the township) was successful
- reported that spring lawn & leaf clean-up commenced
- mentioned that he attended the grand opening of the ALJ (sports) complex with Councilman Minniti
  - read into the record the wording on the plaque:
 

**ALJ Athletic Complex – Joint Venture**

In Appreciation of your Commitment, Dedicated Service, and Continuous Contributions to the Student Athletes of Arthur L. Johnson High School and the Township of Clark – Go Crusaders
  - stated that the Township of Clark Council Members names were located on the left side of the plaque, and the Clark Board of Education Members were located on the right side

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comment.

Councilman Minniti:

- stated that he joined the mayor at the ALJ complex
  - said the fields look great and the athletes were excited
- wished everyone a happy Passover and Easter this coming Sunday

Councilman O'Connor:

- thanked both Detective Danny Joy and Captain Mike Acabou
  - mentioned that Detective Joy continues to aid a senior citizen in town that was swindled out of money
  - pointed out that Captain Acabou continually speaks to the senior citizens in town in order to make them aware of scams

Councilman Toal:

- spoke about the Rahway River Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 AM until noon
- reminded residents to only place their leaves out during scheduled pick-up days

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- stated that the Clark Police have been on the Parkway more than ever
  - added that the police were on the parkway 125 times in the last 12 months
  - pointed out that our men, woman, and vehicles are at risk every time they go on the Parkway
  - reminded everyone that it is a toll road, not a “free road”
  - mentioned that he has no problem in assisting the State Police but it is not our responsibility to be the first responders
  - said he wants to charge a \$200.00 fee for being the first responder
  - added that if we go on the Parkway for mutual aid then “no cost”
  - further stated that the fire department gets a fee, the first aid squad gets a fee
  - added it has been overly burdensome on the Clark Police Department
  - then added that they should hire more New Jersey State Troopers to monitor that stretch of Parkway, or we should get a fee out of it

Councilman O'Connor: Would that be \$200.00 per car, or per incident?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Per incident.

Township Clerk: No comments.

Mark Dugan: No comments.

Captain Acabou: No comment.

Workshop Council Meeting April 3, 2023..... 7

Council President Smith: The Clark Little League and the Clark Softball Parade is Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Council President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilman Minniti.

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT