

AGENDA
WORKSHOP COUNCIL MEETING
Conference Call – No Physical Meeting Place
April 6, 2020
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

Also, Present: John Laezza, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk, Police Chief Pedro Matos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE

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 and emailing 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 TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 347 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK

Discussion: none

Council President O'Connor asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance
Mover: Councilman Mazzaella Second: Councilman Toal

RESOLUTIONS:

2. Budget Compliance Resolution allowing the Budget to be read by title

Discussion:

Clerk: What this means is that I have sent the budget to the library. The Library Director signs off that it is available free to the public for inspection. And they are also putting it up on their website as well so the public has ample opportunity to see the budget on their website, on our township website and by email if they'd like.

Council President O'Connor will move this Resolution, Second: Councilwoman Albanese

3. Public Hearing and Adoption of the Municipal Budget for Calendar Year 2020

Discussion: none

Council President O'Connor will move this Resolution, Second: Councilwoman Albanese

4. Authorizing the Township of Clark to assume the responsibility of conducting the Annual Budget examination pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b

Discussion: none

Council President O'Connor will move this Resolution, Second: Councilwoman Albanese

5. Establishing a Storm Recovery Reserve to be used for the Coronavirus Response

Discussion: none

This resolution will be moved and seconded by the Entire Council

Potential resolutions: Tax and Sewer Resolutions are expected before the April 20th meeting. Since I did not have the details available it's not on the agenda as Consent so they will be separate items for individual vote on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Council President O'Connor directed the Clerk to read emails and text messages received from the public, for response by Council or Township Professionals as appropriate.

Clerk: I did not receive any emails or text messages from the public.

Motion to close this portion made by Councilman Hund, seconded by Councilman Barr

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Albanese: Thanked employees who have been working diligently on-site and remotely. Thanked Clerk for coordinating this meeting. It went very well. Thanked Jennifer and the Mayor for all of the updates they've been giving us in such a transparent and timely way. Hope that everyone stays safe and that we can get as much testing done as possible so we can get out of this. Thank you.

Councilman Barr: Just want to say to everyone, pay attention, listen to the rules and stay healthy. Thank you.

Councilman Hund: Thank you Mr. President. I'd like to reiterate Councilwoman Albanese's comments. To everyone on Council and in town stay safe and healthy.

Councilman Mazzarella: Just one comment. I just want to reach out to everybody, stay safe, stay home and God Bless.

Councilman Smith: The only thing I'd like to add is everyone please stay safe and adhere to the stay at home rules.

Councilman Toal: I'm going to keep it brief but I'm also going to tell a story. I was informed today at 3:30 that a friend of mine from college, 56 years of age, I've known him for 38 years, died last night at 5:30. He met a girl who lived in New York. She is a nurse practitioner. Somehow she brought it back to the house. He got it. She had no symptoms and didn't know she had it. He died. He got symptoms and was overcome by it on Friday. He died Sunday night. 56 years of age, no prior health issues, nothing. He was a former football player. My friend is dead. When you hear people tell you to follow the rules and regulations; I use this as an example. A guy who used to come here and hang out in Clark and come to our holiday parties and stuff like that, someone I grew up with for the last 38 years, is gone. Its real. You hear the statistics, you see this stuff on television, ladies and gentlemen, please, please follow what the nurses, the health officers and the officials tell you. Stay home and don't let a tragedy happen. Thank you, Mr. President.

Council President O'Connor: Brian we're sorry for your loss.

Councilman Mazzarella: Council President I just want to reiterate what Brian had said. Today I was informed that I tested positive. The symptoms aren't that great. I have to stress like Brian said, please ladies and gentlemen, stay home. Don't go out. Take care of yourself. We'll get through this.

Council President O'Connor: Frank we wish you well. We hope you and your family do well. And again, just another reminder of why it's so important, like you said, to follow the rules. But more importantly I want to thank the Council and the Administration for supporting us doing this meeting via conference call in compliance with President Trump as well as our Governor's recommendation to not meet live. And again, Frank we're very sorry.

Business Administrator, John Laezza: Frank, our prayers for you and Theresa. Good meeting.

Chief Matos: First Mr. Mazzarella to you and your family our prayers. I hope you get over this real quick. I just want to take this chance to publicly thank Target, Shoprite, L'Oréal, Deutscher Club who have over the last several weeks have donated personal disinfectant equipment, for our officers to repeatedly keep themselves clean, to disinfect themselves and the cars. And also, to the many restaurants and citizens in town who have reached out to the police department to wish us well and to support us. Not just in thought but also, I'm sure you've seen the posting, a lot of people have brought by lunch to the officers. And also, to all of the citizens, for the most part the vast majority of the citizens in Clark are abiding by the stay at home order and also by the social distancing rules. That certainly makes our job as police officers very, very easy. So thank you all and have a safe and healthy month. See you all soon.

Township Attorney, Mark Dugan: Frank and Theresa I'll remember you in my prayers and I think we should all remember the first responders in our prayers. They're on the front lines fighting this thing. We should remember the police the fire fighters and emergency medical technicians.

Clerk: Thank you Council President. Frank and Terri please get well soon. You know you've been in my prayers and you'll continue to be. Brian, I'm so sorry for your loss.

Council President O'Connor: First of all I'd like to thank Edie for all the hard work she did at working to get this set up behind the scenes, getting the phone numbers set up, altering the agenda to follow what we needed to do today as well as the Administration and town hall. I can't add more to what's been said. I think everybody's covered everything. But I think the Chief hit the nail on

the head with regard to how well our community comes together and really supports one another in times of need. I've been on Facebook where I've seen people say "I'm in need of this" and four or five people jump in, "what's your address, message me and I'll bring it to you." The support that this community has really had for one another really dictates why our community is as good as it is. The support with the Administration, the reports daily on Facebook and the respect our community has for our police, fire and our ambulance squad. So, we wish them all the best of luck, we wish them all to be safe.

Council President 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, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, Smith, Toal, O'Connor

Meeting adjourned. Everybody stay safe. Thank you for being on the line.