

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Conference Call – No Physical Meeting Place**  
**April 20, 2020**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Also Present: John Laczka, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk; Police Chief Pedro Matos

The Regular Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Clark was called to order at 7:30 pm by Council President O'Connor. 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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings and by electronic advanced notice of at least 48 hours pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.1, as permitted during a declared emergency, to the Star Ledger, 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.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND REPORTS OF COUNCIL AND TOWNSHIP OFFICERS:** will be available on the township website [www.ourclark.com](http://www.ourclark.com)

Councilwoman Albanese: Library Report: Attached

Councilman Barr: Fire Report: Attached

Councilman Hund: Police Report: Attached

Councilman Mazzarella: DPW: no report filed

Councilman Smith: Recreation and Pool Report: Attached

Councilman Toal: Environmental Commission: no report filed

Council President O'Connor: Finance Report: Budget comments attached  
First Aid Squad: no report filed

**ORDINANCES, APPROPRIATIONS AND CLAIMS;**  
**INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE:**

**ORDINANCE 20-13**

**AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 347 ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"  
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, New Jersey that Chapter 347 is hereby supplemented as follows:

**SECTION 1:** Chapter 347-36A, entitled Left Turn Prohibition is supplemented so as to include the following location:

<b>From</b>	<b>Onto</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Featherbed Lane	Raritan Road	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**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 Toal

**Discussion:**

**Clerk:** This ordinance prohibits left turns from Featherbed Lane onto Raritan Road between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Councilman Toal:** Ruddy Place had the same restriction adopted about 20 years ago. Raritan Road will become safer by this action.

No further discussion

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

Public Hearing May 18<sup>th</sup> - Council Chambers or by Conference Call as determined by State Law

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:** Council President O'Connor, Chairman of Finance Committee gave a report on Current and Capital expenditures received and encumbered through April 15, 2020 in the amount of \$212,784.96

**CITIZEN HEARING ON THE AGENDA:**

Council President O'Connor directed the Clerk to read emails and text messages received from the public regarding agenda items, for response by Council or Township Professionals as appropriate.

Clerk: Council President I did not receive any emails or text messages regarding agenda items.

Motion to close the Citizen Hearing on the Agenda made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Barr

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 20-56**

**WHEREAS** at least one (1) week prior to the date of the hearing a complete copy of the approved budget was delivered to the free public library and made available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS** an Affidavit of Receipt of the Budget as attached hereto and made a part hereof has been obtained from the library pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8; and

**WHEREAS** copies of the budget have been made available to each person requesting one at no charge.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey that upon passage of this resolution by a majority of the full membership that the law has been met allowing the budget to be read by title.

Moved by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion: none

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

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**Resolution 20-57**

**Adoption of the Municipal Budget of the Township of Clark for Calendar Year 2020**

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

\$ 17,656,131.00      for municipal purposes, and  
\$ 944,127.00      Minimum Library Levy

**SUMMARY OF REVENUES**

<b>General Revenues</b>		
Surplus Anticipated		\$ 2,160,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated		\$ 3,731,655.28
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes		\$ 450,000.00

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	\$ 17,656,131.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY LEVY	\$ 944,127.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 24,941,913.28</b>

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

<b>General Appropriations:</b>	
<b>Within "CAPS"</b>	
Operations Including Contingent	\$ 16,367,265.00
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures – Municipal	\$ 2,305,699.00
<b>Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	
Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	\$ 1,829,699.28
Capital Improvements	\$ 250,000.00
Municipal Debt Service	\$ 2,641,250.00
Deferred Charges – Municipal	\$ 548,000.00
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Include Other Reserves, if Any)	\$ 1,000,000.00
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 24,941,913.28</b>

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2020 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Council President O'Connor: opened the public hearing on the Budget and directed the Clerk to read emails and text messages received from the public for response by Council or Township Professionals as appropriate.

Clerk: Council President, I did not receive any emails or text messages regarding the budget.

Motion to close the Public Hearing on the Budget made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

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

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

Discussion:

Council President O'Connor: The total salaries have increased by 4.68 percent, not per person, but in the aggregate. A review of our salary program for the white-collar workers, the majority being women, were substantially lower than all other employees. The Mayor felt this was not right and therefore those salaries were corrected to give a living wage. This adjustment necessitated an adjustment to many other salaries to accommodate state statutes. Bottom line, although the union salary increase is just 2.25%, the overall aggregate is 4.68%.

As promised, this budget will accommodate the paying of our debt service without raising our property taxes. It includes paying down the bond issue for the Police Building under construction. The changes in

other expenses amounts to a 3.69% increase of \$558,891.00. The major increases are in Engineering Services; Insurance and Bonding; Streets & Roads; Buildings and Grounds; and Police Pension Contributions.

Notwithstanding all of that, since a number of items are one-time costs and having accumulated a substantial emergency fund, it is my pleasure to tell you the citizens that, we have utilized a portion of that fund, to enable us to bring you a 2020 budget, without a property tax increase for Municipal purposes. And again, your budget is made up of the Municipal, County and School, so for the Municipal portion there is no increase.

No further discussion

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

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Resolution 20-58

**WHEREAS** N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

**WHEREAS** N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

**WHEREAS** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Township of Clark has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2020 budget year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a and 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the Governing Body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
  - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
  
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
  
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

- 4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated
  - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
  - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
- 5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
- 6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

Moved by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion: none

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

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**Resolution 20-59**

**WHEREAS** municipalities and counties with Storm Recovery Reserves may use those funds for the coronavirus response; and

**WHEREAS** N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1 permits a municipality or county to adopt a resolution authorizing storm recovery reserve funds to be used for "any purpose necessary to protect the safety, security, health, and welfare, of its citizens from the damage caused by an emergency declared by the Governor or the President of the United States"; and

**WHEREAS** any reimbursement of these expenditures shall be deposited back into the reserve; and

**WHEREAS** it is in the best interest of the township to establish a Storm Recovery Reserve to ensure the safety, security, health and welfare of its citizens from damage caused by the Coronavirus Emergency; and

**WHEREAS** Local Finance Notice 2020-06 requires the Governing Body to adopt a resolution establishing a Storm Recovery Reserve for the above stated purpose, to be submitted to the Division of Local Government Services.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, New Jersey that it hereby establishes a Storm Recovery Reserve to be used for the Coronavirus Response in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be filed with the Division of Local Government Services.



My name is Richard Seng and my address is 15 Benjamin St. where I have lived for the past 59 years.

Comments:

Mr. President, Members of Council, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Laezza and our Esteem Clerk Edie Merkle.

Good evening:

My comments tonight concern the Sewer Fee Ordinance. (11-08) I'm sure you are familiar with that. Back in, I think it was 2011 it was introduced and subsequently adopted. The flat fee at that time was \$125.00 for all residential properties including the senior citizens, for water usage up to 100,000 gallons for a five month period. (November through April of prior year). The following year or soon after, the Mayor announced at a regular council meeting that he was waving the fee for senior citizens, stating, "we want to give the seniors a break", "they deserve a break". And we thanked the Mayor for that.

During the time that followed it seemed that the Mayor had second thoughts and said, hey, we can't get along without the seniors and reinstated the Sewer Fee for the seniors, the following year. The flat fee now is \$280.00 for water usage up to 100,000 gallons for that five month period. Water usage in excess of 100,000 gallons is charged an excess fee.

My point is this; I don't think it's fair for seniors to pay the same rate as a family of four, five or six. It stands to reason that seniors living alone and on a fixed income would use water no where near what a family of that size would. I don't mind paying my fair share but not happy about paying someone else's share.

There is a special fee for water usage in excess of 100,000 gallons from November through April. I would ask the council, the Mayor and the B.A. if you would reconsider and come up with a formula or special rate that would give the seniors some kind of discount on the Sewer Fee.

After all the, Township is in, "GOOD FINANCIAL SHAPE".

That's all I have to say. I thank you for listening and hope that Council, the Mayor and the B.A. take my comments into serious consideration and give us seniors back, the break, that we so rightfully deserve.

Thank You  
Good Night

Clerk: Mr. Laezza responded to Mr. Seng right away and I will read that into the record.

Dear Mr. Seng:

Rather than wait for April 20, 2020 for your Question I am happy to respond immediately, and Thank you for your concerns. Since the adoption of the Sewer Utility Ordinance and all subsequent amendments, we have continually reduced the fee for Senior Citizens, WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A SENIOR TAX DEDUCTION, A 50% DEDUCTION ON THEIR Sewer Bill. As an example, if the senior Citizen bill is 280.00 dollars, they are billed 140.00 dollars or 70.00 dollars per half of year. Secondly, no Senior Citizen is subsidizing a household with 4 or more occupants. If you are paying 280.00 dollars and qualify for Senior citizen tax deduction please discuss with our tax office.

Sincerely,  
John f. Laezza  
Business Administrator

Council President O'Connor: Thank you Mr. Laezza for that response.

John Laezza: You're welcome.

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Clerk: I have one other email that I received this evening at 6:11 pm from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sep of 340 Valley Road.

Good Evening Mayor Bonaccorso, and Town Council,

We hope this txt finds you all healthy as well as your families. We understand we are in harrowing times, with the easiest of tasks more complicated. We were wondering what constitutes Construction with regards to Executive Order 122 and are we enforcing it for the safety of our community?

Thanking your advance for your clarification. **KEEP OUR CLARK STRONG!**

Very truly yours

Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Sep  
340 Valley Road

Mr. Laezza's response to Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Sep, 340 Valley Road, Clark  
April 20, 2020 Council meeting

Thank you for your question. The Township of Clark always responds and does enforce all the directives from the Governor's office regarding the COVID-19 virus. The ruling regarding construction was the stoppage of all private commercial construction. The ruling also indicated that all government construction can continue, affordable housing construction can continue and specifically single-family homes can continue to be constructed. The purpose of the Order is to keep the personnel doing the construction, six feet apart at all times as is the rule for all citizens walking the street of Clark and the State of New Jersey. And so, thank you Mrs. Sep for your question. The short answer is, we are enforcing all government rules through our Police Department and our Professional Construction Department.

Motion to close this portion made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Council President O'Connor: On behalf of the entire Council we would like to send our thoughts and prayers out to all those directly and indirectly effected by COVI-19. Our community will continue to stay strong and work together along with our neighbors to flatten the curve and keep things moving in the right direction. So again, from the entire Council, our hearts go out to everyone directly or indirectly impacted.

Councilwoman Albanese: Thank you Mr. President. Just briefly, the Governor has ordered all Libraries closed however the staff is working behind the scenes, issuing Library Cards online so that citizens can gain access to electronic media that's available to all at this time whether it's courses, research, etc. Reference Librarians are available to do research and answer questions. Information is available online at the Library. In addition, there is a chat button on the bottom of the front page of the Library. And I suggest that citizens sign up for the newsletter to hear about some of the activities being done; all different categories of citizens whether its children's reading, etc. That concludes my report on the Library.

With respect to the Storm Recovery Reserve, monies that we are using for any expenses related to the virus, hopefully at a later date we will get grant money from FEMA to replenish that Storm Recovery Reserve that was paid for by the taxpayers. Thank you. That concludes my report.

Councilman Barr: Thank you Mr. President. Cautioned residents that there is a law against parking near a fire hydrant. In addition, please don't put your branches near a fire hydrant. Lastly, during construction or repair of a building, notify the alarm company of the work taking place in case fire alarms are set off accidentally.

Councilman Hund: Reiterated that the police report for this month is on file and will be available on the website. Wished everyone safety and good health during this time in our lives. Thank you

Councilman Mazzarella: Reminded residents to stay home, social distance 6 feet apart, wear your mask, please stay safe and God Bless.

Councilman Smith: Thank you Council President. To citizens, stay in, stay safe and continue to wear your masks. Thank you and we'll see you next month.

Councilman Toal: Announced residents we've lost in the last month. To the citizens of Clark, please remain strong as this madness continues. Please keep your faith. We are here for you and we will be there hopefully in the future. God Bless you all, and God watch over our beloved Clark, NJ. Stay safe and in good health until we see you next time. Thank you, Mr. President.

Business Administrator, John Laezza: May 1<sup>st</sup> property taxes are due. The Governor has made no changes, taxes are still due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Town Hall will remain closed to the public. Various options to pay property taxes; electronically on our website [www.ourclark.com](http://www.ourclark.com) go to pay online at the bottom of the page, e-check fee \$1.05, Debit or Credit card fee 2.95%, you could use US mail send to the Tax Collector, Township of Clark, 430 Westfield Ave., Clark, NJ 07066, make checks payable to Township of Clark. We have a mail slot in the front of our Municipal Building, put your stub and check in the envelope, mark it Tax Collector's office, checks only, no cash. If you do not have a stub, put your block and lot and account number on the front of your check. If you signed up for ACH direct withdrawal your payment will be debited from your account on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. No changes to due date or grace period. Explained the importance of paying taxes on time. The citizens have been very strong in paying their taxes, paying at 98% of their taxes, before the end of the year. The amount of the tax bill generates about 66 to 67 million dollars a year. Distribution: taxes for the municipality we probably put out 4.5 million dollars per quarter. For the school we put out 8.5 million dollars per quarter and for the County we put out 3.75 million dollars per quarter. This basically amounts to 16.75 million dollars every quarter. So, as you can see its important that the bills be paid, especially during this time because as you may note, a lot of stores have been closed. We have lost the revenue in retail licenses. We have lost a number of revenues in the courts because if you have read the police report you would notice every month, we have approximately 2400 - 2500 misc. calls. Because the roads are so quiet those calls this month have been down to 1800 (approx.).

So that revenue is cut off as a shortfall. The courts have been closed so we're just taking what is payable without court action. So, it's necessary that taxes be paid on time.

Secondly, you all know that we were going to start a revaluation program. The contracts were just signed and approved by the Department of the Treasury and effective May 1<sup>st</sup> the revaluation is supposed to start. I have sent a letter to Senator Scutari to advise the Governor that we want a reprieve on doing that revaluation this year because I do not believe that the citizens would want strangers walking through their properties deciding what's inside that property. They could measure the outside but for a half million dollars I want a full revaluation so we get the true value of the properties in the Township of Clark. So, it's incumbent on the citizens to pay their taxes as best they can on time and I'm thanking them in advance for their cooperation on behalf of the Township of Clark.

Although the offices have been closed to the public, we have continued to provide full services to our citizens and we will continue to do so. However, if we don't have sufficient cash to pay them then we'd have to start furloughing and cut back. We'd rather not do that to our employees or to our citizens. So, thank you for your cooperation. Stay strong and stay healthy. I'm happy to note that we've been notifying our citizens by web page of COVID-19 cases that have been in Clark. Clark has been very fortunate, we have about 171 to date and 21 are still in recovery and the others have been resolved. Thank you again for your cooperation. Look on the website for any new items. Thank you.

Police Chief, Pedro Matos: Good evening. Publicly thanked all businesses and organizations including Target, L'Oréal, Shoprite, Whole Foods etc, throughout town who have come out to support the Police Department either by donating PPE to the police department, cleaning supplies and of course lunches, dinners, breakfasts and coffee. Thank you very much and also thank you to the citizens of Clark who have made it very easy for our department to enforce the Coronavirus restrictions around town. Mostly things are being adhered to. I would also like to thank Megan Kociolek of the Library. She will be delivering to the PD tomorrow, face shields that she had made with a 3D printer. Each officer will be equipped with one should he need one, he'll have it available. Thank you very much everyone, please stay safe and healthy.

Township Attorney, Mark Dugan: Thanked first responders, police, fire, emergency medical and all those in the health field for doing a real solid job.

Clerk: Thank you Mr. President. Gave out work cell phone # 908-347-8348 for anyone having difficulty either contacting the Clerk at the office or for assistance to get in touch with another department. You can text or call on that line. Email is [clerk@ourclark.com](mailto:clerk@ourclark.com) . Please reach out if you need the Clerk's office or any other office.

Councilwoman Albanese: Question for Clerk; with June primary moved to July 7<sup>th</sup> has the last day of voter registration changed? It is important to register if you are not already registered. More people may want to vote by mail for the primary or fall election. I would be happy to drop off applications if someone wants to email me at [aalbanese@ourclark.com](mailto:aalbanese@ourclark.com) I can make sure they get an application to vote by mail if they choose to. Thank you.

Clerk: The deadline for voter registration for the July 7 Primary Election is June 16. The link for the Board of Elections is <https://ucnj.org/hoc/>

Vote by Mail links added subsequent to the meeting:

<http://www.unioncountyvotest.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/vote-mail-ballot-union-english.pdf>

Vote by Mail application - English

<http://www.unioncountyvotest.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/vote-mail-ballot-union-spanish.pdf>

Vote by Mail application - Spanish

<https://ucnj.org/request-a-vote-by-mail-ballot-application-be-mailed-to-you/>

Request a Vote by Mail application electronically

Council President O'Connor: Again, these are crazy times but I do not want to let go of the opportunity to thank the Business Administrator, his staff, the Mayor, everyone at Town Hall, the office administrators responsible for their budget as Mr. Laezza and his team have delivered a zero increase for the Township of Clark for 2020 for municipal purposes. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and a sharp pencil. And Mr. Laezza, we want to thank you once again for keeping Clark as financially tight as it can be with regard to having great ratings and again giving back to the community a 0% (increase) and reinforcing the fact that we only take from the township what we need to operate. So, thank you very much for that.

With regard to Councilwoman Albanese's comments, please feel free to reach out to any of your Council people. We'd be happy to deliver whatever you need to make you comfortable with regards to your voting. Councilwoman Albanese, thank you for bringing that up.

Stay safe. Stay strong. Called for a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

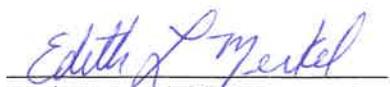
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, Smith, Toal, O'Connor

APPROVED



PATRICK J. O'CONNOR  
Council President

ATTEST:

  
EDITH L. MERKEL, RMC  
Township Clerk

## Clark Public Library Monthly Report – April 20, 2020

Staff are working on the following tasks. Support staff are being asked to work on tasks for the hours they would normally work.

- Library cards are being issued to anyone who lives, works or goes to school in Clark. We are also helping with lost passwords, expired cards and have helped about 50 people just week alone.
- Our children's librarian has been working on producing a Story Time every morning called Story Shorts with Scout. Here is the link to one of the first Story Times, these are being emailed to our patrons due to copyright issues. Link to StoryTime: <https://youtu.be/Pt2cVuSKR0k>
- Deirdre our children's librarian has 3-D printed face shields for a nurse in Clark, Chamber of Commerce and is printing 40 for the Clark Police Department.
- The library has purchased Zoom to be used for book clubs for all ages, scavenger hunts, weekly meetings with staff, trivia night, crafts, and much more we hope to offer to our public.
- We are promoting all our digital services to the public through social media, the town, the schools, and Tap into Clark. Link to digital services: <https://clarklibrary.org/digital-sources-quick-links/>
- The library is offering online chat and phone reference from Monday-Friday to assist anyone who needs help.
- Librarians have been working on orders, summer reading events, making book lists, reviewing online books and creating recommendations on them, and reaching out to our Homebound patrons once a week to check on them as well.
- Support staff is watching customer service webinars, reading through policy, and learning our digital services this week.

# Clark Fire Department

Clark, NJ



## Basic Incident Info for Incident Type

Incident Type(s): All Incident Types | Start Date: 03/01/2020 | End Date: 03/31/2020

Incident Date	Incident #	Address	Narrative	Station
03/01/2020	2020-72	128 Stonehenge Terr	Faulty detector. The batteries needed to be replaced.	1 - Active
03/01/2020	2020-73	52 Westfield AVE	Fire alarm activation no fire	1 - Active
03/01/2020	2020-74	860 North Avenue East	Units were dispatched into the city of Elizabeth to assist with a fully involved commercial structure fire. Units assisted in firefighting operations and were made clear and available	1 - Active
03/01/2020	2020-75	860 North Avenue East	Units were dispatched into the city of Elizabeth to assist with a fully involved commercial structure fire. Units assisted in firefighting operations and were made clear and available	1 - Active
03/01/2020	2020-76	860 North avenue east	Units were dispatched into the City of Elizabeth for a fully involved commercial building fire. Units assisted in firefighting operations. Units cleared and were made available.	1 - Active
03/02/2020	2020-77	40 Wendell PL	Clark FD dispatched to fire alarm activation on first floor of residence. Scene investigated, no evidence of fire, fire alarm activation occurred due to steam from shower. Clark FD cleared scene without further incident.	1 - Active
03/03/2020	2020-78	411 valley Road RD	Report of smoke in the area of Sycamore but upon investigation it was a charcoal pit burning. HO advised to put it out	1 - Active
03/05/2020	2020-79	136 Briarheath LN	Contractor ripped into gas line gas company called, gas company on scene 11:39	1 - Active
03/05/2020	2020-80	77 Brant AVE	unfounded fire	1 - Active
03/05/2020	2020-81	144 Broadway	Requested for a lift assist helping Squad	1 - Active
03/05/2020	2020-82	1170 Old Raritan RD	False alarm due to construction work set off smoke alarm in basement and attic. Scene was investigated, scene deemed safe, all units were clear and available.	1 - Active

03/05/2020	2020-83	1 Alan CT	dispatched to report of gas inside 1 Allan Court. PD reported family was evacuated across the street. C2 investigated, found zero readings in the house with 2 meters. homeowners advised that ETG will be responding. PD notified ETG, 30-60 min response.	1 - Active
03/05/2020	2020-84	559 Raritan Road	Called to Zion Church for a trouble alarm. Could not get the alarm reset. No alarms sounding. Advised to get service.	1 - Active
03/06/2020	2020-85	Garden State Parkway South	Clark FD dispatched to motor vehicle accident near maintenance yard on Garden State Parkway South, car veered off side of road into the maintenance yard. No fire, no entrapment. Units on scene secured vehicle, assisted with EMS with two patients. Cleared without further incident.	1 - Active
03/06/2020	2020-86	16 Harding AVE	Units responded to 16 Harding for the report of sewer gas odor. Units arrived on scene and investigated. Nothing was found units cleared from 16 Harding. Units were then called to 15 Harding for the same complaint. (See call 2020-087)	1 - Active
03/06/2020	2020-87	15 Harding AVE	Units were summoned to 15 Harding for the odor of sewer gas. Units investigated. Nothing was found, units were cleared and made available	1 - Active
03/06/2020	2020-88	Garden State Parkway HWY	Engines 1,4 and Car 1 responded to Parkway South Bound for vehicle fire. Upon arrival, units found vehicle fire in engine compartment. Fire was put out and under control with no injuries. Vehicle was a 2010 Gmc Acadia. While on scene, a multiple vehicle accident occurred across the parkway going north bound. Engine 1 investigated the accident.	1 - Active
03/06/2020	2020-89	Garden State Parkway 136.7 HWY	Car 1, Engines 1 and 4 were on scene of a vehicle fire on Garden State Parkway South Bound, when a multiple vehicle accident occurred across the parkway going north bound. Unit 1 commanded Engine 1 to go on the scene and take command. Upon arrival, firefighters notice 1 person injured on scene. Engine 1 blocked traffic and waited for EMS and tow company to arrive on scene.	1 - Active
03/07/2020	2020-90	222 Terminal AVE	dispatched to activated water flow alarm in riser 1. Dep 2 investigated, found no cause for alarm. maintenance reset the alarm and it held	1 - Active
03/07/2020	2020-91	489 Madison Hill RD	Burning in fire pit. We have been there before.	1 - Active
03/08/2020	2020-92	725 Chestnut Street	Standby for Roselle Fire Dept	1 - Active
03/09/2020	2020-93	135 NB Garden State Parkway	Units were dispatched to the Garden State Parkway Northbound for the reported Motor Vehicle Fire. Units were cancelled due to the fire being extinguished prior to FD arrival. All units were cleared and made available.	1 - Active
03/09/2020	2020-94	250 Broadway	Car accident on Broadway involving two vehicles	1 - Active
03/10/2020	2020-95	31 Ayers LN	Fire alarm set off due to inspector testing fire alarm.	1 - Active

03/10/2020	2020-96	3 Gloria ST	Clark FD dispatched ent alarm to cat stuck underneath sewer grate. FD lifted sewer gate using hand tools. Cat retrieved from underneath grate. Sewer grate replaced via hand tools. Clark FD cleared scene without further incident.	1 - Active
03/11/2020	2020-97	332 Madison Hill	Clark Fire Department dispatched to St Agnes School for the report of a fire alarm activation. Upon arrival strobes and alarm sounding. Deputy 2 established command. Units investigated. No cause for alarm was found, fire alarm system was reset. All unit clear and available.	1 - Active
03/11/2020	2020-98	136.9 Garden State Parkway South	Units were dispatched to the GSP Southbound for an extrication request. Units arrived and found a Gold Hyundai Sonata. Units popped the door open and assisted EMS with extracting the patient. Units were cleared and made available.	1 - Active
03/12/2020	2020-99	52 Westfield AVE	false alarm	1 - Active
03/12/2020	2020-100	52 Valley		1 - Active
03/14/2020	2020-101	000 Broadway	Multiple vehicle accident at Liberty and Broadway 3 car	1 - Active
03/14/2020	2020-102	1210 Cellar AVE	Fire contained to oven put out by fire extinguisher	1 - Active
03/16/2020	2020-103	134.8 Garden State PKY S	Dispatched for the possible overheat on the GSP 134.8. Battalion 1 responded, upon arrival NJSP requested all incoming units cancel	1 - Active
03/19/2020	2020-104	1255 Raritan	Do to break in cleaning product line strong gas odor. Hazmat was called & DEP gave case # 200319122132. While there odor of nature gas was found do to gas line to stove. Gas company responded made safe all cleared.	1 - Active
03/19/2020	2020-105	67 Walnut AVE 301	Division 3 toaster oven. Captain Might wanted noted up to 5 employees still typing with a light smoke condition in the office	1 - Active
03/20/2020	2020-106	226 Lexington BLVD	Building 223 # 10 Unattended cooking	1 - Active
03/21/2020	2020-107	159 Terminal AVE	Clark FD dispatched to fire alarm activation at L'Oréal USA Product Evaluation Center. Scene investigated, smoke detector was activated due to construction dust. Alarm reset and placed into Test mode until 1500. Clark FD cleared scene without further incident.	1 - Active
03/22/2020	2020-108	605 Chestnut Street	Roselle Park Fire Department requested one engine to respond to their HQ for a mutual aid standby. Engine 3 responded. CL5 had a delayed response to the Roselle Park fire HQ	1 - Active
03/22/2020	2020-109	11 Rolling Hill WAY	Clark Fire Department dispatched to the residence for the report of an odor of smoke. Upon arrival, Deputy 1 established fire command. Odor of smoke was found to be from a neighboring fire in Roselle Park. However, there was an issue with the furnace. Elizabeth Town Gas was contacted to investigate. Scene turned over to homeowner.	1 - Active
03/22/2020	2020-110	30 Terminal AVE	L'Oreal smoke alarm activation. No cause for the alarm.	1 - Active

03/23/2020	2020-111	186 Westfield Ave AVE	Units were dispatched to the scene and discovered the wire had split and was laying on the ground. It was determined to be a telephone wire. Verizon was notified, all units were cleared and made available	1 - Active
03/25/2020	2020-112	70 Sweet Briar DR	Dispatched for a reported smoke condition. Deputy 1 reported it was a candle burning. all units clearing available	1 - Active
03/25/2020	2020-113	365 Westfield AVE	Got called to ALJ Highschool for a fire alarm it was set off to work going on in the school	1 - Active
03/26/2020	2020-114	365 Westfield AVE	alarm activation due to power washing. no cause for alarm	1 - Active
03/27/2020	2020-115	1 Valley RD	Clark FD dispatched to Mother Seton for a landing zone request. Arrived on scene. Command established. Landing zone was marked with 4 cones. crew stood by to provide fire suppression. All units cleared and available without incidents. Command terminated.	1 - Active
03/27/2020	2020-116	239 Lexington BLVD	Clark FD dispatch to 223 Lexington Blvd. for report of fire alarm activation. Upon arrival, command established detector located found in basement. Detector had water in sensor. System unable to reset, scene turned over to supervisor. No other calls for alarm found.	1 - Active
03/29/2020	2020-117	30 Terminal AVE	L'Oreal fire alarm activation. No cause for the alarm.	1 - Active
03/29/2020	2020-118	222 Terminal AVE	Chief Cerasa went to scene. Confirmed no need for alarm.	1 - Active
03/29/2020	2020-119	725 Chestnut ST	Roselle Park Fire Department requested one engine to respond to their HQ for a mutual aid standby. Engine 3 responded.	1 - Active
03/29/2020	2020-120	1154 Lake AVE	Reported Carbon Monoxide Activation, Engine 1, Engine 4 responded. House was checked with a meter. No readings found, faulty detector.	1 - Active
03/30/2020	2020-121	5 Georgian ST	Dispatched for a reported Fire Alarm Activation. Cause was unattended cooking, alarm was reset Natural Ventilation. All units clear	1 - Active
03/31/2020	2020-122	Garden State PKY S	Dispatched to The Garden State Parkway Maintenance Yard for a reported Carbon Monoxide Alarm. Prior to En-Route Police Dispatch Advised the call was cancelled, wrong Maintenance Yard	1 - Active
03/31/2020	2020-123	136.6 GARDEN STATE PKY N	REPORT OF A CAR FIRE GSP NRTH. UNIT ONE ENGINE ONE ENGINE FOUR RESPONDED. ENGINE FOUR RESPONDED ON SCENE. CONFIRMED AN OVERHEAT. ALL UNITS CLEARED.	1 - Active

## CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY

**MARCH 2020**

**MARCH 2020 saw a total of 1,807 calls for service of which 97 were ambulance requests, 8 were fire department requests, 7 were motor vehicle and residential lock-outs, 80 were alarm calls, 58 were motor vehicle accidents and 1,547 were miscellaneous calls. There were a total of 12 adult arrests including but not limited to 4 for theft, 3 for drug abuse, and 4 warrants. There were a total of 5 juvenile arrests including but not limited to 1 for drug abuse and 1 offense against the family. The Records Bureau collected \$3,027.00 in discovery fees and false alarm fines.**

Township of Clark Council Meeting  
Monday, April 20, 2020  
Pool and Recreation Report

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all spring recreation programs were cancelled and refunds will be given.

In regards to registering for the Clark Community Pool or the Clark Recreation Summer Camp, we urge all residents to register and pay thru our Civic Rec online payment registration system. In the case we cancel summer rec or the pool does not open, it will be easier to administer refunds.

If you have any questions, you can email our Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo at [rbernardo@ourclark.com](mailto:rbernardo@ourclark.com) or you can call the office at 732-748-8400.

Councilman Bill Smith

The budget has been submitted to the public tonight. This budget will be advertised and a public meeting will be held April 20, 2020 for comments from the citizens before final action is taken. We usually submit our budget to the public during the month of February, however, this year we were still in negotiations with our Unions. Upon completion of the contracts we were able to complete our work on the budget. Tonight, is a culmination of our efforts.

The total salaries have increased by 4.68 percent, not per person, but in the aggregate. A review of our salary program for the white-collar workers, the majority being woman, were substantially lower than all other employees'. The Mayor felt this was not right therefore those salaries were corrected to give a living wage. This adjustment necessitated an adjustment to many other salaries to accommodate state statutes. Bottom line, although the union salary increase is just 2.25%, the overall aggregate is 4.68%.

As promised, this budget will accommodate the paying of our debt service without raising our property taxes. It includes paying down the bond issue for the Police Building under construction. The changes in other expenses amounts to a 3.69% increase of \$ 558,891.00. The major increases are in Engineering Services; Insurance and bonding; Streets & Roads; Building and Grounds; and Police Pension Contributions.

Notwithstanding all of that, since a number of items are one-time costs and having accumulated a substantial emergency fund, it is my pleasure to tell the citizens that, we have utilized a portion of that fund, to enable us to bring you a 2020 budget, without a property tax increase for Municipal purposes.