

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

May 3, 2021

7:42 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

Also, Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dispensed

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

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Award of Contract for the 2021 Capital Road Improvement Program (Bid Opening May 12th)

Discussion: None

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

Motion: Albanese Second: Toal

2. Authorizing the purchase of 35 Bullet Proof Vests in the total amount of \$23,625.00

Discussion: None

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

Motion: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

3. Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the Union County Educational Services Commission for use of the gyms in the Municipal Building from September 2021 through June 2022

Discussion: None

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

Motion: Smith Second: Minniti

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to make the proper adjustments for 100% Property Tax Exemption of Block 163 Lot 2 in accordance with a directive of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: I would like to explain to the kids (in the audience) that we have here tonight. The individual was in the service, he is a disabled veteran. He is given permission that he does not have to pay his taxes because he dedicated most of his life to the country.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The State Law allows us to do that. We could not do that without State Law.

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2021 taxes in the amount of \$3,851.97

Discussion: None

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2021 sewer fees in the amount of \$295.00

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$16,340.00

Discussion: None

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

Motion: Toal Second: Albanese

Marijuana Discussion:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Are you guys ready to have the marijuana discussion and add it to the agenda?

Councilman Smith: We were supposed to add it the last meeting but Jim and I were not here.

Councilman O'Connor: But you received the notes, right?

Councilman Smith: I read them and Jim read them.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let me start out and then we will deal with whatever flavor is on it. Before we get going and get a little too carried away tonight. The State through referendum has legalized the sale of legalized marijuana in the State of New Jersey. I think it is going to be very interesting, the shops are going to be very stringent because anyone underage would have a major problem trying to go over there and buy it from the store. This is not a debate about whether we accept it or not about kids because it has nothing to do with kids. It is a state law, blah, blah blah...it is like a liquor store. Will it be something that is sold to the children? I hope not, but sometimes it does.

This isn't about whether we believe in legalizing marijuana...whether it is right or wrong, it is what we believe, our personal beliefs, whether it is right or wrong to legalize marijuana and that could be a whole other discussion for me. The fact is, it is legal, the State has given us a time period on saying whether we are going to allow it in Clark or not. There are townships that are doing it and I hear a lot of townships that are not doing it.

Councilman O'Connor: Do you mean allowing dispensaries?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Allowing dispensaries, yes, the sale of it in Clark. Back a year ago, I spoke to out then Township Attorney Mark Dugan's partner about opposing that and writing an ordinance that would oppose dispensaries, factories, growing facilities and encompassing the whole megillah. At the time... you know, should we do it, or should we leave it alone? Joe at the time, the attorney said that you cannot ban something unless it is legal, and right now it is not legal so you cannot ban it. The other thing is, and when we talked, we said that we should absolutely, when we are ready, come up with either a yay or a nay. If we say "no", the reason that we should do it there is no law, someone can go before the Zoning Board and try to ask the Zoning Board to relax the restrictions in that zone. Like on Westfield Avenue there are all different zones, there is residential, commercial, industrial, the same on Terminal Avenue. They can go to the Zoning Board and get approval for something like that. Which would leave us out of the loop and would have very nice, hardworking volunteers in charge of making the decision that we believe as elected officials are elected to make these types of decisions. My recommendation to council is to pass on this at this time and ban it in Clark. And I'm going to tell you why, it is very simple, and I touched on this last month, I am not getting into whether you should believe it in or not, it is already done, it is out of our hands. I just feel that the State of New Jersey does not always get things right the first time. And to back up my argument on that, as I made comments about it last month, is the fact that when they passed the marijuana law, and they passed the bill putting it into law in the legislature, a lot of the nonsense came in about if an underage child gets caught with it, the parents would not get notified, things of that nature. Which really shows me that I don't think that New Jersey has the right to lead on this yet, the legislature I am talking about. I believe that you are a minor until you are 18 years old and your parents need to be notified when you do something wrong. I believe, in my house, I want to be notified until the day your leave, and if I am going to feed you, I am going to know about you, plain and simple. But, just showing me that alone was enough to turn me off, irregardless of my personal feelings. You know we have to look at things personally and things as elected officials and what is good for the town. None of us like voting for a tax increase but the town had to do that and that is what we had to do, personally we don't want to do that. But at the end of the day, I had so many questions on this, who is going to pick the person that's allowed to open the dispensary in town? How many are going to be allowed in town? Is that (number) going to be progressive as things go on? Remember the State Legislature can change the law like we change it, month to month, year to year. And again, to put it in layman's terms, I don't want to be an original Guinea Pig for the State of New Jersey in this venture. I don't think that Clark is ready for it even though Clark voted pretty well to legalize marijuana. And that's their business, if you want to do that, that's up to you, I can't tell you what to do and now it is legal to do it. But as far as the sale goes, we heard from Chief Matos last month when he came and talked about that he does not believe that it is a good move for us at this time. I think if we ban the sale of it in town, we have to wait five years until we can then accept it. I think that they did that because they dangled a carrot in front of us in New Jersey because we are going to be able to get a 2% tax on it. Like Mr. Laezza and I had talked about it and on a million-dollar sale, we could get \$20,000.00. I mean it is \$20,000.00, and we can always use it in the budget to offset taxes but it is not really a lot of money for the kind of budget that we run here in Clark. It is not going to change anybody's life style or add anything better to the town. I don't want to hear, "well, we don't know who is going to come to buy it" people are, people are going to come and buy it. What they look like, tall, short, fat, skinny, what color, it is immaterial, it doesn't matter. It is about...is

the town ready for this move? And again, I personally don't think Clark is ready to have this here. We are trying to develop Westfield Avenue to be a downtown. We have A&P coming in on Thursday night to build a building down there. The Knights of Columbus is going to be turned over next year and something is going there. The CVS is here and we don't want to a pot dispensary in the middle of that at this time. Maybe down the road in five years from now, if we are here, or whoever is here, might say, "hey, maybe we were wrong, it is a good idea, let do it!" That is up to you, that is up to who is here then to make that decision. Or maybe the State will loosen that five-year moratorium that you are not allowed to do it because they think that it is going to be so great. What I hear that some of the dispensaries that are around, that are more or less medical can't even keep the supply. I don't know about that. My feeling as the Mayor of Clark, I don't believe at this time it is the right thing for Clark. I don't think that the State of New Jersey has thought this plan out, because the thing with the children just stuck in my head, and now they are going to revise that. Well, I have to tell you something, if I was sitting in the State House as a legislator, I would have been screaming that day, "Revise what?" "Are you out of your mind that parents aren't going to be told?" I mean where are you going here. And I am sorry, I don't see New Jersey on the right side of many issues and it is not about today's governor, I believed it about the last governor, he was of a different party. I just don't think that they think things through the proper way down there to do it the right way. And again, are they going to choose who is going to open the dispensary in Clark, or not? How many? When? Where? These are the things that I think are still too vague for me. That is my recommendation, but it is your vote and you need five votes to have a veto (inaudible) majority, and I will veto it. You have your opinion so let's hear it.

Council President Hund: Anyone in favor of a dispensary in town?

As per the Clerk no one on Council raised their hand.

Council President Hund: Anyone opposed to having a dispensary in town?

As per the Clerk all of Council raised their hand.

Council President Hund: Does anyone have any comments?

Councilwoman Albanese: I appreciate your comments Mayor. I think about a week after we met there was an article in the paper that explained and answered some of the questions that you raised. They had just appointed an Executive Director to the Commission, they just appointed the Commissioners, it was not clear to me and I didn't really feel it was worth wild to even go back and investigate why we are required to make our decision within the next 30-45 days. We have to be done by August and we do not know what the rules are. So how do you know, like the Mayor said, if we designated a certain area, we don't know how many people are getting qualified, how many are licenses would be given out? So, it is disorganized and backwards, I mean I am sensitive to the fact that people from Clark voted for this. I think probably if we had a store and you put it in where Target is or ShopRite is, or over near Whole Foods there is going to be a swarm of people. I don't think that it will be a million, I think that it is going to be multi-millions, I do think that. But still, even if it is multi-millions, it is not a lot of money. I think that it is best to wait to five years, which isn't a long time, until everybody gets their act together, and then we will see what happens from there.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well it's another thing Angel, and you bring up good points, I always appreciate your comments. Let's take the New Jersey tax on marijuana, I mean our sales tax is our sales tax, what irritates me about the legalization of marijuana and there's many arguments for it. From a medicinal purposes it is proven out to be in some cases pretty darn good from the things I read about. I am not an aficionado, so I wouldn't debate you because I certainly don't know it like I know other things in my life, but medicinally it has helped people. The thing that bothers me is what was the first thing that they thought over? How much are we going to tax it? How much more

can we make and tax people so we could just spend it and run into our voting districts and just give more money so we could stay in power? That is New Jersey government plain and simple. So, that is one of the things that annoyed me. The sales tax is 7%, it should be 7%, or just under 7% it is now, (inaudible) what are we arguing about here? You know 20%, 25% they are talking all of these crazy numbers. And I know there is extra tax on cigarettes and liquor and things of that nature, but to me this was a money grab from the Legislatures in Trenton to make sure that they have more money. Now, I would have been a lot more impressed if they said every dollar that we are getting in that fund will go into a lockbox and can never be dipped into for any reason and it is going to help special ed children and it is going to help veterans. What I am saying is that it would be something that you might say, "Well gee, they are trying to make money to fill this gap", or "We are going to take every dollar and put it into the pension fund for police and fire" whatever, you can name 100 things. It is right away; more money Trenton wants to grab. Clark is not going to get anything out of it. If you look at our state aid here in town, we get robbed. If you look at it at the school district, I think that we got like an extra million dollars or something they were telling me the other day. Rahway got like 8 million dollars. Now I understand, a bigger town, more schools, you deserve more, but that much more? I mean I remember one year we had a mayor's meeting and I was talking to Mayor Steinman at the time from Rahway, and Clark Schools got an increase in aid of like 300,000.00 dollars and Rahway got like 3 million. And I said to the mayor, he is a friend, and I said, "you know Sam you deserve more because you are a bigger district and have more children and have more building, but 3 million... \$300,000.00, I mean, can't we get \$750,000.00? And it's the typical New Jersey way. What you have in the State House right now, Republicans are as guilty as Democrats down there, it is "where can we get the money?" and go put it into our voting bloc. I am sorry, I think that the inner cities have gotten enough of our tax dollars and let them host it then, because they are going to get the money out of it. That is the sour side of me coming out, obviously as you can hear. But there are still too many questions and we just don't have an understanding as far as I am concerned.

Councilwoman Albanese: I think that what the mayor is saying is that it seems that there is more energy that has gone into how much they are going to tax it verses coming up with helping the municipalities understand what it means, what the licensing will be. So we are asked to pass our ordinance before we even know what is going on. The Executive Director said don't be afraid to move ahead. Move ahead with what? We don't know what we are moving ahead with, we don't know what we are signing up for. It is kind of like when Obama Care came out, "don't worry it is a good law."

Mayor Bonaccorso: And you lost your doctor. That is the truth, not to be political but it is the truth. "You can keep your doctor if you like him", the first thing that he did you lost your doctor. You know Angel, you are right on point, 110%, I couldn't agree with your more. It is always about grabbing the money and "don't worry, we will tell you later." You know John and I talked many days about liquor licenses in town, and each town so many people, so many square miles allowed so many liquor licenses. You can buy liquor at the liquor store or when you go out for dinner to buy a drink with your dinner. And we said that it would be so nice, because you don't want to have a tavern on every corner, that is what it was all about back in the day. You did not want to have a bar on every street corner which is not good for a community. But like a lot of these byob places they allow you to bring your own beer or wine to dinner. We were saying one day that in Clark every license we have is taken. We are trying to develop a "Downtown Westfield Avenue" wouldn't it be nice that you can build a restaurant down there and open it, and have a special license for beer and wine only. The State will make money on sales tax and John in his infinite wisdom said to me, "Mayor, it is the liquor lobby, they don't want that, they want you to have to go to the package goods store and buy that. It is not good enough that you could just have a have a regular license that sells all kinds of liquor, and then a beer and wine license. I think that would be a great thing for communities and I think that could also help develop areas like we are trying

Workshop Council Meeting May 3, 2021..... 6
to develop on Westfield Avenue. Right now, there are no big lots down there that we can hope for an Applebee's, or something moving in. I am just using a name that is here in town. Let's say you want to open a restaurant, you are a young chef and you want to open a place with 30 seats in it, 30 tables in it or something. The guy is going to say that he can't get a liquor license, so why would he want to come to Clark? And because liquor is a profit margin for those people, that's where the restaurants really make their money, it is not just the food. So, I agree with Angel. I don't trust New Jersey, I am sorry, I lived here all of my life and I see what is going on here for many years as a Mayor and a Councilman, I just don't want to be the Guinea Pig at this point, I don't want to see Clark be the Guinea Pig.

Mark Dugan: Am I directed to draft that ordinance?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, is there any more discussion or conversation?

Councilwoman Albanese: Actually, there is a template that is out already.

Mark Dugan: I still want to put it in a hard form.

Mayor Bonaccorso: And Mark the only thing that I would say, is like going back to Joe's draft because he and I discussed it, it is not only for the sale, it is for production, packing, everything.

Mark Dugan: No production, no planting, or raising, or anything.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Mark Dugan: It will all be prohibited.

Councilwoman Albanese: If we don't pass the ordinance, it is legal, so we have to pass it.

Mark Dugan: There is a readily available template out there.

Councilman Smith: You had said it perfectly. I mean you scored a winning touchdown but what about all the planning and all of the behind the scenes that you did to get to that point, I mean here is the end goal but there is nothing to get there, you have no idea.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Bill, like I said the thing that lit me off was the business with the kids. Because we're going to say that their parents shouldn't know that their involved in something of...it is not illegal then, but they are not allowed to partake in because they are underage? So, technically it is illegal for that? That just showed me that there is not a lot of thought that goes into Trenton to what they do down there. And I don't think that this town should be the Guinea Pig at this point. I really think that if our constituents say, "why did you guys do that?". It is not about that but what was passed we had nothing to say about that. The bottom line here is the law was not thought out on how it was going to be distributed. And do you want us to be a Guinea Pig in Clark would be my first answered question back to them. Well, we had only so many months to make a decision and then we were going to let the rest of it fall into place. Like even these commissioners. Who are these people? Where are they from? That is all that I have, I could go on all night.

Councilman O'Connor: I just want to say thank you to Angel for her very comprehensive and thoughtful answer which basically I believe took the words out of everybody here's mouth. So, thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Five years from now guys, you might be saying that we were a little behind and that we should have did it, but you know what you could do it now (at a later date). At least we have a commodity to look at it then. In a year from now maybe they will put a bill in the legislature that says now they are going to let towns have another one. Before you know it, you are going to have a downtown with a nail salon, a pot store, a liquor store and a Chinese take-out. They are all necessary but not in a row.

Councilman Minniti: What is the date that we have to make the decision by?

Mayor Bonaccorso: August 14th.

Councilwoman Albanese: The ordinance has to be in so we have to introduce it and then....

Mark Dugan: I will have it for our next meeting.

Mayor Bonaccorso: May meeting or June.

Mark Dugan: I'll have it for our next meeting. We're in a work meeting now so...

Township Clerk: For the May 17th introduction?

Mark Dugan: Look, you decide, you may want to read it and think about it but obviously it's not rocket science. It is a very, very simple ordinance. It prohibits all of the various production components up through the sale of it. And that will be available at the next meeting. If you want to put it on for a first reading that is fine, if you want to put it on for a first reading the following meeting after you had an opportunity to read it that is fine.

Township Clerk: Yes, we still have time.

Mark Dugan: I can get it out so that you can circulate it to everybody.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let me ask you a question guys because right now there is a TV36 and our meetings have been taped and they have been stored in the library if anyone is interested, but I don't know how many people rent one of our meetings. Why don't we do this in June so we can do this at the Public Council Meeting on tv, so that the public can hear our explanations on why we were clearer than any newspaper article.

Mark Dugan: None the less I will get it to you as soon as possible.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We can introduce it at the June Workshop Mark? Edie?

Mark Dugan: You will have it long before.

Mayor Bonaccorso: What I am saying is that we can introduce it at the June Workshop and then pass the ordinance at the June Council Meeting. And if anyone has any questions, call Mark.

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.

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Just real quick Steve, thank you. The Governor raised some of the restrictions today. I gave Ralph the green light to go ahead with the summer camp. As I told Ralph, proceed with caution, because I personally believe, and I don't have a crystal ball, but as we edge closer to the November Gubernatorial Election our Governor is going to want us to forget that we were held captive for the last 13/14 months and is going to start loosening things. The problem still remain that we have a tremendous amount of kids at our camp. I said to Ralph that he may have to go to a camp that says, "you guys are on Monday and Wednesday, and this group is on Tuesday and Thursday." We will do the best that we can. It could be big enough, because he does have them in grade groups and everything else so that might suffice. Move ahead on it and proceed with caution. At this time, we are still on the ropes about the fireworks because that brings in 8,000 or 10,000 people to the town. I mean I don't know, as much as I want, I don't know. I mean we are just trying to bide time. I don't think in my heart that it is going to happen but I am not willing to say that yet.

Councilman O'Connor: Let's say that it was able to happen. What is our drop-dead deadline to let the vendor know? There has got to be a date.

Mr. Laezza: I would say June 1st.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Remember one thing too Pat, everybody is in the same boat, so it is not like he is running into Rahway, Roselle, Westfield and Cranford and saying, "sorry Clark, I am booked-up."

Councilman O'Connor: I am talking about a supply.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I think that they can get that stuff pretty quick. I am saying that they are probably sitting there, like a dog wagging its tail looking at a bone, waiting for the phone to ring.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Grass clean-up is starting now, DPW is moving along and it is going pretty good so far.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: Just a quick comment, on Saturday there was a fire next door to my home. Sal was there, he was pretty much there during the whole episode and all of that. I want to commend the police, fire and EMS they were there quickly. It started in their shed and jumped into their home; it could have been a real disaster but they contained it pretty quickly.

Councilman Minniti: I have a few things. Again, I want to thank Angel for her thoughts on marijuana, I thought it was very insightful also. Our last meeting, I know that Chief Matos was there and I thought that he did a really good job. I was not at the meeting but I read his notes and I appreciate everything that he said in regards to the dispensary and the marijuana in Clark. Also,

it is Mother's Day this weekend and I just want to wish all of the moms a very happy Mother's Day.

Councilman O'Connor: Mr. Mayor a couple of people reached out to me from my ward based on the outstanding job you did with regard to the basketball and the litter. They have had a problem with the litter at Curry Field. Apparently, we are renting out and things are going on there, people are eating and leaving their debris. So, if you can do something similar...

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have to find out who is renting the field? Are they renting the field from us?

Councilman O'Connor: (inaudible)

Mayor Bonaccorso: I agree but the only problem is that here I took down the rims, but there I can't roll up the lawns.

Councilman O'Connor: So I know we do have permits to use the field, correct?

Mayor Bonaccorso: I'll check with Ralph tomorrow to see who is using Curry, and then they are going to be told through a strong letter that we are going to check it and if it is their group, they will be...

Councilman O'Connor: Right, so can that be part of the permit process? Like, when they file an application that on the application it states that they have to clean-up because if it is found (a mess) the next day and your not, you are out!

Mayor Bonaccorso: The problem is Pat, you are right, you can do that but you cannot prove that it is them. Here it is easy because Adam, our Building Maintenance guy is on these grounds every day. So, when he drives in the morning he looks and sees 40 water bottles on the ground, it is a little different then a pocket park or a park that we have in town. We could crack down and see and talk to some of the people if we know who is using the field, but then again there might be people there just using the field that we don't know about it.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mr. Laezza: Curry Field, we cleaned up. And the grills belong to the baseball group, so we left them there.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right, what I am saying John is that there are more papers and bottles.

Councilman O'Connor: Right. Mr. Laezza is regarding to is that there was dumping behind the clubhouse, which Mr. Laezza and the DPW cleaned up. I am talking about on the actual field there are water bottles, and things of that nature that people were having a sporting event and throwing it down.

Mr. Laezza: I think it's the responsibility of the coaches.

Councilman O'Connor: Well, sometimes the coaches are not always adults, sometimes it is just a bunch of college kids, sometimes it's just a bunch of adults, it doesn't always have to necessarily have to be Pop Warner, where you have adults with children.

Councilman Smith: They may not have permits at Curry Field, I have seen people just go in there and using it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know. Let me start tomorrow Pat with Ralph and see if there are any permits out on it.

Councilman Minniti: We have been having an issue across the street at the high school. Where people are using the field with no permits and I was told last week that lacrosse showed up for a 9:00 am to get ready, and there was a full-blown soccer game going on, with officials, and they just kicked them off and said that they could be there. People use our fields all the time but there's...

Mayor Bonaccorso: I also hear of problems up at Bartell, the same thing. And they have the Soccer League; they have that field and if they ever lease it out it is on them. But there are also a lot of people showing up. Because last year during COVID when everything was closed, I went up there one night and there were two teams out there playing. They were young adult men, I would say between 17 and 21, maybe. And I called the police, and said, "seriously, nobody drives by here and see this?" Everything was closed and it wasn't now, it was right at the peak of the pandemic in April. Then one night I drove by there again and the same thing happened. I kind of went off on the cops saying, "who is patrolling up there?", "I shouldn't have to go and take a ride to see what you should be seeing, it's what you get paid for."

Councilman O'Connor: I am not trying to create more work for the police or create more work for Ralph, but after your comments (the mayor) and your comments (Councilman Minniti), I mean do we need to look at the process. Do we need to see what team was permitted to be on the field and if they have a permit to be there?

Mr. Laezza: I think that the problem is that there is nothing on the field that says, "if you want to use this field, you will need a permit."

Councilman O'Connor: It is on...it used to be on Curry Field because they had problems.

Mr. Laezza: Used to be.

Councilman Minniti: So Pat on Bartell, we have cameras on Bartell so that we know who is on it all of the time. It is not necessarily kids hanging out, it is just people hanging out that really are doing nothing on the field but hanging out and they are leaving bottles, papers and everything else.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Even with the permit you have to be careful because like you say the cops don't really know...I mean listen, I am going to be honest I respect the Clark Police but if you think that cops are going to start walking up to the field and asking if they have a right to be there, you are dreaming, it is not going to happen. I am going to tell you something else, sorry, AOC, Kamila Harris and the rest of them, in today's climate, if there is somebody out on that field that doesn't look like that cop, he is not going to want to get out of that car and ask because in a lot of ways it could become a racial discrimination thing. In today's world I could not blame any cop in any state.

Councilman O'Connor: Well, my next comment was I wanted to thank the Clark Police. I had some issues with speeding on Tudor Drive/Meadow Drive, I had some complaints from some residents. I contacted the Clerk, miraculously the patrol stepped up and according to my neighbors they got a couple of people. So, thank you. Meadow and Tudor is like a cut through to people trying to beat the light.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is a long road, people go cruising on it, I don't believe some of the people do it by being malice. Again, it is a straight road and you kind of just keep driving.

Councilman Smith: I have nothing further this evening.

Councilman Toal: I have some quick ones. People are paying their taxes and the question is being raised about the access to the Municipal Building for town business.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Probably sooner rather than later. But right now, the vaccination rate is still... I have a couple of employees here some are okay and some are very freaky about it. So, until there we get more people vaccinated and it opens up at that point. Right now, what I will say is I think the ladies in this building are doing a tremendous job serving our public. They make a phone call, they run out and they take care of it. I have not had one compliant about that. And all the girls go out there with a smile on, they are very nice.

Councilman Toal: They are good people.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, they are. We have a very good team here and they do it the right way.

Mr. Laezza: We received letters from the banks because more people are taking their money away from their mattresses, putting it in the bank and mailing it in.

Councilwoman Albanese: Most towns are not open.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, most towns are not open.

Mr. Laezza: I would like to say about the marijuana dispensaries. I think the commission gave us August 8th because they want to see what kind of problems they have. I don't think that the commission that was appointed has any idea of what they are going to do in regards to dispensing.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Do you know what I hear a lot on 101.5, the New Jersey Station is that they always announce a lot of towns that are banning it, there's a lot out there, you would be surprised.

Mr. Laezza: No, I am not surprised. I think that most of the towns feel the same way you feel. The dispensaries have already been selected and they just want to see if they can go with that group or if they have to distribute more.

And I would like to say of the 4,863 homes about 2,500 have been at least measured on the outer perimeter. We have had a third bill according to the contract, so, they met their 30% limit. It looks like they are 30% complete, I say that 2,500 (inaudible).

Mark Dugan: No comment.

Township Clerk: I have a question. Do we still have grass bags? People are asking.

Mr. Laezza: No, but Scott has ordered 1000 more.

Councilman Hund: I was going to mention Appraisal Systems came into my house today, for everyone out there in Clark that is worried about them coming in, he was there, in and out in under five minutes. So, if you are home let them in because it will be more accurate.

Councilwoman Albanese: Pat, did you call them back yet?

Councilman O'Connor: Yes. They have already been to my house. They came back the next week.

Councilman Hund: So, I just want to give kudos to the gentleman at my house today. He was a very nice gentleman; he came in and he did his job quickly. I had one child sleeping and he poked his head in the room and asked if there was a bathroom in there. He was in and out in five minutes. All the residents, if you are home let them come in so that they can get an accurate reading of your house. I just wanted to add that to Mr. Laezza's comments that it was harmless.

Councilman O'Connor: Yes, they came in, and what was interesting is I had a conversation with the person about if someone doesn't let them in then how would they know what is in their house? He said that he had been doing it for 20-30 years and he does a lot of houses in the neighborhood and everyone pretty much does the same thing. You know, all of the ranches in your area about 95% have a finished basement, I can guarantee you that the basement is finished and I go you are absolutely right it is. And he goes so we have a feel, if we get it wrong, they have the opportunity to repute it. So, it's a simple process.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am going to find it very interesting. I think that most people are cooperating but I read some comments on Facebook that people were saying that they would not let them come into their house. I want to see if they are at the appeal saying, "Are you crazy?" Because one of the questions that I want to know is if they let the person in. If not then they should not be here complaining because you did that to yourself.

Councilman Hund: They make you sign off that they were in your house so they have a record of it.

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT