

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
November 9, 2022
8:15 pm**

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Albanese, O'Connor

Also Present: Salvatore Bonaccorso, Mayor; James F. Ulrich, Business Administrator; Richard Huxford, 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.

Township Clerk: The regular order of business will be suspended at the November 21st Public Meeting for police department promotions.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. Revising Ordinance 17-04 to comply with the new State Statute regulating the Registration and Maintenance of Vacant and Abandoned Residential Properties in Foreclosure

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

Mover: Toal Second: Smith

2. Supplementing ordinance 22-15, Community Cats to include the word microchipped to Chapter 306, Section 306-31, 2b

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Hund

RESOLUTIONS:

3. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Greening Union County Grant Program

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Mr. Ulrich:

- stated that this resolution is a grant for trees
 - announced the purchasing of 7 red maples, 8 redbuds, and 8 oak trees to be placed throughout the community
 - said that 50 percent (of the money) will come from us, and 50 percent will be coming from the county with this grant

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- mentioned that Scott (McCabe) said that he was planning on planting a lot of the trees on Jupiter Street because we took down a lot (of trees), but the people do not want them
 - mentioned to council that if they had residents that wanted a tree in the past to let Scott know
 - said the trees will be given out on a first come first served basis

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

Mover: Toal Second: Smith

4. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$45,000.00 for the Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant Program

Mr. Ulrich:

- explained that this is another grant, and that we are getting half of the money from the county
 - added that the Township has received a lot of requests for upgrades to Veterans Field
 - explained that there will be three new pickleball courts and a jungle gym with a kiddie twirl

Councilman Toal: Will there be safety mats?

Mr. Ulrich: Yes.

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

Mover: Smith Second: Hund

5. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$8,834.08 for the National Opioids Settlement

Mr. Ulrich:

- explained that this is a settlement that the State of New Jersey had with the opioid drug manufactures

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- stated that as part of the settlement the towns, based on population, budget, etc., (received funds)
- mentioned that this was to offset some of the costs the Township incurred over the years
- stated that we are waiting on the DCA with instructions on what the money could be spent on

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

Mover: Hund Second: Smith

- 6.** Authorizing the Health Officer to enter into an Agreement with the Visiting Nurse and Health Service for the year 2023 in the amount of \$4,320.00 (revised by VNHS to \$7,200.00)

Mr. Ulrich:

- explained that this is our annual agreement to provide nursing services
 - said the Health Department is happy with the support they receive from the visiting nurse services
 - stated that VNHS does the health education, health services as related to cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, also elderly needs assessments, immunizations, and supplies that are needed

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

Mover: Mazarella Second: Smith

- 7.** Amending Resolution 22-136 to cancel additional unused funds in the Municipal Alliance Grant in the amount of \$7.84

Mr. Ulrich:

- explained the \$7.84 is being cancelled because it is part of the grant we are not using

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

Mover: Smith Second: Hund

- 8.** Approving the Council Meeting Calendar for 2023

Mr. Ulrich:

- went over the meeting dates in the calendar for 2023

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

Mover: Smith Second: Hund

- 9.** Approving the 2023 Holiday Schedule

Mr. Ulrich: This is the standard holiday schedule. Mr. Fuchs, Juneteenth will be celebrated on June 19th.

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Toal

Township Clerk: Before we go on to the Consent Agenda, I had sent you (Council) the firefighter appointments. The Chief had sent it to me, Jim looked over all of the paperwork, and everything is in order. That will be added prior to the Consent Resolutions.

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

Mover: Toal Second: Hund

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

10. Appointing Special Law Enforcement Officers effective January 1, 2023
11. Authorizing the Police Chief to issue Clothing Bin Permits for the year 2023
12. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of sewer fees in the amount of \$2,029.20
13. Authorizing the Tax Collector to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$4,755.00
14. Authorizing the Tax Collector to make the proper adjustments for 100% Property Tax Exemption of Block 14.01 Lot 33 in accordance with a directive from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Councilman Smith: Jim, I have a question on the veterans that get the 100% tax exemption on their property. Do we get refunded from the Federal Government on that? Do we still have to pay the county taxes on that?

Mr. Ulrich: No.

Council President Minniti asked for a mover and second on this Consent Agenda

Mover: Toal Second: Smith

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each person addressing the Council shall first give their name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Frank Makosiej, 12 Kennedy Drive:

- spoke about the Greening Grant

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- questioned if it is the same vendor as last year because 5 or 6 trees planted last year are dead
- stated that if it is the same vendor maybe they can replace the dead trees
- made suggestions on the expenditure of funds in regard to the opioid settlement

Mr. Ulrich:

- reminded him that it is a grant and that we need to wait for the DCA's direction regarding spending of funds

Frank Makosiej:

- said he felt the radar signage is helping with speeding vehicles

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia Street:

- talked about the "no left turn" by Dunkin Donuts on Terminal Avenue
 - stated that now she witnesses drivers making a left turn out of the Dunkin Donut onto Central Avenue
 - questioned if there was a "no left turn" sign there

Mayor Bonaccorso: There is a no left turn sign there.

Delia Collins:

- continued to give her observation on street signage and timing of lights on certain streets in town

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

Council President Minniti directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Hund, Mazarella, Smith, Toal, Minniti

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- congratulated the ward council on their victory
 - stated the voters in this town gave them an overwhelming vote of confidence in yesterday's election
 - added that their (the council's) body of work over the last four years had been pretty significant to the voters of the community
- pointed out the Veterans Day Ceremony is Friday, November 11th, at 11am
- mentioned that leaf clean-up is going well and will continue

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Councilman Hund:

- congratulated his fellow councilmen on their election victory
- added that the Veterans Day Ceremony is held at Arthur L. Johnson

Councilman Mazzarella:

- stated that the 3rd Thursday, of each month is the public meeting at RVSA if anyone is interested in attending
- mentioned the Veterans Day Ceremony

Councilman Smith:

- encouraged everyone to attend the Tree and Menorah Lighting Celebration, Saturday, November 26th

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- added that Breakfast with Santa will be held November 27th, there is an 8am seating, a 9:30am seating, and a 10:30am seating time available

Councilman Toal:

- thanked the voters for coming out to vote
- requested a letter be sent to the county requesting an upgrade on “pedestrian crossing” signage from Madison Hill Road over to Esposito Park

Mr. Ulrich:

- mentioned that Angel (Councilwoman Albanese) is going to personally initiate the radar signs and figure out what makes sense from a budget perspective
- pointed out that the Clark Municipal Building and the Police Department are displaying green lights supporting “Operation Green Light”
 - stated it began November 7th and runs through November 13th
 - added that the green light represents any challenges that the military may have when they come back, and also to show appreciate for the veterans and all they have done for this country
- explained that there is a resident that is questioning the Garbage (and Refuse Disposal) Ordinance with regard to the placement of the trash can
 - explained that the council, as the legislative body, can discuss it
 - said that in his opinion it will be “another more difficult thing to manage”
 - further stated that he has heard no other complaints regarding the proximity of a garbage pail to a property line

Councilman Smith:

- talked about the current ordinance
 - spoke of the difficulty of enforcing the placement of the pail

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Mayor Bonaccorso:

- added the town cannot regulate everything

Township Clerk:

- thanked some of the people that helped to make the election run smooth
 - mentioned John Pingor, the Board of Education, Adam Lambert, and her staff
 - added that it takes a lot of people to run a big election

Richard Huxford: no report

Council President Minniti:

- congratulated the ward councilmen on their re-election

Council President Minniti asked for a motion to adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Toal

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

Aye: Hund, Mazarella, Smith, Toal, Minniti

ADJOURNMENT