

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**

**July 5, 2022**

**7:58 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, Toal, Minniti

Absent: O'Connor, Smith

Also Present: Salvatore Bonaccorso, Mayor; James F. Ulrich, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith L. Merkel, Township Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dispensed – Pledge of Allegiance recited at Special meeting prior to this meeting

This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County HAWK, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark, by posting such Annual Meeting Schedule on the bulletin board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements, as well as the Official Website of the Township, and the proper filing of said Notice.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

**1. 22-08 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 189 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED “HOUSING STANDARDS”**

Councilman Mazzarella: questioned if the proposed ordinance was primarily testing for lead, and how often the testing would need to be done

Mr. Ulrich: answered that the ordinance is a state law testing for lead and the certifications will take place every three years, or at change of tenancy. The testing will pertain to a development that was built before 1978, or any residence that was built before 1978

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Albanese

**2. 22-09 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 306, ARTICLE V, WILDLIFE FEEDING OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

Mr. Ulrich:

- stated that the request for this ordinance comes from quite a few residents from different areas of town
- explained that the ordinance has been updated, using a basis of the surrounding towns

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

Mover: Toal Second: Hund

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**3. Discussion: Sale of Township owned property**

**Township Clerk:**

- stated that an auction was held for slivers of township owned properties
- explained that no bidders showed up
- further explained after that 2 people came forward stating that they wanted to purchase 2 pieces of property privately

**Mr. Ulrich:**

- added that one property is a sliver (.0097 acres) of a piece of property behind a house off of Acken Drive
  - it is currently maintained by the resident
  - there has been no other interest (in the land)
  - property was not worth the minimum bid \$2,000.00
  - Assessor concurred the assessment of \$400.00 for the property
- Ridge Road property is larger
  - no bidder with \$2000.00 minimum
  - Township currently maintains the property
  - resident will pay \$2000.00, which benefits the Township
  - Tax Assessor estimates the property is worth \$15,000.00, because of size, not proximity
  - sale of the property, with the expansion of the house, will generate more taxes for the Township

**Mark Dugan:** stated this may be an ordinance, not two resolutions

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Albanese      Second: Hund

**4. Board of Adjustment Appointments - Marc Hayden, Regular Member until 12/31/24 filling the unexpired term of John Tierney; Dante Tignini, Alternate I Member until 12/31/22 filling the unexpired term of Marc Hayden**

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Albanese      Second: Hund

**5. Environmental Commission Appointments – Kenneth Brennan, Regular Member until 12/31/23 filling the unexpired term of Dante Tignini, Fernando Fraga, Alternate I Member until 12/31/23 filling the unexpired term of Kenneth Brennan**

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Toal                      Second: Mazzarella

**6.**        Award 2022 Capital Road Improvements (bids will be opened July 12<sup>th</sup>)

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Hund                      Second: Mazzarella

**7.**        Award Brush and Log Grinding contract (bids will be opened July 12<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Ulrich: explained that this bid was first rejected because of price

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Mazzarella    Second: Hund

**8.**        Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute an Agreement with Union County to Modify the Cooperative Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant program

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Albanese              Second: Toal

**9.**        Authorizing submission of a grant application for the Greening Union County Grant

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Hund                      Second: Toal

**10.**      Authorizing submission of a grant application for the Kids Recreation Grant

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Mazzarella              Second: Albanese

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

- 11. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of sewer fees in the amount of \$40.00
  
- 12. Authorizing the Tax Collector to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$600.00

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Consent Agenda  
Mover: Toal                      Second: Hund

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Council President opens the meeting to the public

Each person addressing the Council shall give their 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.

Bart Glab, 78 Georgia Street: had concerns regarding the ongoing feeding of wildlife - asked for the Council’s support of the Ordinance

Maria Esteves, 84 Georgia Street: expressed concerns for the safety of the children with regard to the feeding of wildlife

Marianne Disporto, 955 Lake Avenue: gave a brief history of accidents caused by speeding on Lake Avenue and suggested that in addition to police presence other means to rectify the situation should be considered

Mayor Bonaccorso: explained that he spoke to Captain Lott about the speeding issue

Maryann Disporto: stated that there is police presence in the area

Mayor Bonaccorso: mentioned that the Township will contact Union County with a request to borrow a flashing sign

Manny Disporto, 955 Lake Avenue: also discussed his concerns for speeding vehicles on Lake Avenue

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia Street:

- understands that there is a need for the wildlife feeding ban
- stated that the children enjoy seeing the wildlife in the area
- mentioned that the demolishing of the buildings on Walnut Avenue (Cranford) brings more animals to the area
- inquired about the status of the ordinance

Township Clerk: responded that the ordinance is written

Delia Collins: requested a copy of the ordinance

Daniel Fuchs, 333 Carolina Street: asked for further explanation on the modification of the Cooperative Agreement with Union County

Mr. Ulrich: explained that we are following State protocol, and that each year we make adjustments to the community development grant application and agreement

Township Clerk: further explained that this modification has been the same exact language from the previous years, the only change is the dates

Mr. Ulrich: also added that in order for us to take advantage we use the State's wording to be approved by council

Dan Fuchs: questioned Mr. Dugan about the Francisco settlement tape

Mr. Dugan: stated that he does not have the tape, noted that the agreement makes references to a tape, but he does not have it

Dan Fuchs: questioned the location of the tape

Mr. Dugan: suspects that it is with the Union County Prosecutor's Office

Dan Fuchs: continued to question the location and details of the tape

Mayor Bonaccorso: explained that the settlement was a labor practice of 3 individuals not getting promoted, also claiming a hostile work environment and claiming union issues

Discussion ensued

Mr. Dugan: offered to send Mr. Fuchs a copy of the complaint which offers the subject matter of the lawsuit

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Hund

Council President Minniti directed roll call: All Ayes

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazarella, Toal, Minniti

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- mentioned the success of the fireworks show
- stated that the summer camp has started
- said the bulk pick-up service is continuing

Councilwoman Albanese:

- spoke of the speed control lights and possibility of purchasing them through the next capital ordinance
- thanked everyone for coming out regarding the Feeding of Wildlife Ordinance
- stated that wild animals should not be fed by people

Councilman Hund: no comment

Councilman Mazzarella:

- thanked Mr. and Mrs. Disporto for coming to the meeting
- mentioned that he shares their concerns
- advised them to contact the Clark Police Department for speeding issues

Councilman Toal:

- spoke of the speeding issue on Lake Avenue
- spoke in favor of the Feeding of Wildlife Ordinance
- thank the Clark Police, Ralph Bernardo and the Fire Department for their efforts with the Fireworks show

Mr. Ulrich: mentioned that there will be a Bond Ordinance at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, which will cover the additional expense of the damaged HVAC units at the library

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Ordinance

Mover: Albanese                      Second: Hund

Township Clerk: no comments

Mr. Dugan: no comments

Council President Minniti: mentioned that the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks were fantastic

Council President Minniti asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

Aye: Albanese, Hund, Mazzarella, Toal, Minniti

ADJOURNMENT