

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, 315 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK NJ**  
**May 18, 2020**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Also Present: Mayor Sal Bonaccorso; John Laezza, 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 (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 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 TOWNSHIP OFFICERS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you, Mr. President, Members of Council, good evening. First off, I would like to thank the Council, our Attorney, our Chief, our Administrator, and Superintendent of DPW, Scott McCabe for being here and all of you. We are having our first meeting in the Corona era on TV. And Edie has graciously measured everybody out, we sprayed everything down and we're doing good. I wanted to thank the Chief for L'Oreal, they donated a machine that sprays a liquid into the building to sanitize everything and that was done today to make sure everyone is safe. We're probably the only Governing Body in Union County that's going to meet this May, I would think. But we are different because we are here for our citizens. And our citizens could be fully aware that this Mayor, this Council, this Administration is still working for them each and every day. And I'm proud of all of you for that for being here, because our citizens deserve the best.

A lot is going on guys. It's DPW week to honor our DPW, paint the town orange. Our men were out there, we haven't missed one service since the Coronavirus hit this country. Our men have been out there every day cleaning this town, picking up your branches, picking up your bulky cleanup, everything, and I'm proud of them for that. And along with our other township employees, our girls were in the building at a skeleton crew for many weeks. Now the building is opened by appointment only. I want to talk about that for a moment. That if you have business

with the Township of Clark, we are open for business, but the door is locked and it's by appointment only. What you can handle on the internet we would like you to still do that. Any payments for taxes and things of that nature will be taken by the drop box by the front door to the left, you will see a blue arrow, put it in there like you've been doing. If you need building permits, if you need a marriage license, things of that nature, you can call our office, make an appointment and one of our wonderful ladies will come down to get you. You have to have a mask on and you can come into the building and do business because we are open for business in Clark. So, with that being said I want to thank those ladies. What else can we say, with our Police Department, our Fire Department, and First Aid Squad. we've been out there and they have all been doing the job keeping our town safe. We had a nasty house fire hit and you know to see our police department out there and first aid and of course our fire department battling that blaze was just what these people do and they do it for us. The Coronavirus didn't matter, they were out there trying to save lives and save a home and it was a tough, a tough day for that homeowner and my heart goes out to him.

A lot of things that we can start with here tonight. New Executive Orders came out today. And the Governor is going to allow batting cages to open. I think that's great; you can't play baseball but you can have batting cages open, Archery lessons, horseback riding, private tennis clubs, driving ranges and foursomes now allowed at golf courses. We are still waiting to hear about pools, summer camp, and summer school. We'll share that information with you when we get it. I want to remind the residents that second quarter taxes are due May 1<sup>st</sup> with a grace period which ends May 29<sup>th</sup>. All payments must be received by May 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm to avoid interest that would be accrued back to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Grass pick up is tomorrow on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Orders are out there and we are all trying to follow them. This weekend I did open the tennis courts at Brewer, the tennis courts are opened, okay. A couple of weeks ago I was going to open up the Catie Nelson Playground at Brewer and on Saturday morning Chief Matos called me and told me that I can't do that because somebody called Crime Stoppers and the Union County Prosecutor called the Chief and said we can't do that. So, I mean that's a crime to call Crime Stoppers. I guess that wasn't politically motivated what so ever, okay.

Today I sent an email to Governor Murphy/letter. Some of you might have seen it on my Facebook page and I'll read it to you;

Dear Governor Murphy, I'd like to appeal to you for the Clark ALJ High School Class of 2020. I truly believe the Clark School Board in conjunction with the Clark local government Mayor and Council can hold a traditionally outdoor graduation. I believe we can have social distancing and can conform with all of your Executive Orders. These young adults as you are aware are hurting their Senior year was wiped out. As a leader like yourself we must consider safety and health. God only knows we in elected office that have been put to the test. As the Mayor of Clark for twenty years I would never jeopardize anyone's health including my own but we need to have you put this in our hands and I mean the graduation. I would like to discuss further with you. We have 180 students graduating. Our bleachers hold about 700 people on both sides of the field. We can have multiple options in achieving this outside graduation safely. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Mayor Sal Bonaccorso.

I truly believe as Mayor of this town that these kids could and should be able to have a traditional outdoor graduation. This would be a graduation that would have to be by following rules by students, and by parents to make sure it can happen. I sent this out to the Governor today, hopefully he will allow us to put it in our hands and do it the way we can. I know we can pull this off safely, there's many options on how to do this outdoors. This drive by nonsense where you throw it in the window as they are going by at 30 mph is ridiculous, it's ridiculous. You know everyone talks about the new, new, I like the old new, let's get back to that. Let's get back to the way we were living a little bit. We have to be safe; we have to care, we have to watch ourselves, I agree with all of that. And like I tell the people of this town, let's not forget, myself and all of you are human beings who are susceptible to this virus and we also have families that we care about so you know try to keep that in mind.

The other problems we're having Council and the citizens of Clark, this is going to be a tough year guys and no decision has been made yet. I'm speaking on behalf of Ralph Bernardo our wonderful Recreation Director. We've got a lot of problems this year with the Township Pool and the Township Summer Rec Camp. These are two staples of this community. These are two services that you the Council as the Pool Utility enjoy performing and putting on for our residents every year. And we the Governing Body along with Ralph just love to fund and to see the excitement of all our children at Summer Rec. Folks, we do not know what's going to happen at this point. Our Pool is ready, Ralph has got that Pool up and ready. Many towns in Union County have not done that as of yet, we are ready to go. We would hope...forget Memorial Day weekend, that's completely out. But we would hope somewhere maybe around July 1 would be great. The Governor is going to have to dictate orders. On an early conference call that Ralph got, here are some of the rules. I don't know if you want the pool opened with some of these rules:

Policy and procedures for our Pool, we'll make them public once we know; Temperature to be taken as every member enters the Pool. Once the quota for the day has been met no more members will be allowed to enter unless members leave. Early on and this is early on, Ralph was told on a Webinar that the number would be around fifty, that's including staff. So, you would have twenty people working there and thirty people swimming there. Would you really want to join the Township Pool? Would you really want to be waiting at the gate in 95 degrees because the Pool has a quota of whatever number it may be, as you are standing there watching people splash around. There are going to be some hardline things to go with this. Guests will not be allowed this year at the Pool; no showers or changing rooms allowed; seniors will be fighting for shaded areas at the Pool, our senior citizens look to sit in the shade, they have to be 6 feet distancing; there will be no swim team, no swim lessons, all surfaces, doors, railings and bathrooms will be cleaned every hour; no chairs from the Pool stock as there use to be, you have to bring your chair back and forth everyday with you; and the Concession has not been determine as of yet. If you can't open the Pool and have people in there, you know a big majority, it doesn't really pay. We want to open that service for you. Ralph is pulling his hair out and I know Bill you are the Pool Chairman you feel the same way, we all do, we all feel the same way. We also believe with this year there's probably not going to be a lot of people going away and that pool might be used more than ever. Folks, I mean I don't know how you would sit there and have a number and have to take people's temperatures and you know six-foot social distancing in the sun areas and in the shade areas. You know the pool is not the problem. when you are in pool the

chlorine kills any disease there is, so that wouldn't be a problem. But Ralph and I talk everyday about this and we're going to sit here and play it by ear and see what happens. The same thing with our summer camp ladies and gentlemen, we are still waiting on word from the Governor. I know there's been smaller camps that have been cancelled already, like basketball camps. I'm reading different athletic camps are being cancelled. The problem with our camp is, it's not a problem it's a good thing, we have about 1600 kids that signed up and about 800 there every day. I don't know how we are going to social distance 800 kids a day especially when they are in the first, second, third, fourth and fifth grade, it's going to be very difficult. We are racking our brains to try to figure ways to open it even though it's at a lesser, so at least to have the kids enjoy something, but we are really under the hammer right now ladies and gentlemen. Summer camp is the staple of this community and if we can't do it it's going to be a miserable summer for a lot of us. I know Ralph Bernardo who gives his all every day is miserable over this right now because he wants to provide this like we do, that recreation need for our children.

Grass Pickup is tomorrow, so please have it curbside today. If you need appliance/metal pickup please email the DPW at [dpw@ourclark.com](mailto:dpw@ourclark.com) by Thursday at 3:00 pm, Bulky Waste same thing. This week is the Third Ward, then the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Fourth Ward, then June 1<sup>st</sup> Ward 1, June 8<sup>th</sup> Ward 2, Ward 3 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Ward 4 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The PMUA (Plainfield Municipal Utility) will be extending Wednesday pickups for our recycling through June. So, you know Zone 1 will be the next pickup on Wednesday, May 20, so get your recycling out and keep it out.

Well this is something I want to do for the senior class but I'm going to hold off on that. First, I want to work on the gradation and then we'll talk to this community about throwing them some kind of party because they deserve it, these kids. My heart goes out to our seniors who are basically striped from everything this year, it's really a tough, tough year.

With all do respect at this time Mr. President if I could call the Superintendent of Public Works Scott McCabe to give a Proclamation on Public Works Week, it's well deserved, good hardworking men are doing a great job.

Township Clerk read the Mayor's Proclamation into the record (see attached)

Scott McCabe: I would just like to thank everybody; it means a lot to the guys at the shop. They have been working really hard. With bulky cleanup, they are doing a crazy amount of bulk, everybody is home throwing it all out. But I commend all the guys and the work they have been doing. Thank you again Mr. Mayor, I appreciate it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You're welcome Scott, we have a good bunch of guys.

The other thing very quickly I'll end up with. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks we do have it scheduled for the July 4<sup>th</sup>, God only knows at this point. I was talking with John Laezza about it and if we can't do it on the 4<sup>th</sup>, maybe we can do it Labor Day weekend or something, we'll have to see. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks is always one of my favorite times, I know a lot of you do too. I know Brian's there every year, we talk about it constantly. But it's a great time to see all the people out and we

have a great show planned as usual. You know our Senior Citizen Birthday Breakfasts are all on hold. When and if we can we are going to do that and see our seniors for breakfast again. Look, if it was up to me this town would be up 110% but it's not. So, I mean we have to obey the Governor's orders. Hopefully he can see that there are people out there and they are getting very antsy right now and want to get this thing opened. In the meantime, we do have to respect the social distancing, be careful, it is a deadly virus. You know what 50% of the deaths from New Jersey came out of nursing homes. And one of the things that I'll say here for the record, I think the State of New Jersey should have a person working in every nursing home paid for by the nursing home that is there to monitor that site each and every week to hear people's complaints. Infections are constant in there, allowing people to go in there with the virus and spreading it and killing the poor elderly people, it's a shame to see people treated this way. And let's not forget when you go into a nursing home your poor loved one signs everything that they ever worked for over to them and they get treated in a second-rate manner. And if these pretenders in Trenton, the legislators, that want to feel that they are above people like us, in executive offices down there really want to show their worth, why don't they get behind this effort and put people in there who are paid for by the nursing home and have real advocates in there for the poor elderly people who end up in those nursing homes?

The last thing I'm going to leave you with; if you look at this virus and study what's happening around you in New Jersey and in New York areas like that, where has this virus hit so hard? This virus has been hit hard in high density developments. I'm going to be asking the State Legislature shortly along with the Governor by letter to stop and pivot and stop this high-density development immediately. They are going to over pack our towns. Someday if we have another Pandemic down the road, towns like Clark and Cranford and Westfield and everybody here in Union County will get hit doubly hard because we are going to have too much high-density development. We're going to see when this is over if Trenton cares about people's health or about bringing city people in for their votes, this is what I want to see. What is on the board right now is on the board, I'll live with that. But our other obligation, it should be stopped. It should be turned around. We should go back to a COAH type, Council on Affordable Housing type group and work our affordable plan that way. We can't provide for people who need affordable housing without building new housing and when they ask me, I'll give them that answer, it's not hard. But let's see if the fair share housing people and the builders' lobby that control the political purse strings at election time if these people are willing to stand up for the pandemics of the future or about politics of the present. Thank you and have a good evening.

Township Clerk: Reports given this evening will be available in the Clerk's office and on the township website [www.ourclark.com](http://www.ourclark.com)

#### **REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Councilwoman Albanese:

Library Report: see attached

Councilman Hund:

Fire Report: see attached  
Police Report: see attached

Councilman Smith:

DPW Report: see attached  
Recreation and Pool Report: see attached

Councilman Toal:

Environmental Commission:

- everything is on hold due to COVID-19
- going to reschedule the Rahway River and Reservoir cleanup
- talked about the Jupiter Street fire that took place on May 4<sup>th</sup>, thanked the fire and police departments
- asked the Mayor for any updates on CVS at Jack’s Tavern location

Mayor Bonaccorso: It’s a tough question that people keep asking. Because we’ve been saying for years, it’s private property. As long as they are conforming with the regulations, they can build it when they want. They came to the Planning Board, they had partnership problems. They worked them out and they are ready to go. The Planning Board gave them a year extension from January to get this project up and going. I would hope they would do that or they would lose all their approvals at that point and then we would have to look at eminent domain at that point. But hopefully they’ll get their act together and get it going up soon enough.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. Mayor for answering the questions for the residents of Benjamin Street. That’s all I have Mr. President.

Council President O’Connor:

Finance Report: Mr. Laezza will address at the end of the meeting to talk about where Clark is. So, Mr. Laezza I thank you in advance for that  
Tax Collector Report: I have received and reviewed the Tax Collectors monthly report of receipts which has also been properly filed in the Clerk’s Office  
Emergency Squad Report: no report

**ORDINANCES, APPROPRIATIONS AND CLAIMS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

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

**Ordinance 20-13**

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

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

Council President O'Connor opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 20-13

Seeing no one coming forward Councilwoman Albanese closed the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Hund

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

Discussion:

Council President O'Connor: mentioned if the County can take a look at the timing of the left hand turn light at the intersection of Westfield Avenue and Raritan Road going towards the police station.

Police Chief Matos: That light is ours, correct? (John Laezza: yes) I'll have Sergeant Lott reach out.

Council President O'Connor: Yes, because it does back up. I mean if you miss the light you are stuck there for a whole extra cycle. So that affects that other side of town.

John Laezza: That's how all left-hand turn lights work out. Unless you're in this position waiting for it to turn so it recognizes that there's a car there. It will not turn left if there's not a car there. If you move up and then the light hasn't turn to the left signal, there will be no left signal, so you'll have to wait that extra cycle.

Council President O'Connor: Okay, thank you for explaining it.

No further discussion

Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-13 made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Toal

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

Ordinance Adopted

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**Ordinance 20-14**

**ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO 19-14 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING THE TERMINAL AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 58, LOTS 4 AND 5 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ADOPTED ON MAY 20, 2019**

Council President O'Connor opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 20-14

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

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

Discussion:

John Laezza: explained the ordinance.

No further discussion

Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-14 was made by Council President O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Toal

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

Ordinance Adopted

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE:

The Supplemental Debt Statement for the following Bond Ordinance has been properly filed with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs by the Chief Financial Officer

**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$800,000 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 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Clark, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Township of Clark, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey (the "Township") is hereby authorized to make a public improvement and to acquire new additional or replacement equipment and machinery in, by and for said Township, as more particularly described in Section 4 hereof. Said improvements shall include all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purposes"), the respective amounts of money hereinafter stated as the appropriation for said respective purposes. Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the making of such improvements is not a current expense of said Township.

Section 4. The several purposes hereby authorized for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued are set

forth in the following "Schedule of Improvements, Purposes and Amounts" which schedule also shows (1) the amount of the appropriation and the estimated cost of each such purpose, and (2) the amount of each sum which is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance such purposes, and (3) the estimated maximum amount of bonds and notes to be issued for each such purpose, and (4) the period of usefulness of each such purpose, according to its reasonable life, computed from the date of said bonds:

SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS, PURPOSES AND AMOUNTS

A. Replacement of the gym floors in the Recreation Wing of the Municipal Building. It is hereby determined and stated that said public building being improved is of "Class B" or equivalent construction as defined in Section 22 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law").

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$400,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 20,000
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$380,000
Period of Usefulness	15 years

B. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery for the use of the Fire Department consisting of (i) fire hose, (ii) rescue tools, (iii) self-contained breathing apparatus equipment and (iv) personal protective equipment.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$400,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 20,000

Bonds and Notes Authorized		\$380,000
Period of Usefulness		5 years
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Aggregate Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$800,000	
Aggregate Down Payment Appropriated		\$ 40,000
Aggregate Amount of Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$760,000	

Section 5. The cost of such purposes, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$20,000 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purposes, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 6. It is hereby determined and stated that moneys exceeding \$40,000, appropriated for down payments on capital improvements or for the capital improvement fund in budgets heretofore adopted for said Township, are now available to finance said purposes. The sum of \$40,000 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purposes.

Section 7. To finance said purposes, bonds of said Township of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$760,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by

this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 8. To finance said purposes, bond anticipation notes of said Township of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$760,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 9. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Mayor and by a financial officer and shall be under the seal of said Township and attested by the Township Clerk or Deputy Township Clerk.

Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the Director of Revenue and Finance who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 10. It is hereby determined and declared that the average period of usefulness of said purposes, according to their reasonable lives, taking into consideration the respective amounts of bonds or notes authorized for said purposes, is a period of ten years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 11. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Township Clerk of said Township, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said Township, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$760,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 12. Any funds received from private parties, the County of Union, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purposes, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purposes, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purposes shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 13. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Township Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 14. The Township intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 of this bond ordinance. If the Township incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the Township hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 15. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this

ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the Township, and the Township shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Township for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount. Section 16. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Moved by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Discussion:

John Laezza: explained that the Bond Ordinance authorizes funds for the replacement of the gym floors and the purchase of equipment for the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Albanese: made a comment that the floor in the Aerobics room should be looked at.

John Laezza: stated they haven't gotten any funding for that and will look into it next year to replace the floor.

No further discussion

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

Public Hearing will be June 1<sup>st</sup>, Municipal Building, Room 30

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:** Council President O'Connor, Chairman of Finance Committee gave a report on Current and Capital expenditures received and encumbered through May 13, 2020 in the amount \$237,687.16.

**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 O'Connor opened the Citizen Hearing on the Agenda

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 20-64**

**WHEREAS** S. Brothers, Inc. has completed work on the 2019 NJDOT – Meadow Road Improvements and has requested Final Payment; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Engineer recommends payment in the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred Nine Dollars and Eighty-One Cents (\$35,509.81) including final quantities change order which increases the adjusted contract amount by Twenty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars and Thirty-Six Cents (\$27,798.36); and

**WHEREAS** the Chief Financial Officer has ascertained there are available sufficient uncommitted appropriations in Bond Ordinance 19-13 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 Forty Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars and Seventy-One Cents (\$40,835.71); and

**WHEREAS** S. Brothers, Inc. has submitted a Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$40,835.71.

**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 \$35,509.81 including final quantities change order and release of the Performance Guarantee.

Moved by Councilman Hund, seconded by Councilman Smith

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

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**Resolution 20-65**

**WHEREAS** the Township of Clark entered into a Grant Agreement with the County of Union on August 20, 2019 covering the period from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 to receive the Year 45 Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) award of \$18,000.00 for ADA Curb and Ramp Rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Engineer has solicited quotes from four (4) contractors for the construction of ADA Curb and Ramp Improvements; and

**WHEREAS** of the four solicited, two contractors responded; Cifelli & Son General Construction in the amounts ranging from \$3,250.00 to \$3,400.00 per ramp and S. Brothers, Inc. in amounts ranging from \$3,625.00 to \$3,750.00 per ramp; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Engineer has presented a written recommendation for the award of contract to Cifelli & Son General Construction, 4 Coppola Street, Nutley, NJ 07110 for construction of the first six ramps in the amount of \$19,800.00; and

**WHEREAS** both quotes are in excess of the \$18,000.00 Community Development Block Grant amount: and

**WHEREAS** the Chief Financial Officer has ascertained there are available sufficient uncommitted appropriations in the amount of \$18,000.00 funded by Community Development Block Grant Program Year 45 and \$1,800.00 funded by Ordinance 19-11 as attached hereto as a "Certification of Availability of Funds" for a total contract not to exceed Nineteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars (\$19,800.00).

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, New Jersey that it hereby concurs with the Engineer and awards a contract to Cifelli & Son General Construction, for the ADA Curb and Ramp Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$19,800.00.

Moved by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Smith

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Resolution 20-66**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey that it does hereby authorize the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute an Acknowledgement of Continuation of the Shared Services Agreement with the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority for an additional one-year term for certain solid waste services with respect to Bulky Waste Type – 13 and Construction and Demolition Waste – Type 13C generated within the township.

Moved by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Smith

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

**Resolution 20-67**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey that it does hereby affirm and ratify the action taken by the Mayor to execute a Fuel Sharing Agreement with the Township of Cranford to temporarily access the other’s gasoline fuel pumps during times of emergency

Moved by Councilman Hund, seconded by Councilman Toal

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Resolution 20-68**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Clark upon the recommendation of the Mayor of the Township of Clark that Josephine Burkhardt residing at 16 Lincoln Boulevard and Robert Tarantino residing at 25 Blake Drive be and the same are hereby re-appointed as Constables in the Township of Clark to serve for a term of three (3) years to commence upon the swearing in, payment of the annual fee and the posting of a Constable’s Bond; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the aforementioned persons shall be required to comply with N.J.S.A. 40A:9-120 *et seq.* which statute regulates the appointment, authority, duties and responsibilities of appointed constables.

Moved by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Hund

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

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 20-69**

**WHEREAS** in accordance with a request from the Tax Collector for authorization to refund overpayment of 2020 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) in accordance with the following schedule:

<b>CLARK TOWNSHIP</b>						
<b>TAX REFUNDS-2020</b>						
<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>QUAL.</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>REFUND</b>
135	14		Anthony Dagostino	35	Brant Avenue	\$ 3,711.96
<b>TOTAL REFUND:</b>						<b>\$ 3,711.96</b>

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Resolution 20-70

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 2020											
CLARK TOWNSHIP											
REF	#	Acct#	Name	#	Address	Reason	Original	Revised	Credit	Addl	Comments
20	8	793-0	Buster Living Trust	95	Meadow Rd	Faulty meter	\$1,130.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 850.00		
20	9	709-0	G&G Development LLC	492	Raritan Road	No Usage	\$280.00	\$ -	\$ 280.00		
20	10	3082-0	27-29 Westfield Ave	27	Westfield Avenue	water issue	\$23,836.30	\$ 280.00	\$23,556.30		
20	11	3960-0	Drejaj, Nikolla	28	Suburban Drive	Meter issue	\$1,330.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,050.00		
20	12	2502-2	Clark Circle Shopping		Central Avenue	no usage	\$280.00	\$ -	\$ 280.00		
20	13	3933-19	Panda Express	1255	Raritan Road	Meter issue	\$81,724.90	\$5,580.00	\$76,144.90		2019
20	14	3933-19	Panda Express	1255	Raritan Road	Meter issue	\$156,367.90	\$5,580.00	\$150,787.90		2020
20	15	2228-0	1088 Raritan Road	1088	Raritan Road	demolished	\$11,055.70	\$ -	\$ 11,055.70		
20	16	2372-0	Jeronimo, Simone	82	Dawn Drive	water issue	\$2,930.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 2,650.00		
20	17	1347-0	Francisco, Gloria	465	Madison Hill Rd	leaky toilets	\$2,880.00	\$1,430.00	\$ 1,450.00		
20	18	2467-2	FranEd Realty	1193	Raritan Road	water issue	\$1,479.48	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,199.48		

20	19	347-0	Paglino, Danielle	89	Grove Street	vacant	\$1,630.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,350.00		
20	20	4314-0	Domenico, Lettini	332	Valley Road	No usage	\$280.00	\$ -	\$ 280.00		
20	21	3021-0	Maxemow, Walter	1272	Madison Hill Rd	water issue	\$1,080.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 800.00		
20	22	2546-0	Morse, Lawrence	69	Riverside Dr	well	\$500.00	\$ 335.00	\$ 165.00		
20	23	1702-0	Gallo, Federico	109	Lefferts Lane	water meter	\$2,190.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,910.00		
20	24	4610-0	Mallick, Paul	39	Colonial Dr	pool	\$480.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00		
20	25	5226-1	Hyatt Hill Golf	1300	Raritan Road	Meter issue	\$63,198.40	\$31,860.00	\$ 31,338.40		
20	26	2037-0	Colicchio, Phillip	10	Elisa Lane	leaky toilets	\$2,830.00	\$1,655.00	\$ 1,175.00		
20	27	4087-0	McManus, Kevin&Terri	9	Sunset Drive	leaky faucet	\$380.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 100.00		
20	28	1723-0	Lugo, Eric	46	Terhune	sprinkler issue	\$530.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 250.00		
20	29	2706-0	Reichenbach, Donna	27	Richard Street	water heater	\$1,230.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 950.00		
20	30	18-0	Amorin, David	429	Willow Way	demolished	\$280.00	\$ -	\$ 280.00		
20	31	4642-0	Abdeo, Nalini & Jayant	99	St Germain	leaky toilets	\$5,530.00	\$2,765.00	\$ 2,765.00		
20	32	1978-0	Gomez, Mriano	955	Raritan Road	broken pipe	\$7,330.00	\$ 380.00	\$ 6,950.00		
20	33	3085-0	Renguo, Lin	35	Westfield Avenue	leaky toilets	\$1,430.00	\$ 505.00	\$ 925.00		
20	34	2680-0	Correia, Candida	25	Prescott Turn	Meter issue	\$1,980.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,700.00		
20	35	5366-0	Bartell/Thailand Rest	291	Central Avenue	meter issue	\$9,122.50	\$6,755.00	\$ 2,367.50		
20	36	3093-0	Chin, Daniel	81	Westfield Avenue	vacant lot	\$280.00	\$ -	\$ 280.00		
20	37	2666-0	Lawrence, Deborah	115	Westfield Avenue	leaky toilets	\$6,280.00	\$3,505.00	\$ 2,775.00		
20	38	3322-0	Brennan, Thomas	68	Joseph Street	water issue	\$1,130.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 850.00		
<b>TOTAL:</b>									<b>\$326,715.18</b>		

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

Discussion:

John Laezza: explained Resolution 20-70 (Sewer Billing Adjustments)

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

**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 O'Connor opened the public portion of the meeting

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

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Mr. President. I do want to clarify one thing for the record. A couple of weeks ago there was an article on our real news here in town TAPintoClark about Congressman Malinowski asking every Mayor in his district and Freeholders to sign a letter asking the federal government for help, financial help going forward with the budget shortfalls going forward. And I did not sign that letter. I'm here to tell the community why, I have already, but just for the record.

It was a political letter to me Council. #1 I never refused any help, if and when the date comes and we need it, as you know and have seen before I'll be out there asking for it. I've been in government, politics for 24 years; I can smell a political letter when I see one. If you are in government you work your all and you need to go to your caucus, to your party, to your body for help for your citizens, you most certainly don't need a letter. If you, Mr. President in the Second Ward needed for your citizens, I surely doubt that you would need to go around and have a letter signed to bring it to your Mayor and your Council to try to convince us for any funding. I called it a political letter then and I call it a political now. And I'm going to be vindicated in this next statement. Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill from up in Morris County and Senator Bob Menendez who I don't usually agree with have drafted Bills in the House and in the Senate to help local governments and counties without letters being signed, without letters being signed. Although I'm not a fan of either representative, I do give them an enormous amount of creditability for going to the House and putting those Bills up and trying to help the municipalities and counties throughout the country, we are going to need it. Now, they did it for New Jersey. Like I tried to explain at the time, I said most certainly if you see New Jersey doing it, New York is going to do it, Connecticut is going to do it, Pennsylvania is going to do it, etc. and so on. So, I do feel vindicated seeing those two representatives working for their people without trying to have a letter signed. The 7<sup>th</sup> District is up this year in 2020, Malinowski versus Tom Kean and you know Congressman, if you need to do something, go do it. If you are doing it right, I'll be the first one to applaud you. We do not need politics at this time with the COVID-19 and the Coronavirus. And to see what Speaker Pelosi has done with three trillion dollars and the word cannabis is mentioned in there sixty-eight times and every other rip off tool. It's really sad to see how that party is treating the Americans in this country by trying to get other agenda items through at a time of tragedy in this great nation of ours. People are starving, people need help,

businesses are going out and we have representatives in Washington playing political games at this time, it's very sad.

I would like to thank you all again for being here with me tonight. It's great again to work for our citizens out of the shadows of Zoom and whatever you guys are on the computer. I'm old school, I want to look at you in the face, I like it. God Bless our community. You know our Pandemic has been pretty darn good. I need to before I do anything, I should have done this earlier but now is as good a time as any. I have to really thank a hero in our employment here in town and she is our Health Officer Nancy Raymond. I have to tell you something, I've been working with Nancy for 20 years now and I have never, I mean she's always been a very competent hard-working person that goes without saying, but I'm going to tell you something, if you want to see a lady that left it out there during this virus and especially in the beginning when she was working seven days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day taking my calls all hours of the day and night answering questions, working on webinars, state, county, I mean all over. Nancy, I have to tell you on behalf of myself and this Council and this community, God Bless you. You have done some job, you really have done some job. And you know guys the thing that's so crazy about it all, she's a one lady team, there is no assistant, there's no secretary, she does it all and she did it all. So, Nancy God Bless you, thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done for Clark Township. And this won't be the last time you hear it because we're not done yet and I'm sure you still are going to do more.

Our Corona positive cases in Clark were 222 positive cases, 214 are closed, that leaves 6 pending cases. That means we had 220 return to good health, six cases out there we had...I believe we had three passing's unfortunately in the community and we had some more of that over in the nursing home. We've had several days of zero new cases in Clark. So, I want to thank the citizens of Clark for doing their job in distancing, and washing up, and doing all right by everybody. After all we are in this together, but I did want to read that report and I did want to say to Nancy, God Bless your heart and you've done a great job. I couldn't be prouder of a Health Officer. So, when you see her, thank her, that's one person that really deserves a lot of thanks in this community. Good night, thank you very much.

#### Councilwoman Albanese:

- thanked Nancy for all her efforts and diligence
- mentioned the Rec Program has a Karate Program that is continuing, most students have returned and we are working online teaching classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, new members are welcome
- congratulated Hari Grankowski for coming in first place of two areas of the karate tournament; first place in karate form for his rank and first place for special karate form for performance of Snake Form, that took place in Berkley, California

#### Councilman Hund:

- thanked Nancy and spoke about his interactions with her
- thanked the police, fire, and DPW, for doing an outstanding job during the current situation

Councilman Smith:

- congratulated his daughter Dominique who just graduated from East Stroudsburg University
- mentioned all who graduated college are going to have a difficult time finding employment due to the concerns and issues with the workforce with all of the unemployment and budget constraints

Councilman Toal:

- talked about the passing of Dr. Kowalenko due to being a victim of the Coronavirus
- announced the passing of Clark residents within the township
- thanked the fire department for a job well done regarding the fire on Jupiter Street
- congratulated all the graduates

John Laezza: One thing that the Mayor forgot to mention and I want to give him credit for. We will be having all our employees who want to be tested for the COVID-19 virus and they will also be tested for the antibodies with a blood test. So that will happen on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am and we're hoping to get I think about 75 completed by 1:00 pm. So that we will know the condition of the majority of our employees about two days after that.

The last thing I would like to talk about is, I guess you've been reading in the paper, that Governor Murphy has indicated that he has a ten-billion-dollar shortfall in his State budget. And he has a possibly twenty billion shortfall in his 20-21 budget which hasn't been introduced yet. With that in mind I looked at our revenues as of May 11, 2020 in comparison to May 11, 2019. And looking at that our licenses, we're ahead about seven hundred and five dollars. Our permits we are down about twenty-four thousand three hundred dollars; Municipal Court is down thirty-four thousand dollars; interest on taxes is down ten thousand dollars; interest on investments we are up about twenty-two thousand dollars; Cable TV Franchise we are up about sixteen hundred dollars; cell tower rentals we are up about nine thousand dollars; State Aid we are down about two million dollars, two million nine thousand to be exact; hotel tax we're slightly ahead by fifteen thousand; now to be raised by taxation, delinquent taxes we are down by seventy-five thousand dollars. So, what does that add up to, it adds up to about a million six hundred and eighty-six or seven thousand dollars that we'll have a shortfall in revenue. When I said this to the Mayor, he said well we really don't know if that's going to happen because the State still hasn't closed their books. Well our Governor decided that April 15<sup>th</sup> was not going to be the deadline for New Jersey State Income Taxes. He moved that over to July 15<sup>th</sup>. So basically, he has a shortfall in his budget that ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. So, what did he do? He extended the State's budget to September 30<sup>th</sup>, so this year the State budget will be a fifteen-month budget. When they give State Aid to local governments, he waits and steals it from the beginning of next year's budget because most of the money should come to us by June 30<sup>th</sup>, it doesn't. He starts it on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the subsequent year budget and he pays us that budget through December. Well now that his year ends September 30<sup>th</sup>, that might mean he's going to use the money sometime in October but not all of it by December. So, I'm pretty sure that that million six or seven is not going to be here, that's my uneducated guess. Why it's not going to be here? Because the Governor has reiterated that if we don't get ten to twenty billion dollars from the Federal Government that the revenue the State Aid to local municipalities and to school districts are going to be reduced significantly because the State has the ability to always use the money for local government and school

districts to accommodate their own coffers. So that's why I'm giving you this news. I have a budget that could have a million six or seven thousand dollars shortfall by the end of the year, not our cause. I want to commend and thank the citizens of Clark. The May tax bills came in mostly on time, we have eleven more days to bring it up but we've had at least an 85% collection rate as of now and that's basically good in these times. I believe we'll still get more before May 29<sup>th</sup>. I don't say this as a downer but that million seven if that happens then that's 10% down, I would say next years revenues will be down about 20% if we are still in it. There's no way the State revenues are going to go up because once you close the government and you close the workers from going, they are getting no sales tax from April to June. They are getting nothing until those stores open up. So, all revenues that they may have anticipated are down substantially. So, just a word to the wise we'll have to watch their numbers pretty closely. I've always been an optimist, I'm still an optimist. I think I will make it work for Clark but we're going to have to tighten the strings a little bit next year. Thank you.

Council President O'Connor: Thank you Mr. Laezza for keeping us the Council as you always inform as well as the citizens regarding the financial situation, thank you so much.

Police Chief Matos: I just have three quick things. I just want to echo the Mayor's sentiments about Nancy Raymond, the Health Officer. I had to call for the last two months even on weekends and I've depended on her a lot to kind of guide me into clarifying some things. She's done an amazing job and it's been extremely helpful to me.

The other thing I wanted to bring up is for the most part things around Clark, the citizens have been complying with the social distancing regulations. The one issue we're starting to see is Bartell Park, we are constantly having to go there especially late afternoons to clear people out having organized soccer games and sports, kids and adults. So, I'm asking the parents if you know our child is heading towards Bartell Park, try to prevent them from going there. It's becoming kind of a nuisance. Bartell Park is a park but it's pretty much just a soccer field and a playground, playgrounds are closed and of course the soccer field but the rest of the park is opened but not for organized sports. So, if you know your child or your teenager is going there to play soccer, please advise them not to go. And we have been there numerous times to throw them out. Other than that, everything else around town has been quiet, so stay healthy and see you next month.

Scott McCabe: I just have two quick things. DPW would also like to thank L'Oreal, as the Mayor was saying before with these disinfecting machines. We wound up getting from Union County, Chief Cerasa was a big push on that. We use them constantly in DPW, PD is using them and Town Hall I think has a hand held one, it was phenomenal. I really want to give a shout out to a group in town that's called FLAG (Front Line Appreciation Group). I can't name them all, they are a group of citizens in Clark that came together, they have been sending food to PD, DPW, fire department, anybody on the frontline and they really deserve a little bit of credit, a lot of credit, they have been doing a really great job. They are a great group of people, that whole FLAG group #clarkstrong they are out there. The yard signs are up, that's where all the funding is coming from. They now have bumper stickers and magnets and they are doing all business through Clark businesses. So, they are trying to keep their business in Clark. That's all I have, thank you, stay healthy.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I do want to thank the FLAG group. Scott is right a great group of people. I want to thank all the residents for supporting all our local businesses, please continue to do that, these people need our help. Let's not forget all the good they do for us when things are out there and going.

To follow up on Mr. Laezza's comments, not that I really disagree with any of them, but I just want to throw some more wood on the fire when I talk about politics. I know Governor Murphy went to the White House asking for money. And one of the questions the President asked him are you willing to forgo your sanctuary State policies. Tonight, I was watching the real news on Fox 66 Maria Bartiromo was talking with Mayor DeBlasio from New York. She asked him the same questions, he can never give her an answer. The real question is going to be for the citizens of this country, this state, and our town. Watch, watch when they are crying for something, if they are willing to give up their political angle that they are all out there doing. You know this has been a state that I am embarrassed to say wants to lock up people for gathering and standing too close to each other and using a park and a playground and the Governor said from a misdemeanor to a fourth degree crime, the police should go out there and do what they need to do. But for a sanctuary State to have some illegal murder or rape someone and jump onto our soil and say "sanctuary State, you can't deport me, you can't touch me", it's something we better start thinking about in this country, we better start putting our heads together. I want to see if his sanctuary State policies supersede his need for revenue for his budget to help the citizens of this State.

As I said earlier tonight, I want to see if his love for affordable high-density housing seeing with the pandemic has caused in those areas if he's willing to step aside and put that behind him in the future. There's going to be a lot of questions that need to be answered in this State. And I hope the people of this State are smart enough to watch and remember, and remember. If he does it the right way remember that, if he does it the wrong way remember that also. I'm not trying to be negative towards the Governor, I just want transparency. If politics is good here, then politics better not be over there. We need money, we need help and hopefully they can come across and do what's right because we always paid into our pension funds. The Township of Clark for twenty years me as Mayor and John running our finances even when there were pension holidays under another Governor we paid into the fund. We always wanted to make sure that he couldn't come back and say we need it now, it's a double payment, which they had done. We've always paid our obligation as a government in Clark. Let's see what the State government is going to do in the future. I have my guess but let's see. Good night, thanks.

Mark Dugan: no comment.

Township Clerk: I would like to talk about the Governor's Executive Order 144. On Friday, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 144 ordering the July 7<sup>th</sup> Primary Election to be conducted primarily by Vote by Mail ballots with at least one polling location open in each municipality. So, in Clark that means the recreation side of the Municipal Building. All Clerks were polled by the Board of Elections asking which schools have air conditioning because that was initially a concern when they moved from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>. So, the Municipal Building is air conditioned, so they are going to have one polling location open. Vote by Mail ballots will

automatically be sent to all active registered Democratic and Republican voters without applying. Normally you request an application and you apply to vote by mail. Everyone will be receiving ballots; no application is necessary. The Vote by Mail applications will be sent to all active voters who are registered as Unaffiliated and all inactive registered Democrats and Republicans voters. All Vote by Mail applications and return envelopes have prepaid postage. To be considered a valid Vote by Mail ballot it must be postmarked on or before July 7<sup>th</sup> and received by 8:00 pm on July 14<sup>th</sup> and they will continue to count these ballots until they are all counted. The Vote by Mail ballots cannot be returned to the polling location. So, when you receive that in the mail your choice is to basically vote that ballot and mail it in. If you want to go the polls, you will not be voted on a machine, you will be handed another provisional ballot. The only people who will be allowed to vote on a machine and I assume they will have only one machine in each location is for handicap accessibility, everyone else is going to vote on paper. All polling places will have infection control practices in place and strict social distancing measures to maintain 6 ft of distance between voters as well as between voters and poll workers. The full text of the Executive Order, which I have here, is attached and will be part of the minutes of this meeting. I have also asked Jennifer to put it on the Township Website so people can read full details because it would take a half hour to read you all the details. And also, we had a blast email sent to any resident who have signed up for those emails. If anyone has questions, they can call me at 732-388-3669 or email me at [clerk@ourclark.com](mailto:clerk@ourclark.com)

Council President O'Connor: I just have one question. Normally when you Vote by Mail you are automatically voting by mail forever until you opt out, is there an opt clause going to happen or is it just a one-time thing.

Township Clerk: That was not included in this particular Executive Order, that is a very good question. I don't know how they'll do it going forward. However, they did say in the Executive Order that the application that they will be sending to the inactive and unaffiliated voters is a specific application for this election only. So that question may or may not be answered in that, I haven't seen it yet.

Council President O'Connor:

- congratulated his daughter Courtney who just graduated from Quinnipiac
- talked about graduation being a big milestone in your life, thanked the Mayor for writing the letter to the Governor regarding graduation
- thanked and acknowledged Edie, Township Clerk for her hard work during this COVID-19 pandemic
- also thanked Ed Davenport, who runs the camera for our meetings
- thanked the Mayor, BA and township employees who have been opened to the Council

Township Clerk: Mr. President, thank you for acknowledging me and I also want to acknowledge Terri and Dawn who really fought through this virus and we missed them, I was in constant contact with them for seven weeks that they were sick and I'm so happy. No one can be happier than me, that they are back. They are healthy and they are still fighting to stay healthy. I've always appreciated them, but I appreciate them even more now.

Council President O'Connor: My last comment, Councilman Smith hit on it. This is difficult times for all of us. One of the things growing up living in Clark and still being here is I've seen Clark pulled together in the worst times to really help each other out. I'm not going to give specific examples because they are not the best times for us to remember. But your neighbors are there for you, we are there for you, and if you need help, ask. The hardest thing to do is ask for help but if you ask for help, I'm sure many, many people will be there to help you. So, with that I want to thank everybody and wish everybody the best, and stay healthy.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICK J. O'CONNOR  
Council President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EDITH L. MERKEL, RMC  
Township Clerk



# MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of Clark Township; and

WHEREAS, these infrastructures, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public work professionals, who are engineers, managers and employees at all levels of government and the private sector who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in Clark Township to gain knowledge of and to maintain a progressive interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public work programs in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT proclaimed by the Mayor and Township Council that the week of May 17-23, 2020 be designated as:

**CLARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

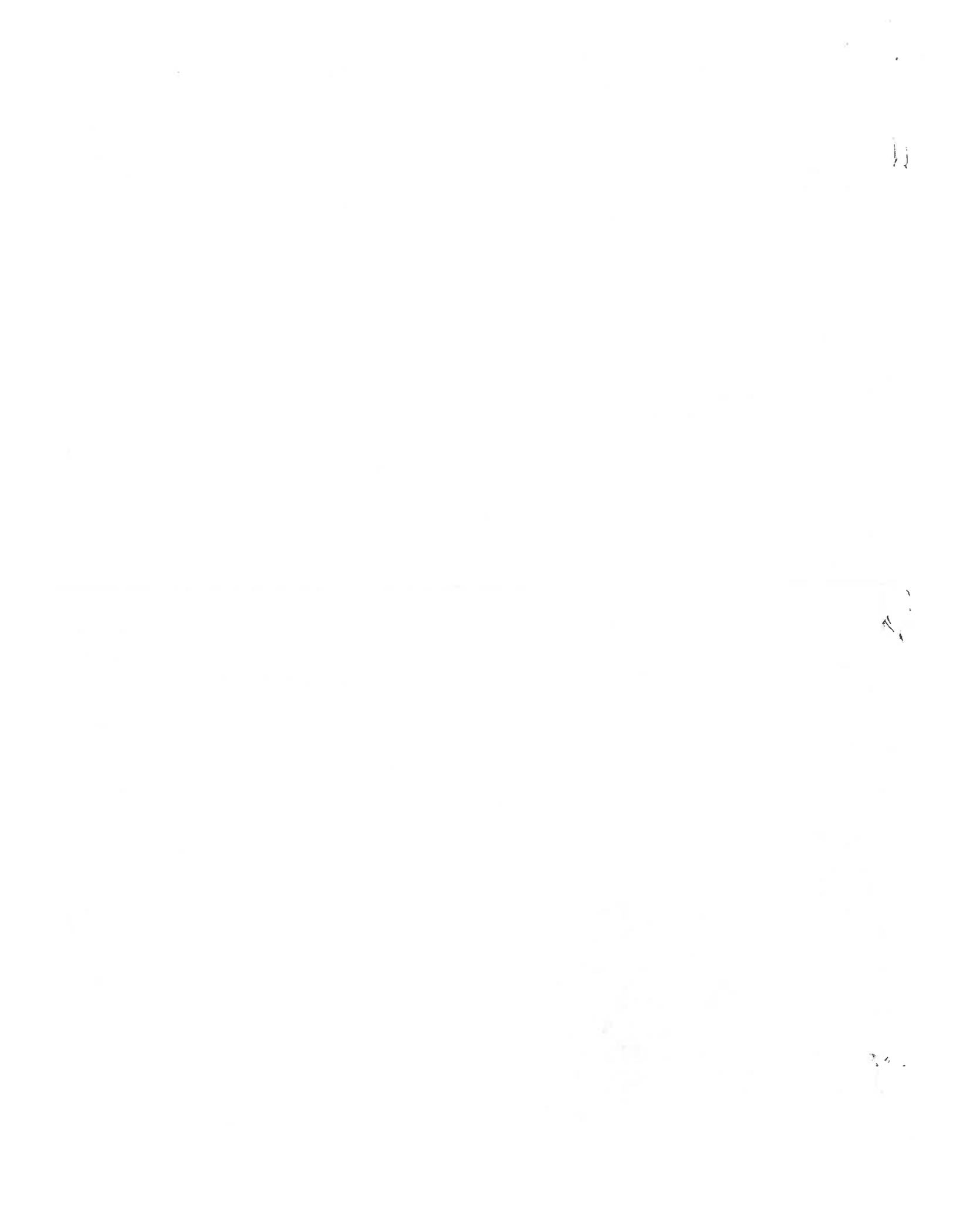
**NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Mayor has hereto affixed his official Seal and Signature



Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor  
Township of Clark

Dated: May 7, 2020

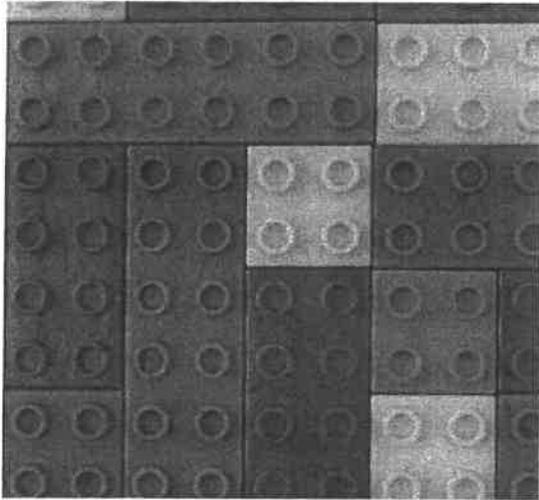


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# CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 5/18-5/25

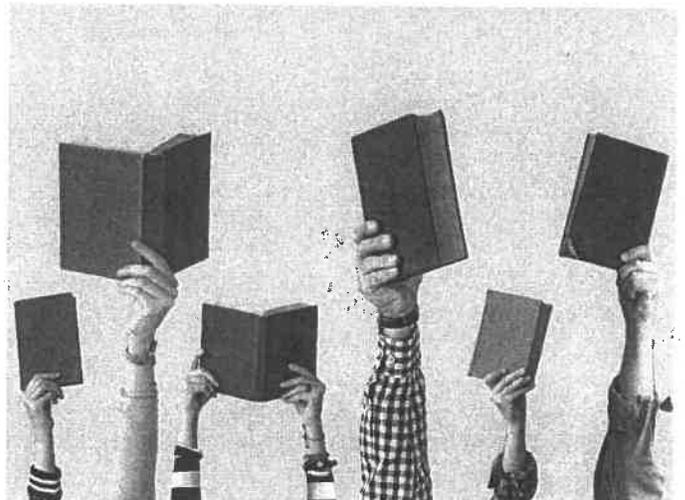
Clark Public Library / 732-388-5999 / [www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org)



## **VIRTUAL 8 MINUTE LEGO CHALLENGE WEDS. 5/20 AT 2 P.M.**

Join us via Zoom to express your creativity with our Timed Lego Building Challenge. Kids will get a prompt, such as a "piece of furniture" and then have 8 minutes to build it with Lego. There will be an hour filled with different prompts!

Please register for any of the above programs by clicking [here](#) or emailing [dmorley@clarklibrary.org](mailto:dmorley@clarklibrary.org) and a Zoom or online link meeting invitation will be emailed to you.



## **LIBRARY CARDS, PICK-UP & PLACING HOLDS**

- If you need a library card or need any other help with a circulation issue please email [circulation@clarklibrary.org](mailto:circulation@clarklibrary.org).
  - If you place a hold while we have been closed we will be honoring those holds once we can safely offer curbside pick-up. Once we have a date for curbside pick-up we will share the dates on social media and websites.
  - We will begin ordering new items so please click [here](#) to see what new books we have. You can place a hold with your library card and we will notify you when your curbside pick-up is available in the future.
-



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 5/18-5/25

Clark Public Library/ 732-388-5999 / [www.clarklibrary.org/](http://www.clarklibrary.org/)

## MEDICARE



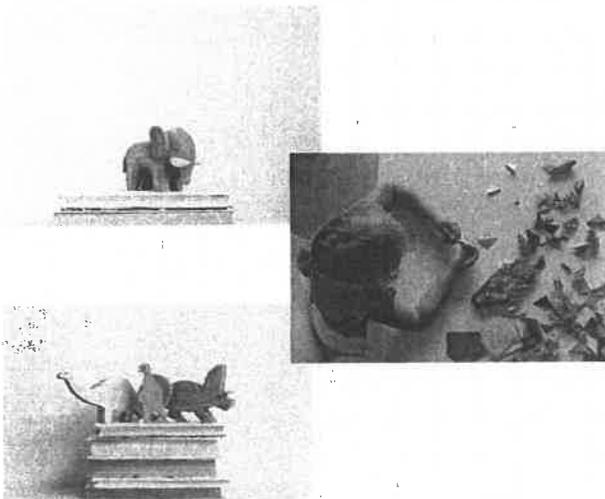
## BOOK CLUB

### VIRTUAL TEEN & ADULT PROGRAMS:

- **Mystery Book Club, Mon., May 18th @ 7 p.m.** Are you a mystery lover? Share some of the mystery titles you have been reading lately or recommend some of your all time favorites.
- **Medicare Webinar, Tues, May 19th @ 1 p.m.** Justin Lubenow of Senior Advisors will present this informative webinar on what you need to know about Medicare.
- **Decorating with Cricut Designs, Tues. May 19th @ 4 p.m.** We will be exploring a Cricut Design Space app and learning how to design a label with your name.
- **Virtual Book Club, Wed., May 20th @ 7 p.m.** We will be discussing the classic novel Persuasion by Jane Austen. Free copies are available for download at [elibrarynj.com](http://elibrarynj.com)
- **College: Getting There from Here, Thu., May 21st @ 6:30 p.m.** Join financial planner Alan Tennant for a webinar on college savings. Topics covered will include savings strategies to help you reach your goal, features and benefits of various education savings plans, and questions to consider as you establish a college savings goal.
- **Grown Up Coloring Club, Fri., May 22nd @ 1 p.m.** Join us for some relaxing music and coloring via Zoom.
- **No Sew Apron with Cricut Vinyl, Tues., May 26th @ 7 p.m.** We will be making a no-sew apron from old T-shirts and will decorate them with a Cricut vinyl. You will need large, old T-shirts and scissors for this project.
- **Please register for any of the above programs by clicking here or emailing [reference@clarklibrary.org](mailto:reference@clarklibrary.org) and a Zoom or online link meeting invitation will be emailed to you.**

### VIRTUAL CHILDREN PROGRAMS:

- **Virtual Maker Monday for Kids on Mon., May 18th @ 3 p.m.** We will be doing activities such as a craft or STEM activity with items commonly found around the house via Zoom.
- **Virtual Preschool Story & Craft on Fri, May 22nd at 11 a.m.** A story, rhyme, and simple craft. Please register to be sent a materials list in advance of the program.
- **Virtual Tinker Tuesday, Tues., May 26th @ 3 p.m.** We will be doing activities such as a craft or STEM activity with items commonly found around the house via Zoom. I will be emailing everyone who registers the items we will use in advance along with the link to join the meeting.
- **Story Shorts with Scout, Every day, Monday-Friday.** Scout (our Children's Librarian's cat) listens to a new story and sometimes sticks around long enough for a rhyme, song, or finger play.
- **Read to Sophie the Dog Through Zoom,** If you have a young, reluctant or struggling reader, meet Sophie! Sophie is a therapy dog that will be a non-judgmental listener and furry friend to read to that won't laugh if they make a mistake or stumble over a word. Sophie is available to listen virtually via Zoom.
- **Please register for any of the above programs by clicking here or emailing [dmorley@clarklibrary.org](mailto:dmorley@clarklibrary.org) and a Zoom or online link meeting invitation will be emailed to you.**





# Clark Fire Department

Clark, NJ



Incident Type(s): All Incident Types | Start Date: 04/01/2020 | End Date: 04/30/2020

Incident Date	Incident #	Address	Narrative	Station	Zone
04/01/2020	2020-124	220 Terminal AVE	Clark fire dept. dispatched to Kerry, 220 for a fire alarm activation, set off by an officer checking a 911 call. Upon arrival, Fire alarm was reset and deemed safe	1 - Active	
04/01/2020	2020-125	725 Chestnut ST	Dispatched for an engine to roselle for cover. Engine 2 responded.	1 - Active	
04/02/2020	2020-126	25 Meadow RD	The Clark Fire Department was dispatched to 25 Meadow drive for a house fire. We were advised enroute that the fire was extinguished. The Siding on the garage side of the house and plywood sheathing was burned. FD overhauled the side of the garage checking for extension. The fire was contained to the exterior of the garage. The cause of the fire was unknown. Home Owner Szewczuk	1 - Active	
04/02/2020	2020-127	1220 Cellar AVE	The fire department was called to cellar ave apartments for a fire alarm activation. We got there and it was caused by unattended cooking.	1 - Active	
04/02/2020	2020-128	135.5 Parkway North	The Fire department was called out to parkway North mile marker 135.3 for a motor vehicle crash. We got to the scene and secured the the car on the scene.	1 - Active	
04/02/2020	2020-129	142 Central	Clark fire reported to walgreens parking lot for brush fire. Trash line used to put out ash.	1 - Active	
04/03/2020	2020-130	205 Lexington BLVD 10	Fire alarm activation on scene. Alarm reset once deemed safe by incident command.	1 - Active	
04/04/2020	2020-131	16 Clauss RD	Exterior trash fire, owner was advised to put out.	1 - Active	
04/04/2020	2020-132	196 Gibson BLVD 6	Dispatched for a fire alarm activation. Pd arrived on scene and confirmed unattended cooking. Slight smoke condition. C-2 E-4 Responded. Alarm was reset, no further issue. Smoke was ventilated via PPV Fan.	1 - Active	
04/06/2020	2020-133	Valley	Gas leak in from of law firm. Gas company was called & FD was cleared off scene.	1 - Active	
04/06/2020	2020-134	Westfield	First floor smoke detector elevator room. No cause for alarm, all units available.	1 - Active	
04/06/2020	2020-135	24 South Broad ST	Mutual Aid Request to Elizabeth. City of Elizabeth didnt require it	1 - Active	
04/10/2020	2020-136	127 Georgia ST	Neighbor called that someone had their fire pit going in their backyard. Turned out to be a light in a pond. Not a fire pit.	1 - Active	
04/12/2020	2020-137	3 Melwyn CT	Reported fire alarm activation, Car 9, Engine 1, Engine 4 responded. Upon arrival Car 9 had no smoke no fire showing, advised he was awaiting a key holder	1 - Active	
04/12/2020	2020-138	142 Meadow RD	Reported smoke condition, Car 9 Engine 1 Engine 2 Engine 4 responded. Upon arrival Car 9 spoke with the homeowner in reference to open burning, all units available	1 - Active	
04/12/2020	2020-139	7 Sevell Circle	Report of an oven fire. Units on scene and reported visible flames in oven. FD used CO extinguisher to put the fire out. After that used PPV fans to ventilate.	1 - Active	
04/13/2020	2020-140	507 Oak Ridge RD	Fire Alarm activation set off by unattended cooking.	1 - Active	

This report is limited to 500 pages. Incidents with more than one narrative will appear on multiple pages. Only REVIEWED incidents included.

04/13/2020	2020-141	662 Madison Hill	Residential power line that came down during a storm. PSE&G was on scene right away and released CFD, no actions taken.	1 - Active
04/15/2020	2020-142	1889 Raritan RD	Fire alarm system called in by CPD Patrol Unit. Deputy 1 Engine 1 Engine 4 responded. Crews walked the building and found no cause for alarm.	1 - Active
04/17/2020	2020-143	565 Raritan	Engine 1 and Engine 4 responded. Upon arrival Unit 1 confirmed a fully involved fire on mower. Engine 1 arrived on scene and stretched the 150ft 1 3/4 front bumper attack line. Engine 4 arrived on scene and assisted with extinguish. Fire was extinguished and all units cleared.	1 - Active
04/17/2020	2020-144	114 Stemmer DR	About four quarts of power steering fluid leak, hazmat was notified and arrived on scene. Cleared and safe.	1 - Active
04/17/2020	2020-145	72 Sweet Briar DR	Dispatched to a reported fire alarm activation at the above address. Deputy 3, Engine 1 Engine 4 responded. Prior to arrival it was determined to be unattended cooking. Scene was turned over to the supers at the apartment.	1 - Active
04/19/2020	2020-146	1700 wes	Fire alarm activation. deemed safe by chief Cerasa.	1 - Active
04/20/2020	2020-147	150 Valley RD	Street light head shattered. Minor ember stomped out by foot. Poll # 61366	1 - Active
04/22/2020	2020-148	1050 Raritan RD	Bank of America 1050 Raritan Road brush fire. located on mulch outside. Engine 4 responded pulling out trash line. Fire extinguished 16:35	1 - Active
04/24/2020	2020-149	411 Irvington Ave	Clark Fire Department was dispatched with one engine company into Elizabeth for a cover assignment.	1 - Active
04/28/2020	2020-150	2727 Cook ST	passerby-er reported smoke coming from a chimney. Upon further investigation, no unstable fire. Advised homeowner to get the chimney cleaned after wood has burnt out.	1 - Active
04/28/2020	2020-151	100 walnut ave	100 Walnut Ave facility sprinkler alarm activated due to damaged water pipe. Engine 1 responded as Incident Command. Returned when sprinkler maintenance was contacted.	1 - Active
04/28/2020	2020-152	135 NB garden state PKY	Clark Fire Department was dispatched Garden State Parkway North 135 for a motor vehicle accident. All units were canceled because Woodbridge took over.	1 - Active
04/28/2020	2020-153	136 S Garden State PKY	Motor vehicle accident exit 136 over 3 lanes going south. No Extrication necessary	1 - Active
04/30/2020	2020-154	Lincoln BLVD	Down power-lines in the intersection of Lincoln blvd and Armstrong drive. Confirmed sparking. Blocked area off from the public for safety. PSE&G arrived on scene and stopped the sparking. Scene deemed safe.	1 - Active

## **CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY**

### **APRIL 2020**

**APRIL 2020 saw a total of 1,090 calls for service of which 81 were ambulance requests, 10 were fire department requests, 9 were motor vehicle and residential lock-outs, 50 were alarm calls, 17 were motor vehicle accidents and 918 were miscellaneous calls. There were a total of 2 adult arrests including but not limited to 1 for DUI and 1 warrant. There were a total of 4 juvenile arrests including but not limited to 1 for defiant trespass and 1 offense against the family. The Records Bureau collected \$1,275.00 in discovery fees and false alarm fines.**



## May 18, 2020 Council Meeting Notes

**Bulky, Appliance and Mulch pick up or delivery appointments must be scheduled by 3 PM Thursday.**

### **Bulky Pick up:**

**Household items, Carpet, Couches, Chairs, Furniture, and other such items. NO Electronics, Mattresses or Box spring, construction material, toilets, or metal**

### **Appliance & Metal pick up:**

**Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Grills, (no propane tank) anything metal.**

**Please do not put your item out until the weekend of your pick up. APPOINTMENT IS REQUIRED FOR PICK UP email [DPW@ourclark.com](mailto:DPW@ourclark.com) to schedule the week prior to pick up.**

**Grass pick up started every Tuesday please put grass bags out on Monday night for pick up.**

**Electronics drop off will depend on Union County schedule. Still tentative at this time.**

**Electronic Drop off Saturday May 30, 2020**

**9 AM -1 PM or \*\*until we are full\*\***

**We are only allowed to accept certain electronic and fluorescent light bulbs.**

**Acceptable items are TV's, Computers, Monitors, Laptops, Tablets, E-Readers, Printers, Personal Copy Machines, and Fax Machine.**

**Nothing else will be accepted.**



**Recreation Report**  
**May 18, 2020**

**The Brewer Recreation Center is still closed per the Executive order from Gov. Murphy.**

**A decision on summer rec camp and the opening the Clark Community pool will be made shortly as we are awaiting guidance from the Governor's office.**

**As we continue to adjust to living during the Covid 19 pandemic, any changes in opening facilities and parks will be communicated by the town.**

**Bill Smith**  
**Councilman at Large**  
**732-259-0466**

