

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
November 4, 2020
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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 and the proper filing of said notice.

The Regular Order of Business will be suspended on November 16th for a presentation honoring two Boy Scout Troop 145 Leaders

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Authorizing the appropriate Township Official(s) to execute a Contract with BMI Janitorial, Inc. to provide commercial cleaning services for the Municipal Building and Police Department

Discussion:

John Laezza: Basically, in taking this action we had to remove two employees. So, we had to give them 35 days' notice, we cleared it with Civil Service and we cleared it with the Union. We (tape inaudible) Civil Service that we will be saving money this way because the salaries of the two employees, plus their benefits. You can see what we will be paying for this service. The service will be five days a week all day long if we want, or they can just come in at night. With the new police station coming we will have a fifty-thousand-dollar savings, it's nickels and dimes but they add up to real dollars.

No further discussion

Council President O'Connor asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Mover: Mazzarella

Second: Hund

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

- 2 Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount \$1,958.72.
- 3 Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as Credit in the amount of \$55,825.20.
4. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the Amount of \$435.40

Council President O'Connor asked for a mover and second on this Consent Agenda

Mover: 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 Smith

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Mr. President. First off, I'll start out with the Election. I want to congratulate Bill, Angel and Jimmy on a great job, they worked hard on knocking on doors. It was all appreciated and seeing and enjoy working with them. And I'll look forward to another four years in Clark and I'm sure we will have that.

Patriot Game on Friday night if you could make it. No later than, I would say 6:30/6:40, we meet at the goal post. Veterans are coming, kids will be carrying flags out, fireworks going up, so I look forward to do that.

Eddie congratulations on a pretty uneventful Election Day for you, I thought it was going to be crazy, you got lucky.

Township Clerk: No, no, we worked hard.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You worked hard but it wasn't too crazy out there.

Leaf cleanup is in progress, we have that going and Scott is out there with the boys doing it all and taking care of us.

The recreation side is open as you know, they are disinfecting and cleaning down there. So far, there are no real problems to report on. Hopefully in a couple of weeks they'll have a vaccination out.

We will be cancelling Breakfast with Santa. We cannot do that this year, there's no way we can do that unfortunately, it's would have been our twenty-first year but what are you going to do.

The tree lighting will be continuing but it's going to be more of an outdoor event, it's always an outdoor event but Ralph has some things in the cafeteria and the gyms and hallways, so none of that is going to happen. But it's going to be the tree and Menorah lighting outside on Saturday, November 28th, I guess that will start at around 3:00 pm. So, he (Ralph Bernardo) is happy the recreation side is opened.

The police station is coming along well, you saw it a couple of weeks ago.

Council President O'Connor: Excuse me Sal, back to the tree lighting. Is the public going to be invited to that?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Oh yeah sure.

Council President O'Connor: So, it will still be outdoors with the rides.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are going to have the horse and buggies and Santa will walk around.

Council President O'Connor: So, they will still have the opportunity to see Santa.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, and we'll probably light the tree around 5:30. Other than that everything is moving pretty smooth. You know the COVID cases are spiking. I think we've been one of the lowest towns in the County throughout this State, I'm pretty sure, and I'm happy to say that. But you know if you listen to the experts who (tape inaudible), people moved everything from indoor/outdoor to indoors now and it's starting to pick up. I don't think it's as deadly as it once was but it's still a process. So, we tell everybody the same thing to wear your masks, wash your hands, social distance, you do the best you can, what can you do. That's all I have, any questions?

Councilwoman Albanese: I just want to say congratulations Mayor, great job and congratulations Bill. Of course, it was a different dynamic with the voting by mail, that was very interesting, but of course thank you to the citizens for all of their support. It was very well received in the community which was nice.

Yesterday (Election Day) I went over to Kumpf to pick up some information and go to the polls, it was very weird. I don't know if each of you went to the polls to see what it was like because people were just sitting there with this one machine with all the tables that you normally see but no one was there and they had a small amount of people that showed up at Kumpf. One thing that did happen to me on the way it was kind of funny after we got the article from you about the deer and the whole thing on hunting. I was going down Madison Hill Road and a car slowed down and it pulled over, so I continued going straight and a deer runs right across the road in front of me. And I thought "wow", but it's strange that the person pulled over to let me go with the deer and instead of just slowing down to stop, and then I would stop behind. So, they are all over, be careful with that.

The Trunk or Treat... some of us were there (Bill, the Mayor and I) and it was great. The setup was much better this year and I hope that just to move everyone along it just worked out so much better. There were so many cars there and the kids had a great time, so it was good.

Also, don't forget November 11th, Veteran's Day. The weather looks pretty bad but hopefully that forecast will change, so we'll see everyone there.

Councilman Barr: I just want to say congratulations to our winning team.

Councilman Hund: I would also like to give my congratulations to the team and the mayor and welcome Jimmy (Minniti) on board to start the new year, we'll be fresh. I'm looking forward to the Patriot's Night, it will be a nice honor to our Veteran's.

Councilman Mazzarella: I would like to congratulate Mayor Sal and our team with another four years.

Councilman Smith: I don't have anything this evening.

Councilman Toal: I'll keep it brief. To the Mayor, the longest serving mayor in the history of the Township of Clark entering your sixth term, congratulations; to Angel, the longest serving Councilwoman, congratulations to you, and I wish Jimmy Minniti all the best.

John Laezza: Next year it's going to be a difficult year. One of our valued employees will be leaving, Terance (O'Neill) will be retiring in March. He will always be available when he's needed.

Councilman Mazzearella: How long has he's on board.

John Laezza: We got him on board 2006

Attorney Dugan: No comment.

Township Clerk: You'll notice the room is a little bit different. Part of that is due to Executive Order #192, I sent the link and I tried every which way to copy it and I don't know what the State does but you cannot print it.

Council President O'Connor: It starts tomorrow, right.

Township Clerk: It starts tomorrow 6:00 am. Also, we are having installed in each of the rooms an automatic hand sanitizer in each of our offices. The building is cleaned constantly as it has been. So, we've been basically following those rules. And we also record everyone's temperature every day.

Councilwoman Albanese: But this is not only for government; this is for businesses.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let me tell you something, this Governor is going to close this State down again. And then you are all going to see, good luck on people trying to pay their property taxes. This Governor is out of control fully, he is out of control. He is petrified that if there is a spike in deaths that people are going after him. They got snow on the parkway in November a couple of years ago, he brined streets with no snow in sight.

Township Clerk: I also want to say we did have a smooth election. It was rough in the beginning of the day, we worked out all of the cliches. I want to thank you for all of your help in getting the word out to get the votes into that box. And I think that's why we were one of the few towns that didn't have long lines, we worked at it to get that to happen. I had one guy yell at me but it was relatively smooth.

Council President O'Connor: I would like to congratulate the winning members of the team here, congratulation and the best of luck in the next four years. I would be remiss if I didn't bring some attention to Mr. Barr. Mr. Barr has been here a long time; he took me under his wing and he's part of the reason that the party continues to thrive the way it does. So, I don't want anyone not to know that Al is a big reason behind everybody's win. (Councilman Barr: thank you) Your welcome, well-deserved Al.

Madame Clerk with your team... I called yesterday and you guys had it all under control, so, thank you very much for that because what you do is a reflection of what we do. So, thank you for making us look good.

Council President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn

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

Workshop Council Meeting November 4, 2020..... 5

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT