

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

October 4, 2021

7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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

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.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

**2. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 24 OF CHAPTER 3 ENTITLED
“DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND HEALTH” OF THE CODE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

Discussion:

Mr. Ulrich: Really this is just administrative. Originally the purchasing was under the Department of Health. We changed the structure, so now it's actually under Administration. It's just really cleaning up some of the...I don't even know when it moved but now that it's under me it's just cleaning up some housekeeping items.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second of this Proposed Ordinance

Mover: Councilman O'Connor Second: Councilman Smith

**3. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, COUNTY OF UNION,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO MANDATE DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE
OF NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 52:14-15f**

Discussion:

Mayor Bonaccorso: The only thing I'm going to ask, if we are going to go direct deposit then why do we still have to print out a check that says, "zero, zero, zero, zero, on it?"

Mr. Ulrich: Well, that is going to change also in January. However, that is not a regulatory item. I do need to have government vs. private sector, I have to get approval from the council to require everybody to get direct deposit. But, starting January 1st you won't have that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is what I am asking.

Mr. Ulrich: We will no longer have pay stub coming to you. It will be emailed, you log on you get your W2, everything is in place. You don't have to worry about it being mailed to your house.

Councilman O'Connor: I am still going to get a W2 mailed to my house though, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, no you won't.

Councilwoman Albanese: You will have to go online and print it.

Council President Hund: I have a question on that. Isn't it mandated that an entity has to have them out by and delivered to the employees by January 30th?

Mr. Ulrich: Everything is available online. My accountant, I don't even see him, I just PDF everything and put it up in a file and he takes it from there, so you don't even have to scan it, it's already PDF.

Council President Hund: I was just wondering.

Mr. Ulrich: I don't know if they have to be mailed, I will find out. But everything is there, the whole process.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance
Mover: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

4. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 56 OF CHAPTER 195 ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK

Discussion:

Mr. Ulrich: This is just to clean-up some more of the review committee, who is on it, what the requirements are and what their responsibilities are. There were some gaps in the process so we cleaned it up.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance
Mover: Mazzarella Second: O'Connor

5. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ENCOURAGING ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY/SERVICE EQUIPMENT (EVSE) & MAKE-READY PARKING SPACES

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: As you know the Green New Deal is in effect in Washington and it is trickling down to Detroit. And basically, a mandate from the Governors Office to the President to go electric and go "green". The problem is getting these cars because they are chipped. The chip issue and

the inventory are non-existent, but it is the way that the country is going and we have to have electric cars.

Councilwoman Albanese: All cars require chips regardless of whether they are electric. It is misleading to believe that only electric cars use chips.

Mr. Ulrich: What it means to the town is it's primary to have any new construction in parking lots set up to handle electric charging stations. It doesn't require it unless there are 50 or more spots, even then they have to have it set up for additional spots. This is something that came from the Governor, it did not come from us. We received it in the beginning of September, effective September 1st. It was distributed to all of the Boards and all the attorneys of the Boards. There are not a lot of comment, and I will let the attorney go through that, but it is pretty much, "you can't change this", you could put in how much it is going to cost to charge your electric vehicle there but that is pretty much the extent, it was not real flexible. I will hand it off to the attorney to go through it.

Councilman Mazzarella: Jimmy, do you see this happening here at the town property? Putting those electric charges...?

Mr. Ulrich: We can do it at some point but right now it is not in any of our plans.

Councilwoman Albanese: There are grants available to get them in the town and then the town charges whatever they want.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Electric cars are for climate control. We, men and women, are going to change the weather, right, right...bank on that. We are going to change the weather... bank on it. Never going to see it in our lifetime and probably not in our kid's lifetime. We are not changing the weather, not happening, you watch. I don't care, you can drive what you want, I am not saying it for that. Do you know what is going to happen once everybody goes electric? We will be dead; we will all be dead by then. Everybody goes electric? It is going to create another problem; it is going to create another problem, you watch. We won't be around but you'll see.

Councilwoman Albanese: I think separate from the weather it is really about clean air.

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

Mover: Minniti

Second: Albanese

RESOLUTIONS:

6. Authorizing final payment to CCM Contracting, Inc. for work completed on the 2020 Capital Roadway Improvements in the amount of \$30,658.26

Discussion: None

Councilman Mazzarella: Jimmy, that goes not on a maintenance bond?

Mr. Ulrich: Correct. It is just a final payment, everything has been inspected and signed off on, so we are good.

Mover: Toal Second: Mazzarella

7. Appointing Brett DaCosta and Phillip Schroeder as members of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: We just received today from the fire chief another proposed application Matthew Owsiany, so he most likely will be going on the resolution as well.

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

Mover: Albanese Second: Minniti

8. Designating the Union County HAWK as an official newspaper of the Township

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

9. Canceling the 2020-2021 Municipal Alliance Grant

Discussion: None

Mr. Ulrich: This is just money that we did not spend as part of the grant.

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

Mover: Smith Second: O'Connor

10. Authorizing Local Government Energy Audits and the solicitation and evaluation of solar photovoltaic system proposals to be performed by Greener by Design, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00

Discussion:

Mr. Ulrich: This is to bring in Greener by Design to do the LGEA review. What they do is they go through all of our lighting systems, electric bills, and properties and what we could potentially have solar on, where we can cut back on expenses, where we could change to LED, that includes street lights and everything. He is going to do the pool, the schools for nothing as part of the process, library, firehouse, ambulance squad, it is going to be all of the township properties.

Council President Hund: Do you perceive any solar panels being used?

Mr. Ulrich: There is a good possibility but it just depends on where. Some of the concerns that were brought up is the roofs on some of the buildings may not be strong enough to hold them. But

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they do have parking lot canopy covers, and things along those lines, that we could potentially use. Again, this will give us an idea of what we can do, what we can save, and then also what state and federal grants, and additional money from non-profits, to move forward. That is what I am asking for this money for.

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

Mover: Toal Second: Albanese

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

11. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2021 taxes in the amount of \$4,829.20

Discussion: None

12. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2021 sewer fees in the amount of \$140.00

Discussion: None

13. Rescinding resolution 21-148 and Authorizing the Tax Collector to make the proper adjustments for 100% Property Tax Exemption of Block 30.06 Lot 2 in accordance with a directive from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Discussion: None

Mr. Ulrich: This is just standard operating procedure for refunds.

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

Motion: Toal Second: Albanese

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 Councilwoman Albanese made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Toal

Council President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Mr. President. I just want to remind the council that the 15th is Patriot Night at the high school, 7 PM kick-off, be there if you can.

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Upcoming will be Trunk or Treat, I think we are going to have a car in it as usual, we will coordinate that for the kids. Halloween is obviously coming up and shortly thereafter that is Election Day, make sure that we spread the good word to get out and vote, that is always very important. Any questions since the last time that we met that you might have? No? That concludes, thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: No report.

Councilman Mazzearella: No report.

Councilman Minniti: No comment.

Councilman O'Connor: I just want to say that I have noticed over the past couple of months that we have had a lot more new members to the Clark Volunteer Fire Department. It is good to see that people are still willing to give back to the community.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You are right Pat.

Councilman Smith: Yes, the Clark Unico Feast is Thursday through Sunday. You received your invitation for the 12 o'clock Columbus Day essay reading contest, so if you could make that it would be great. All the proceeds from the feast go back mostly to scholarships and charities. If you have not volunteered and you have time there are a few openings left, so please contact Ralph. Is our friend coming Saturday night?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Supposedly.

Councilman Smith: Jack Ciattarelli is supposed to be there Saturday night, so if you are around it would be nice to show your face.

Council President Hund: Did you want to publicize that?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No.

Councilman Toal: Open space, that is all that I am going to say, open space and Green New Deal, chips, it is all about chips, that's all.

Mr. Ulrich: No comment.

Mark Dugan: You should be aware that Mr. Estis, the General Counsel of the RVSA, is going to make some minor modifications. I was supposed to receive that today, I did not. We did the first reading but it is not authorized until the second. We are going to be, at the next meeting, introducing another ordinance which will be terminating the settlement agreement under which Clark was treated differently than everyone else by the RVSA. We will hold off on any second reading on that so that we know everyone else has adopted the ordinance approving the new agreement. I have not seen, obviously, the revised draft, so when I get it, I will look at it and I will circulate it again. I did provide some comments to Mr. Estis myself, and I don't believe that they were circulated, but there was an email that I sent to Jim (Ulrich) because I had a few changes myself. So, hopefully he will incorporate those as well as the other ones that he is planning on incorporating. So, I have not read it.

Council President Hund: Thank you very much. I do not have further comments for tonight. Thank you for all of the things that we did accomplish tonight.

Council President Hund 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, Mazzaella, Minniti, Smith, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT