COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
January 5, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

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

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 the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger and Union County Local Source, by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

Council President Smith: There are two new police officers Michael Somma and Mazhar Elwardany that will be formally appointed at the Public Meeting on January 20th.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. **Discussion: Business Administrator - Amendment to Chapter 195 Zoning Ordinance regarding signs and window graphics**

Discussion:

Mr. Triarsi: There are two ordinances on the table tonight for introduction. One of our amendments to the zoning ordinance which were recommended I guess John through the planner's office or through Richard's office.

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Mr. Triarsi: And it corrects some minor deficiencies, but more importantly it clarifies signs, window signs, awning signs, etc. it is self-explanatory.

The second ordinance comes from the fire department and it is a reorganization of the department. In connection with that the fire department told me what they wanted. I met with Chief Cerasa and Brattole and they provided the information, I changed the ordinance and sent it to them. And I understand that they signed off on it and that it's ready for introduction. Those are administrative changes within the department. It gives the Mayor some jurisdiction within the department, and the Council some review areas. The last item on the agenda for this purpose is the state noise ordinance. We received notifications that if our ordinance was not in conformity with the state code we should change it. Well our ordinance is in conformity with the state code,

and so far as all of the details are concerned, and in particular in regard to the fines. So you don't need to do anything with that. So you'll be asked to introduce and second #1 and #2 at the meeting and #3 won't appear on the agenda. Unless there are any questions that is all I have on this.

Mr. Laezza: I think the attorney did an outstanding job like we expect him to do at all times. The zoning ordinance for the signs does have a new twist to it; #1 we are going to allow the graphics on windows so that they can paint some artistry in relationship as to what the business does. But it's not only for the Clark Commons area; it is for the entire community. Also, the entire community the rest of the sign ordinance is for, so that when you drive down the street and you go past the Lunch Box, they have paper signs in the window that says that egg salad is on sale this week, those paper signs will be coming off the windows throughout the community. So you might get some kickback in relationship to that concept. I know that historians will say that is what the old town was, and they also had pencils and wrote on paper bags to say how much it was to buy some food and they weigh it with their finger, now they have computers to do all that. So we have to get to the 21st Century. So those are some of the kickback you will get. When we introduce this ordinance we will be sending a letter to all the commercial establishments to tell them that it is there so there might be a lot of people at the public hearing.

Mr. Triarsi: It probably be good John if we gave them a period of time within which to comply.

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Mr. Triarsi: So we don't hit them with the ordinance and a summons the next day.

Mr. Laezza: We try not to do that.

Mr. Triarsi: I know that.

Councilman O'Connor: I know last year we addressed the banners hanging across the roads. What about banners on fences? I know there's one establishment that has a long fence that they like to hang the Miller Beer special price. Are we addressing that?

Mr. Laezza: If they want to advertise a special event our ordinance does give them the right to do that twice a year. They have to pay us $75.00 to do that. If they are the American Legion, or the Knights of Columbus, or the VFW, we allow them to do it, they just have to get permission from us and we exempt from the fee. The only people that can put signs up are the municipality and the Board of Education. If they want to put a sign that says "ALJ Football Game", "March of Dimes", we let them do that.

Councilman Toal: They still have to give us notification on that right sir?

Mr. Laezza: But that's what our ordinance calls for.

Councilman Toal: Okay for example; so if the high school has something and they want to put a banner up they have to send you a letter or an email to let you know the information.

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Councilman Toal: Thank you sir.

Councilwoman Albanese: Now on the paper signs, like sometimes organizations within the town ask the establishments to put up a sign you know like "Benefit Ball Coming", put that sign in their window. That is a paper sign advertising something. How would that be handled because it's not related to the establishment.

Mr. Triarsi: The ordinance authorizes temporary signs to be employed provided that the sign advertise an event or an occurrence including political campaigns, charitable drives, or like activities. You are probably not going to see a sign advertising some fancy musical comedy run by a profit organization, if you do see that, that's not covered here.

Councilwoman Albanese: And then all the paper signs like they have the "Can Can Sale" at Shoprite; those are paper signs.....

Mr. Laezza: They are going to come down.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay.

Councilman Mazzarella: John what about the lawn signs that are in the right of way like Oasis Church?

Mr. Laezza: Anything that is in the right of way is illegal.

Councilman Mazzarella: Okay.

Mr. Laezza: Whether it is the Oasis Church or the Pope it is illegal.

Councilman Mazzarella: So we should tell you who they are and then you will send them a letter?

Mr. Laezza: It would be nice if you pick them up. I hate to write them a letter because then I have to send out Mike to pick them up. Just stop your, car and pick them up, and put them in the back trunk, and they will finally get lost that way.

Councilman O'Connor: I do want to add that I do like how we differentiate between the residential and the other zones, what is allowed and what is not allowed.

Mr. Laezza: Tried to clean it up in its entirety.

Councilman Barr: John what about our religious organizations? What if they have something coming up that they want to advertise?

Mr. Laezza: They can put the $75 up, and they are then allowed to put a banner. Twice a year they can advertise you know Christmas and Easter.

Council President Smith: What about some establishments that put out those tripods?

Mr. Laezza: No.

Council President Smith: They cannot put them out anymore.

Mr. Laezza: They have been illegal down through the years; they have been illegal from the beginning.

Councilman O'Connor: At the end of the day it is a beautification of the town.

Mr. Laezza: We hope.

Councilman O'Connor: I mean you have percentage of the window that can be covered by graphics. I mean it's all spelled out. It will all be uniformed.

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

2. Discussion: Business Administrator - Amendments to Chapter 3 Fire Department and Chapter 161 Fire Prevention

Discussion:

Township Clerk: Number two is going to be divided into two ordinances.

Council President Smith: Chief do you have anything to add?

Mr. Laezza: Why don't you explain it Chief, or do you want me to explain it?

Chief Cerasa: Basically it is restructuring the command staff of the fire department.

Mr. Laezza: Down through the years we have an outstanding volunteer fire department; we've had an outstanding volunteer fire department at least throughout my fifteen years here, or fourteen years here and still going. And so basically they are restructuring the fire department so that we will have a permanent chief, not having a chief elected every two years with a command cabinet, if you will, of deputy chiefs, and then the line officers. The line officers will still be elected every two years; the election will be in October of each year. It basically spells out that there is a full time chief. It names the title of the department. It sets forth a process that should something happen to the chief that the replacement of a fire chief will be done upon the recommendation from the Fire Department Association of the personnel that are volunteers that they would name someone that they thought would be able to replace the chief should he retire,

pass away or whatever he has to do. There is a chain of command process in there that accommodates that.

The second section talks about the relationship and the opportunity in the fire prevention operation. And how that specifically spells out and works and how it should be replaced in each of those specific areas. In each area it gives the….that any person that changes these positions will be part of our volunteer fire department recommendation from our volunteer fire department so that the association still has a say as to who their chief would be subsequent to the replacement of the present chief that the mayor will be appointing.

Councilman Mazzarella: John on the second one, just a clarification, you are amending the qualifications for deputy chief and chief of the department. Is it important that the individual be a resident of the Township of Clark you are taking that out?

Mr. Laezza: They have to be a resident of the Township of Clark.

Fire Chief Cerasa: It is being taken out. It was there and it is being removed.

Councilman Mazzarella: So you don't have to be a resident.

Mr. Laezza: You didn't have to be a resident. You don't have the amended version of that.

Councilman Mazzarella: Oh ok because it's taken out over here.

Councilman O'Connor: You sent that out late.

Township Clerk: That is the one that I sent out late. That is the one I just gave out.

Councilman Mazzarella: This is the one that you just gave us. It says here in "Qualifications" (page 3) "Deputy Chief and Chief of the department: it is important that the individual be a resident of the Township of Clark". That is stricken, that is taken out? So it suggests to me that the person…

Township Clerk: Is that the one I gave you?

Councilwoman Albanese: What section is it?

Fire Chief Cerasa: Page 4, number…

Councilwoman Albanese: No there's no page numbers, what's the item number?

Councilman Mazzarella: It's item H…it's I in Qualifications.

Councilwoman Albanese: And which ordinance are you looking at?

John Laezza: 161…go on Qualifications.

Councilman Mazzarella: Article 8. So that would suggest to me that if you are taking that out then the person doesn't have to be a resident of Clark.

Mr. Laezza: No…that whole section of Deputy Chief and the Chief of the Department is out of there in its entirety. The only thing that the qualifications relates to there is Assistant Chief or Battalion Chief.

Councilman Mazzarella: So in other words what are we looking at here exactly? Does the individual have to be a resident of Clark?

Chief Cerasa: Yes.

Councilman Mazzarella: Okay so it should say that but on this document, that I am looking at, you are taking that out.

Mr. Triarsi: We are looking at different documents. Mine under I "Qualifications" says condition of appointment in continuance to command staff has successfully completed, blah, blah, blah, and served the term. It is important that the individual be a resident of the Township of Clark" that is what I have on page 4, Item I.

Council President Smith: Does "I" only have to pertain to the Assistant Chief and the Battalion Chief?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Council President Smith: Then "F" just has to deal with the Chief. So the Chief only has to be a resident of the Clark.

Mr. Laezza: Correct, right.

Council President Smith: So in the order, what happens if the Chief retires…?

Mr. Laezza: After the qualification for the Chief….I is the qualification for the Assistant Chief or Battalion Chief period.

Mr. Triarsi: It is in both sections John.

Councilwoman Albanese: So they don't have to be a resident.

Mr. Laezza: It comes out of the second one. It is removed from the second one Joe.

Mr. Triarsi: I have it in both sections, so let's just make sure we all understand. In item 3, page …..

Mr. Laezza: Do you have a yellow one?

Mr. Triarsi: Do I have a yellow one? I am looking at the ordinance that I sent to Edie.

Mr. Laezza: Then we sent you an amended one back today.

Mr. Triarsi: Today?

Mr. Laezza: Today.

Mr. Triarsi: No.

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Mr. Triarsi: Well I didn't see it today that's why. I have the wrong one; everybody else has the right one.

Mr. Laezza: You don't have to be a citizen to be the Assistant Chief or a Battalion Chief but you have to be an officer anyway

Mr. Triarsi: Are there change in any of the other ordinance that I sent you.

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Township Clerk: All I have is the two fire department ones that I received this afternoon.

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Mr. Triarsi: There are changes in both of these.

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Council President Smith: So but then if something if the Chief retires or decides to resign…

Mr. Laezza: Then the Fire Association will give us a recommendation of who they want to recommend being the next fire chief.

Council President Smith: Which would have to be a resident of Clark?

Mr. Laezza: It would have to be from the association because they can't be officer from the association. I am sure they would make it an officer and in order to be an officer you would have to be a resident.

Councilman Mazzarella: Okay.

Councilman Toal: Chief, your men not just the leadership of the department, are all in agreement with this change to the entire department structure?

Fire Chief Cerasa: We had a company meeting this past Friday; I discussed it for probably an hour and forty five minutes to two hours.

Councilman Toal: And the opinions of your men?

Fire Chief Cerasa: Tons of questions and a lot answers. My guys congratulated me and said good luck and said you are the man for the job. I went back with five things that we were going to be changing in the (inaudible) and the most important was what's in yellow here, about you know in the event that I leave. They wanted to be reassured that it was going to be a member of the Clark Fire Department, and that they would still be able to vote that person in instead of the Mayor.

Councilman Toal: But in your opinion do you feel that a majority of the men were in favor of this change?

Chief Cerasa: Absolutely, yes.

Councilman Toal: I have another question, in line item "J" where it says Removal, "Command staff employees of an agency shall be subject to the approval by the Mayor and Council" in the past of the history of Clark; this could become a political football. There might be a future mayor that might turn and say that he does not like Frank Cerasa, he may not like the current chief.....

Mr. Laezza: But they would have to get rid of him for cause.

Councilman Toal: True, but again things are made up in the political process.

Mr. Laezza: Well that's the world you live in.

Councilman Toal: I just want to get your thoughts on that.

Chief Cerasa: Just so you know that that removal thing, "J", anything that is not in yellow, has been in place it's been in existence forever.

Councilman Toal: So it is in existence today.

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Councilman Toal: That's fine. You answered my questions, my concerns. Thank you Mr. President.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Brian to remove someone for cause you have to have cause. (Councilman Toal: Yes) That is Civil Service. It doesn't just become a...my cause is I don't like the way you are doing the job. You know you have to have documentation on what, when, and why.

Mr. Laezza: You have to see the bullet coming out of the gun and striking.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance
Mover: Barr Second: Mazzarella

Township Clerk: Mr. President, can I just say that discussion #2 is split into two ordinances, so are the movers and second same on both?

Councilman Barr: Same

Councilman Mazzarella: Same.

3. Discussion: Business Administrator – Amendment to Chapter 223, Noise, in accordance with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection as a result of a Statutory Requirement

#3 Is Removed (no action)

Mr. Triarsi: Number 3 is no action.

Mr. Laezza: I might say Mr. President that and I am not trying to run your meeting, but since there are other people from the fire department here maybe you might want to ask them their opinion on it, so that their voice is going to be heard, or they can wait for when we go to the Public Session. So if they would like to discuss this they should bring it up now.

Jim Borden: I happen to be the President of the Association of the Fire Department. We are going to have a follow up meeting Thursday night with the membership so that they are apprised of the changes that we are making to the ordinance following Frank's presentation. We are going to get a better feel of their feelings after that. This is still very fluid at this point. We heard about it, we had comments throughout the night, those comments were implemented. So I mean if everybody is in agreement it is fine but if they are not in agreement.....

Mr. Laezza: We will hear from you on January 20th.

RESOLUTIONS:

4. Authorizing transfers of 2014 Appropriation Reserves (if necessary)

Discussion:

Township Clerk: On the first one, if it becomes necessary we will have a transfer.

Mr. Laezza: There will be a transfer.

Township Clerk: Terance said that he was working the 1st and 2nd to determine that. So it is necessary then.

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

Motion: O'Connor Second: Albanese

5. Appointing Robert Thieling and Scott Boyer as Members of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Motion: Barr Second: Albanese

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

6. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle a tax appeal authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey in the amount of $6,821.26

7. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $12,545.75 and transfer overpayment of $250.00 of 2014 taxes

8. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of sewer fees in the amount of $1,654.88

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Toal Second: O'Connor

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.

Council President Smith opens the meeting to the public

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

Council President Smith directed roll call: All ayes
Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: If you take a look out in the driveway and on the streets you will see some white lines down the street. It was our first spraying of the brine solution today for an inch or so of snow that we are supposed to have tomorrow. It is the first time that we had the chance to use it so we will see what happens. I talked to Scott McCabe before the meeting and he said that he did a real lot of streets, whatever that may mean, with 500 gallons. So knowing Scott they did real well with it.

Councilman Barr: It looks like lines going down. Does that spread out? How does that actually you know even though its brine that it will cover the street?

Mayor Bonaccorso: According to Scott…Frank was asking me a question about mist spraying the street, lines…. He said what they are recommending is that you do it like those lines because when the weather hits the streets, the snow, it will start to melt and it will kind of wash across the street to keep it melted. So we will find out tomorrow morning to see how it works. If an application has to be put down a little different then we will have it put down a little different next time. The first time that you use something it is trial and error. I am as anxious to see how this works as you. But they use it on highways; they use it at airports, so the theory will work. He went out with his assistant Pat Hofschneider today, personally Scott and Pat, to spray it before they turn it over to other guys in the department to see exactly how far they got and what it is going to do. So it should be interesting tomorrow.

Councilman Hund: How long did it take them to do everything?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well I'm going to say to you Steve I don't know the exact hour but I called him this morning at eleven and I said are you going out with the brine and he said yes and that he was going down to Rahway to fill up. So it was probably a half a day. Remember it's driving, it is basically driving.

Councilman Barr: How fast do they actually go when they are spreading it?

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't think that they go slow. I mean I don't think that they go 60 but I think that it is around the speed limit.

Mr. Laezza: They try to do 25 mph, the Chief is here.

Council President Smith: I hope so.

Police Chief Scherb: Normal just like driving in a parking lot. It is just like you are laying tar down the street.

Councilman Barr: I am interested to see if it actually spreads out.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Like I said if there are adjustments that have to be made we will adjust. like I said if there are any adjustments that need be they will make them. But tomorrow I think it is a great one to try this out on, because there is not really a lot it is going to be an inch to an inch and a half they're saying, and I don't even know if that. It sounds like more West/North there's going to be like two inches, but we are maybe going to get a dusting to a half inch. So we'll see how it works.

Councilwoman Albanese: So maybe we won't get anything because it will all melt. It might all dissipate.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They said when we bought this that the first inch or two of snow should just melt itself right off the street before you have to plow.

Councilwoman Albanese: So the driveways should have snow and the roads should not.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It will be interesting you know to see what we get tomorrow morning out of it. Just a reminder that the Council Meeting this month will be on Tuesday the 20th, because of the holiday on Monday.

Basically the Department of Public Works is running well. They are doing anything we need of them. Without the snow and real frigid cold they have been getting out to the parks, leaf cleaning the parks and things of that nature. As I told you on Reorganization Day that fifteen times they went around collecting leaves, so that's pretty darn good. But other than that everything is pretty quiet, any questions?

Council President Smith: Christmas trees?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Throw them to the curb. Do you know what I don't get though? I'll tell you I'm little shocked about this, I was reading Facebook last night and people are saying what do we do with their Christmas trees. And I'm saying, "I don't know maybe the same thing that you have been doing for at least the fourteen years that I have been here."

Councilwoman Albanese: Maybe they are new in town.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know, look at the street people we have trees all over.

Councilwoman Albanese: Maybe they thought that they made a side deal.

Mayor Bonaccorso: By the way we do not charge for that service where other towns do. But yeah I was kind of shocked by that, I never saw that before, anyone asking that question.

Councilman Barr: I saw some today and they have it wrapped in a big plastic bag.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I think that they take that anyway, they just rip them off.

Councilman O'Connor: That just keeps the needles from falling all over the house when they take the tree out.

Councilwoman Albanese: Nothing, no report.

Councilman Barr: Everything is going well.

Councilman Hund: I will save it for the regular meeting.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just can't wait to see how that brine works. I was talking to the Mayor before the meeting, going back four years ago, when I was the Director of Public Works in

Rahway, we had a demo and they used the same process but a different spraying. They would spray across the whole road and all that. But then the Mayor was talking with Scott and this new way, they feel it is better to have the ridges, for lack of a better word.

Mr. Laezza: We've learned that through golf courses architecture, that is how they fertilize golf courses, with lines.

Councilman Mazzarella: So it will be interesting to see how it works.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you, so one of the things that I forget to mention at the reorganization meeting. I did thank everyone who stood with me at Brewer, but one of the people that I forget to really thank was Angel. Anytime I went out on weekends Angel was with me. Angel's like pick me up from work and when we were done she was like drop me back off at work. I am fortunate, we all are fortunate to have a team like this. I'll just hold my other comments to the next meeting.

Councilman Toal: I'll keep it to the public meeting.

Council President Smith: And I'll save it for the public.

Mr. Laezza: Well Council should know that this morning I had an hour and a half meeting with my DPW Supervisor and Assistance Supervisor. I told them not to get a big head because the Mayor said that they did such an outstanding job last year. I expect a better job this year. I gave them a little direction as to where I would like the DPW to go. They were pretty receptive. I gave them some concerns as to where I think they might better operate their operation but I told them that I would wait for their creativity to give me their plan, until they wanted mine. And we had a very good meeting with them, so I am happy with that supervision.

The second thing that you should know is that I completed the Mayors acquiescence, which we believe is our needs for the 2015 year. I am not ready to prepare the budget for you because we have not completed our revenue anticipation, before we give it to Council hopefully prior to the end of January. Before then you can make a determination as to what you as Council want to do with it. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Triarsi: No report.

Council President Smith: Mayor Sal is the Clark Commons still June?

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is what they are saying. They have been getting pretty lucky with the weather this winter. It is going to be frigid cold so that kind of hence pouring cement and things of that stuff right now.

Council President Smith: They made a lot of headway.

Mr. Laezza: Council has completed the right a ways so they will be able to start their road work on Raritan Road, with the completion of those intersections by the springtime so it should be

ready. The owner of Clark Commons is looking for April or May; I think that July is a better date. So I think we are moving along very well.

Councilman Mazzarella: Do you have an idea of the restaurants that are coming?

Mr. Laezza: We have an Applebee's, Chipotle, Panera Bread, Noodles, Blaze Pizza, Smash Burger and Whole Foods. Whole Foods is going to have a restaurant, and also a pub. So I think that's off the top of my head.

Councilman O'Connor: I am looking forward to the synchronization of the cross town lights.

Councilman Toal: Yes.

Mr. Laezza: That will be interesting.

Council President Smith: We all are. Anything new with the A&P or the old Jack's Tavern?

Mr. Laezza: The A&P owners called me and they think that they have a hot prospect. They wouldn't give me the name, so that says to me that they don't have a hot prospect. But they have been calling me the second week of every month to let me know where they are. So they know that I am on their case regularly.

Councilman Mazzarella: I know that you got a little forceful with them a little bit like possibly threatening them for condemnation and all that. Do you think that his going to go to that eventually?

Mayor Bonaccorso: If it keeps up it will because how much more can we wait? Look, we do not own the property, you have to give people a fair shot to get it sold, we went through a recession, blah, blah, blah but they are hurting the rest of our area now.

Councilman Mazzarella: That's right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Now to give them a little break they did have someone who was right on it that backed away.

Mr. Laezza: He didn't back away, they backed away.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, whoever backed away. When I said "he" I meant the buyers, right?

Mr. Laezza: The sellers. He wouldn't back away, he put $100.000.00 into it. Then they blew him away.

Council President Smith: Anything on the Barnes and Noble corner over there, the old gas station?

Mr. Laezza: That is in court. That is going to be decided in the courts.

Councilman Mazzarella: And the one by Brant and Westfield? That is none existent right now, where Frankie's used to be.

Mr. Laezza: That is nonexistent right now.

Councilman Hund: Is it okay for them to store those containers there?

Council President Smith: Those drums?

Councilman Hund: The drums.

Mr. Laezza: I think those drums are there to try to get rid of the environmental contamination out of there. I think they are trying to clean it up first before they sell it again.

Police Chief Scherb: Nothing.

Fire Chief Cerasa: Nothing.

Mr. Fewkes (Emergency Management): Nothing.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Hund

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
February 2, 2015

ROLL CALL:
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Absent: O'Connor

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

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RESOLUTIONS:

1. Authorizing transfers of 2014 Appropriation Reserves

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Albanese Second: Mazzarella

2. Directing release of Performance Guarantees in the amount of $39,225.60 to Investors Bank upon receipt or conversion of a Maintenance Guarantee in the amount of $4,358.40

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: Did they do everything that they needed to do?

Mr. Laezza: Yes, they did, we received a letter from the engineer stating that.

Councilman Mazzarella: There is nothing else that has to be done?

Mr. Laezza: Nothing else has to be done but to get their cash maintenance bond.

Council President Smith: Do we hold it for a year?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Barr

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

3. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $12,827.45 and transfer overpayment of $2,068.59 of 2014 taxes

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Toal Second: Hund

Councilman Smith: There is something new that we will possibly add?

Township Clerk: I handed out a pool resolution. This is regarding the membership fees as well as swim lessons, swim team and guest fees. All of the back-up is still here for you. This will be added to the February 17th agenda as an item under the Council sitting as the Pool Utility. There will also be one other outstanding pool issue at this time and that would be the concession stand which is currently under negotiation. The current vendor has an option for two more years but they have to settle on a price, if it is done before the 17th that will also be on the agenda.

Council President Smith makes a motion to move, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella.

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.

Council President opens the meeting to the public

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

Roll Call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: A couple of things. Before you is Acting Police Chief Pedro Matos of the Clark Police Department and I think that you guys know that by now, I am doing this for the record. Chief Scherb's last day was Saturday, the 31st. Chief Matos took over on February 1st. Technically by law he has to sit and take a chief's test in June and then I could officially make him the police chief. As I explained to the department on Friday, he is the Acting Chief, he is in charge of all aspects of the department, and he is being addressed from me as Chief Matos. The only way he wouldn't become Chief is if he fails his test and we have to demote him back or John convinces me to make him the Police Director because he will get a badge and a gun. Other than that Pedro has my complete confidence, he is a Marine, he is an excellent test taker. Every time I promoted him, three times, this will be the fourth coming, he has always scored number one on the test. The only thing that we are going to work on is that Pete can be a little too serious so we are going to loosen him up a little bit, other than that I think the department is going to be

in very, very good hands. I am very confident to say that. He is very professional, he knows his job, men will work with him, and people will not play with him. He is not going to tolerate that kind of stuff. So, I told Pete to be my guest, have fun, and take the test. To show you the type of person that he is, he is going to be going down to a study group right around the Atlantic City area and that is a heck of a trip, back and forth, once a week, Friday afternoons. I said to Pete that he is testing against himself and truthfully the person that administers the test and that is mostly verbal right?

Chief Matos: It is all written.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I'm sorry. They are going to get it; do you know what I am trying to say? It is not like there are two or three people there. He said to me, "Sal, with all due respect, I take a lot of pride in how I do things and I want to score very well." So, I think that should show you the very good attitude of the person that we have in charge. I pledge my support to Pete, my loyalty, and this goes for John and all of you folks, we will help him in any way that we can to succeed whenever he needs us. I know that he is going to do a very, very good job for us. Best of luck my friend, I think that you are going to handle it just fine.

Chief Matos: Thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The other day I had a meeting with Whole Foods and Chief Matos was with me because he was taking over. I said to the Chief that he should come over to the office so that the people get to meet him and going forward.... because obviously the Chief of Police is a very important person in the community, especially to a center like that. We met with them and they were very nice, I was very impressed with them, Pete did a great job with them. What they told me and I was very excited about it is that they were going to create something like two hundred jobs and seventy percent of them are going to be full time positions. Whole Foods was also saying that many of the Whole Foods upper management are people who started stocking shelves in their buildings. They believe in bringing people up through the ranks and in doing things that way. So, if you are looking at 70% of two hundred jobs that is a hundred and forty permanent jobs coming out of that center for one store. It will be good for people who need employment. I am sure there are going to be kids, high school kids that will be able to pick-up part-time jobs there. I think that is an outstanding thing. They are very excited to come to Clark. We talked to them about some of our community policing initiatives that we are going to do in there and they were very happy about it. They just were excited to be here when we got done that day. I was very impressed with them; they were very nice people. They want to be community oriented and they wanted to come and have a meet and greet as they are going forward. They are excited to be in Clark and I told them that the town is very excited to have them. So, we will see where that all goes.

The men are out plowing and salting. When they were done plowing today, they went out salting again. They will probably be out salting tomorrow morning also. Mr. Grande will make the decision about school in the morning whether or not he is going to have a delayed opening or be able to get people there. The schools are all cleaned out and they look pretty good. We had men out today opening up some sewer catches in some of the lower laying areas to get some water too be able to dissipate into the sewer system. I think that they did a pretty good job with everything;

I have no complaints on what they are doing so far. The recreation center is closed tonight due to the icy conditions. I do not want people slipping and falling out in the parking lot.

The much talked about and anticipated sign ordinance. I just had a quick meeting with Joe and John about it. I am going to lay out a couple of things for you Council. Number one; we are going to completely revisit that ordinance. The Legislative Committee you are going to be asked to convene also with us. The owner of the Commons has come to John to ask him to help legislate the type of signage that could be put up in the Commons. If a vitamin shop comes in, they do not want.... we do not windows covered with vitamin bottles. Petco, unfortunately for Delia, we are not going to have pictures of dogs and cats covering the entire windows on the outside. We have to make a decision if we are going to allow us to be a honky-tonk center or a community with a little bit of class, I think that we have class, so I will rephrase that. We promised a first-class community shopping area there. The same people that are complaining will be the same people knocking you and me when that thing goes up if it is not to their liking. Sue wrote a nice article on the Tap, as they always do, and it kind of went viral from there. I am a participant of Facebook as you know; I put a lot of stuff out there as the mayor of the town. When I read the comments on Facebook on some of Sue's stuff, most of the comments I think were well intended, I think. People were weighing in who do not live in Clark, who will never live in Clark, who never lived in Clark, number one. Okay? They did a little poll.... typically, typically to the people who complain. I asked several times if they would please send their complaint, idea, or suggestions to the clerk@ourclark.com. How many did we receive?

Township Clerk: Two.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Two. Technically if you wanted to legislate through government, you would say there are 14,568 people in Clark, subtract two, 14,566 people have no interest or any interest at all in this. I am going to let it be known point blank the way I always have. We have been the government that has asked people about the Gypsum site through a mailer what they think they might like. To feel the pulse of the public like any good legislature should, right? What do people say about elected officials when they are mad at them? "They don't listen! They don't listen!" Well, we did that and we came out of it with a shopping center. I am not running Clark Township through people's ideas on Facebook. Point blank I will not run Clark Township on people's ideas on Facebook! I will always listen; take into consideration when I feel that they are right and I will have no problem in saying that they are right. Maybe what we proposed is not as good as what they are saying, I would even be happy to say that. We are not trying to be dictators; we are not trying to know it all. We are Clark residents who are not professional politicians but are trying to serve our community to make it that much better. In fifteen years as Mayor, I know that I have made it better, and I know that you folks have made it better. That is why our election results look the way they do every November. When you go viral and you go onto a social media outlet it is easy to lie on your couch and go... "That's no good" "I don't want this" because he said, because he hears her say, she read his posting, and he read his posting. So now you have people who have no idea what is in the ordinance, the old one of the new one, would want you to run your government through the Facebook page. If any of you choose to do that be my guest and you are on your own. I will not govern Clark this way, not after fifteen years of being in this town as its mayor and taking the State and National recognition that we have gotten through the past fifteen years. Now I will not say that I will not pay attention to that.

I will of course always read people's comments because it is not that hard to do. They are not dropping me off a thick history book and saying read it. It is on a phone and you can sit there between commercials and read. So, do I have a problem of, as they say, keeping my fingers on the pulse of the public? I will always do that. I am not legislating through Facebook. We are not going to have polls to run Clark through Facebook. Now some of the people on the Facebook page were very appreciative that I did listen, I participated in dialogue with them, but that is just me I would do that anytime, I have no problem doing that. It is not going to be tomorrow guys that we decide that we are going to paint the telephone poles red, white and blue and I am going on Facebook and say, "is that okay?" If you are that afraid of your seat you probably don't belong in it. People elect you and me to make decisions for them. On that Gypsum survey and I think John, you still have them, right? I can show you surveys where people said that is what we elect you to do, ok? There were many, many people that gave input. So, let's understand, I think that this ordinance was well intended, as I think that you guys supported in the beginning. I think that there were some good questions raised but I also think that there were some things that were taken out of context. No one said that you can't have a sign on your door that says, "Wi-Fi availability" No one is saying that a restaurant can't have a menu in the window saying this is what we serve here. We are not trying to make, especially the Commons, look so honky-tonk. Today I rode the town and I will say what our vendors have out there tonight as we sit here did not offend me, was nothing that bad. So maybe then we will just concentrate our efforts into that zone and go from there. I was at Shoprite today and there were two signs, one that said "Orange Juice" and the other was behind a door what when you come out you couldn't see it. There were some graphic boards in the window of apples and vegetables like they have had from the day they opened. You ride through town and you look at Dunkin Donuts and they have a couple of stickers of lattes on their windows, Dairy Queen they have a picture of a blizzard, things like that are fine, we don't have a complaint. As John was pointing out to Mr. Triarsi and I earlier, and it is a very, very valid point, we do not have a law governing window graphics painted on, glued on, taped on permanent fixture to the window. Technically they can basically put whatever they want. Then when you come to me and say that people are calling because of that, I am going to say that there is no ordinance. But as Joe said, we want to talk to Mr. Krame and see what is in his lease agreement and what we want to do from there. The other thing is it is nice to have people advertise stuff, you know maybe if there is going to be a Valentine's Day sale then we could consider and talk about that they can put a sign that is "so" big days prior to the holiday and take it down a day or two after the holiday. We could consider things of that nature and we can look at things of that nature. I am going to tell you straight out that maybe before I got into government, I never called my mayor or my Council person or the Police Department on my neighbors, on parties, and of things of that nature because I think that I am just the type of guy that just goes home to my house, I have my supper, I sit there with my family. My wife will argue with me because God knows I will not argue with her, watch my TV and then I go to bed at night. I don't drive down the roads of Clark looking at every store to see what is in their window because Chief Matos could give me a ticket for doing that. We have no pedestrian traffic in Clark because the forefathers of Clark, when this was a farm town never thought about other than milking Elsie's cow utters on how they should design this town to have a real downtown Clark. You go to ShopRite, as I said Susan, when you are in that parking lot, you are trying to keep your butt from getting run over to get to the front door. You are not reading signs on the window. Do you know what guys? I am not marketing major but I have a little bit of common sense. If I am in ShopRite's parking lot, I am in their store. That sign on that window is not

bringing me into that store. If that was so important to get me to buy the orange juice on sale, they can have a little area inside their store that would accommodate both doorways to say, "Orange Juice is on Sale", "Prunes are on Sale", "Pepperoni is on Sale" and whatever else you want to call it. Now somebody said on one of the pages that these stores hire marketing firms and they must look and know that this stuff works, maybe it does, not to me it doesn't. A&P advertising broccoli in their window, guys if I am looking in your window, I am coming into your store already. The fact that you can't put out that you have oil on sale this week is going to put you out of business, I don't believe that. There is a lot of drama that was written this weekend about how people are going to be closing up and running out of Clark. And if I said to the business people downtown, would you want to make that a sale? And we will have a tax to redevelop that area? That you will pay as business owners and that will get directly dumped into your street for streetscapes and things of that nature. Do you know what they are going to tell me? "No, that is what they are going to tell me. When trees were planted in front of some of those stores in 2001, God rest his soul, Pete Nevargic almost had a heart attack. It was the summertime and instead of the storeowner going outside once a week with a bucket of water and throwing it on the tree because it was out in front of their store it died. God helps those who help themselves. I am being a little winded, a little dramatic, but I just want it stated for the public record that I did listen, I think there were some good things said on Facebook, I have no problem with people venting on it, or talking to us on it, no problem whatsoever. I had some guy deaminizing me and when I looked at his posting he lived in Winfield. Do you know what he can do? Stay in that town and leave me alone here, okay in plain English. I don't need you and Winfield telling me how to live in Clark. If I wanted your opinion I would move and be your neighbor. So, these are the things that you get involved in when you use the social media. It is a great tool, I appreciate it. Jorge Ferrara was the leader of the patch. Jorge is a friend, he is a nice man, and I have nothing but respect for him. He was one of the two people who was decent enough to send something in. So, to me kudos and respect to Jorge because he put his money where his mouth is and tried to weigh in to his local government. We as local government people, elected officials have looked at it and said that we would consider, that is a win, win as far as I am concerned. For the rest of them who want to badger and complain and cry, they couldn't tell you what was in that ordinance if their life depended on it. I say it every election, you hear me, go out to vote Tuesday, don't go out to vote Tuesday unless you know who the candidates are, and you know what they represent, where they stand, and what the issues are. If you go out and vote blind, you are a dangerous voter. It is the same thing as giving your opinion on local government. Unless you know what, you are going to say yay or nay too, and it could be positive too let's not just take the negative side of this, you should understand what we are trying to do. Then when you weigh in your opinion it's very much so appreciated by me, so two people out of all of those postings took the time. And Susan had the link on her page to where the new ordinance popped up. So, you didn't even have to come to town hall. You didn't even have to go to www.ourclark.com and pull up the ordinance book; it was right on her article. So, I am done, thank you.

Councilman Barr: I have a question. Is Mr. Krame the one from the Clark Commons?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Councilman Barr: Sal being that this is basically what this whole thing started from just like when you said that you drove around and really didn't see anything that was....

Mayor Bonaccorso: No nothing that I would say was embarrassing.

Councilman Barr: Being that Clark Commons is a special area; can Mr. Krame have in something their own type of an ordinance for the stores that are there?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well Joe is going to look Al, as I had said earlier.

Mr. Laezza: He does have a lease that says that.

Councilman Barr: Can his lease agreement include signage or something like that?

Mr. Triarsi: He had a provision in his lease that allows him control of signage of his tenants. He would also like some kind of legislation that backs it up. I want to see the lease before you do anything.

Mr. Laezza: So, we have an understanding that it is not Bill Krame of the Clark Commons Development that created these problems or concerns. Mr. Krame came here two and a half years ago and indicated that when he put up a development that he would put it up within the code and the Zoning Board Ordinance that we write. That none of his tenants would be looking for variances.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Correct.

Mr. Laezza: Without an ordinance we are going to have the Zoning Board decide what that shopping center looks like, and shame on you if that is what you let happen.

Councilman Barr: I understand that better now. Like the Clarkton Shopping Center, basically we are not going to do anything that is going to hurt them.

Mr. Laezza: No that is as honkytonk as it will be and it will always be that way, predicated on what you want not done.

Mr. Triarsi: Mr. President, I don't know Mr. Krame, I spoke with him once on the phone. The primary responsibility for the signage is his, not ours. If as John says his clients want to deviate from the terms of the zoning ordinance, they need to gain his consent to even get to the Board of Adjustment. I don't want it to be the impression that Krame can't do these things; landlords do them all the time, alright? So, we are going to put the force of law to the extent that we can but we are not going to assume his responsibilities (Councilman Barr: Good) with public dollars.

Council President Smith: That makes sense.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We just want to make sure guys what John said is very important to remember going forward and Bill Krame did say this. When he proposed the shopping center, he

said to us that he will build this shopping center with class and distinction according to what this community, meaning us, and what the township government wants.

Mr. Triarsi: And you and John insisted that it would be a first class…

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, yes, beyond the point of obnoxious. But at the end of the day, we don't want an avenue that he is correct on, where they can circumvent us and make variance changes by going to the Zoning Board. We promised the people of this community that this was going to be built the way it was going to be passed on the Planning Board side and go from there. I am sure that there are people that ride around all day long and look at the ugly buildings that are up there right now that are grey, the prefab buildings, they are going to be painted, they are going to be stoned, they are going to have stucco, they are going to be landscaped. So, like I said if you were just driving through Clark tonight you might go, "that's ugly, look at that building that they are putting up" that is not even a third of the way home at this point. So that is the thing that I want you guys to understand, John is right, we can't enable any board, and our Zoning Board is a tough board, so it is not like they are a bunch of pushovers, they are probably harder than we can be at times. We want to make sure that it is what we told the people that it would be when we asked them to accept this in the community.

Councilman Barr: In the beginning when I was just going over the ordinance that we were doing I explained that I am finding a lot of fault with it and you cleared up a lot of those things.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is the thing now, you know, discussion can always bring forth, that is like I tried to say earlier with the Facebook comments. We appreciate it, it is nice that people take the time but please be informed when you are given opinions so people don't believe that this is the way it is going to be. Some people were off base on Facebook and some people had some very good concerns and comments.

Councilman Hund: Are we able to have different ordinances per zones?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Mr. Laezza: Yes. As long as the zoning changes that we make conform to our master plan. If the attorney for our Planning Board, when we sent this ordinance out, I had to review it and basically the proposed change to signs and graphic displays in light of the provision of the master plan and the board knowledge of the township land use. What we are trying to do with this zoning ordinance change was to conform to the master plan that we adopted in this town. That will take time for the Planning Board to make that decision. Since this is not going to the Planning Board now because of some (inaudible) things, there will be no action taken on this zoning ordinance February 17th, because any ordinance requires a prior approval of the Planning Board.

Mr. Triarsi: We will note for the record that the prerequisite has not been satisfied.

Mr. Laezza: Correct.

Mr. Triarsi: What happens after that will be determined by the nature of the changes that we have to make to the ordinance.

Township Clerk: You don't want to hold the public hearing on the 17th?

Mr. Laezza: We have to open up because it was advertised as a public hearing. We will open it up and then the Council will make that determination that it is not available for public comments.

Mr. Triarsi: You hold the public hearing but as in most cases where you had to get a certification; there is no certification here so you can't (inaudible). We will see what the Planning Board does with it. Depending on how complicated it is we will either call for an amendment to this ordinance, it can be a minor amendment, in which case we will amend the ordinance, where we will advertise it if necessary. If the changes are significant, when the time comes, we won't move the other ordinance, we will just let it die and introduce the new one. I want to see what the changes are first.

Councilman Mazzarella: As you said, you rode around town and looked at pretty much the businesses and it doesn't look bad at all, which I agree. So, when this was originally proposed to us the main focus on this ordinance was focused towards that development.

Mr. Laezza: It was focused toward window graphics.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We don't have window....

Mr. Laezza: Window graphics for the whole town.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It arose out of the new center but the ordinance is that we do not have a window ordinance graphic for the entire community. Where John is correct in saying, if you don't have anything they could put up everything. So that is the other risk that you run.

Mr. Laezza: Just like chaos, if you don't have a police department the town is not going to run well. If you don't have rules, then the town is not going to run well.

Councilman Mazzarella: As Steve has mentioned this can be tailored and focused.

Mr. Laezza: Anything can be tailored.

Councilman Mazzarella: This can be tailored and focused to specific areas if we wanted that.

Mr. Triarsi: Do you mean to specific zones?

Councilman Mazzarella: Correct.

Mr. Triarsi: Don't we have a specific ordinance....

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Mr. Triarsi: If that is what you are going to end up wanting or whether you are going to want something broader than that, I don't know the answer to that question, that is up to you folks.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You may like the window graphic ordinance we are about to install town wide. There is nothing wrong with that. People have the right, look guys, stand up on this, go to Chatham, go to Madison, the Burger King doesn't even look like a Burger King up there. These towns are in the breath of every time you talk about elite and first class, those are the towns that are always mentioned. They have a set of rules that the community lives by. Jack Ruddy's is no longer on Westfield Avenue; O' Johnny's Fountain Shop is no longer there. Clark has evolved over the past hundred years, sometimes good and maybe sometimes not so good, I don't know. I am pretty happy with the town prior to and during my tenure. But if every little thing that someone comes and tells you is going to be an issue then, you know what guys? We should have the former government where people do what they want and we go home at the end of the night. They don't need us here. Go pull the rules up in Chatham, Madison, Chester, and Mendham and see what you can and cannot do there.

Councilman Barr: Cranford had a window ordinance.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Cranford and Westfield for that matter. I am just saying to you guys, I don't want to use our neighbors. So no, it is America, we all have rights, I get it, me too, but there are laws. You may not want to go 25 mph down a certain street but that is what the law is. So, we have got to look at this thing. Again, let's look at this like we always do and we will come up with the right solution, I am confident on that.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just wanted to ask, because Joe said that, we now understand that we did not have the correct certification for the Planning Board.

Mr. Laezza: We have not gotten it yet.

Councilwoman Albanese: We have not gotten it yet. I thought that when Sal made his comments we were going to go back to the legislative committee before you even get to that step.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The Planning Board is going to get a letter from me tomorrow saying, "Do not act on that"; we are not ready for you to act on that, period that is over with.

Councilwoman Albanese: So, we are going to....

Mayor Bonaccorso: Then we are going to turn around and John and I and Joe will sit down and craft something, and we will bring it to council. That will be the night, whether we go with the legislative committee first, or full Council depending how entailing it is. I don't know if you need to have a legislative committee meeting that is up to the president. Then you guys will have your say and at that point we will move forward. If it is a month more or a month less it does not matter.

Council President Smith: So, to sum it all up, Joe is going to start with the lease, then....

Mr. Triarsi: I am hoping to have Edie get the lease. I am going to also see if she can get me a couple of other ordinances.

Council President Smith: That is the perfect start.

Mr. Triarsi: The mayor is going to notify the Planning Board that it is the council's desire that it does not act, and because that doesn't act, you can act on the ordinance. She will announce that at the meeting, she will probably have to conduct a public hearing. At the end of the public hearing, she will announce that she cannot take action on it, so you can't even table it at that time. Somewhere between that meeting and the next meeting you folks and the Legislative Committee....

Mayor Bonaccorso: Joe, let me ask you a question.

Mr. Triarsi: What.

Mayor Bonaccorso: If the council does not move or second it, it dies.

Mr. Triarsi: No, it does not die.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Why?

Mr. Triarsi: There is a reason that it does not die because the council cannot act final on any zoning ordinance without the Planning Boards report.

Mayor Bonaccorso: But if at that point that council does not move it and second it at a Public Hearing there is nothing to hear.

Councilman Mazzarella: There is no action on it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It dies.

Mr. Laezza: You moved it at the Public Hearing though. It has to be moved at the Public Hearing and seconded and then you....

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, but why would we be doing that and wasting time.

Mr. Triarsi: When did we move and second it?

Township Clerk: You introduced it last meeting. You are going to open it to the public and then move and second it. You hold the Public Hearing first then move and second it.

Councilwoman Albanese: What if no one moves and seconds it is the question?

Mr. Laezza: If you don't go through the Public Hearing then the public is going to say that we are trying to impede what they have to say.

Mr. Triarsi: First of all, I think that it is good if you go to the public and let them express their....

Councilwoman Albanese: Absolutely, I agree with that 100%.

Mr. Triarsi: Let's hear what they have to say. After they are finished, typically when an ordinance has gone through a Public Hearing and the Public Hearing is closed it is time to adopt, table or not act on it. If you don't act on it, it dies period. It fails for lack of a vote. The problem is a zoning ordinance is different because a zoning ordinance requires action by the Planning Board before you can act on it. So, if the Planning Board does not provide a resolution, you can't act on it even if you wanted to.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have one comment. We are going to sit there and listen to comments on something that we might not even remotely look like we are adopting down the road. It doesn't make sense. If we have to open it by law, then it should be told to the public that it will not be acted on tonight because we asked the Planning Board not to act on it so we can revisit this.

Mr. Triarsi: That's fine.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So, before I have to hear someone get up for ten minutes and bore me with stuff that we are no longer going to have in there, why don't we have them explain to us when we have the finished product what they like and don't like at that point.

Mr. Triarsi: After or before the Public Hearing she can say just that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We should. I really don't need public comments Joe on something that we don't have in front of us that may be out of ten points, two may be adopted, or nine may be, we don't know that yet.

Mr. Triarsi: You have to go through a process.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I get it.

Mr. Triarsi: The process means that the public has the right to say whatever they will.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Joe, I get it but I think that we should clue them in.

Mr. Triarsi: If she is going to tell the public in advance that we did not receive the sign off from the Planning Board and therefore the council is not going to act on it tonight. That may mean that the public won't act on it at all, they won't come to the forum.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Because it does not make sense if they do.

Township Clerk: Can I just say something that you may agree with Mayor. I think that I have time to send a new advertisement to the newspaper canceling the Public Hearing because we need to work on the language.

Councilwoman Albanese: That's a good idea.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, it doesn't make sense guys. It is not about hearing the public; I want to hear them when it is in front of us to vote on it, not something that we are going to already change. Then they can tell us whatever they want I have no problem with that, I have been doing it long enough. We should tell them that we are not voting.

Township Clerk: Then on the agenda there is no Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Albanese: They can still come and talk if they want.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They can say it in the comments at the end of the evening and at that point our President can say, "That is great dialogue Mrs. Jones, but we are not voting on it, it is back on the drawing board, why don't you wait to see what is on the drawing board before you give us your ideas" or "Or you can put them into an email to the Clerk and this way when we are looking at the project we will have you comments in front of us on a piece of paper. As I have always said, you get more done through me and through you by calling us, coming to my office, sending us an email, you don't need to come to a council meeting to tell us that there is a pothole that is in front of your house and to please fill it.

Mr. Triarsi: Do you know what we are going to do? We are going to make sure that the public is aware, one way or another, that there is going to be no action on that ordinance.

Councilwoman Albanese: Susan will report it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Susan is going to write it anyway so that is a help right there.

Councilwoman Albanese: Yes, that is a big help.

Councilman Toal: I spoke to the Mayor on Friday; I met with the mayor briefly and discussed some of the concerns of my residents that appeared in the article on Tap into Clark. I went to their homes, two of the residents on Sunday and spoke to them in person. I explained to them what was occurring here and that the mayor basically said that here is what we would like to do, which was discussed tonight, I explained to them that what we try to do is that we like to keep them informed so that they don't feel like somebody is doing something otherwise, or doing something else. I spoke to the residence, one is a business owner and the other one is a very nice man that lives on Adam Street with his family and he is friends with the mayor and this administration, he is a very good man, Jorgie. The business owner, I spoke to him, and I will talk to the mayor after the meeting a little bit more about this resident, he was just feeling that we were doing something without his notification. I explained to him the process and how this town works. We also went on in the conversation saying that we are not going to do anything that is

going to hurt his business, we are not going to do anything that is going to hurt the township, we are just trying to make the town better. He just asked to be kept informed about any changes that you make.

Mr. Laezza. It is very simple. I am just taking quotes out of the articles in the newspaper.

Councilman Toal: Correct, and if I said it sir it comes out of emotion, not to insult this town, this administration or this mayor or yourself, it is very simple sir. Sometimes I get a little bit flamboyant or emotional because I care, that is all sir nothing to be insulting or to imply to make it confrontational.

Mr. Laezza: You imply that no one else care Councilman.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. Laezza I appreciate your time.

Councilwoman Albanese: I do agree with the mayor that no one pays attention to those food signs, there are enough flyers from A&P and Shoprite.

On Sunday afternoon after the closing there is going to be a reception at the Public Library to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. They are going to have the artwork that Henry Varriano commissioned the artist to prepare. That will be on display and be available the following week. So, if you can make it that would be nice. There will be refreshments served. Like I said, it is after the closing of the library at 5:00pm on Sunday. If that time is not correct, I will let you know. And I just wanted to say congratulations to the Chief.

Chief Matos: Thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: I look forward to working with you. One other item that I wanted to mention was that I know that a lot of the other towns and maybe this is with the transition, I get those Nixel alerts from Westfield, Cranford, Rahway but I haven't really been getting them from Clark. I don't know what has been happening, if it just was the transition.

Chief Matos: I actually contacted Nixel today; I am taking over tomorrow and there will be more alerts about road closures and weather conditions.

Councilwoman Albanese: Obviously we want just like the other towns to get the cars off the street, and if we tell them in advance that helps as well.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The Chief is also looking to open up that Clark Police Facebook page.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay, very good, I am glad to hear it.

Councilman Barr: Again, I am just repeating that I am glad we had this discussion tonight because from what I was getting from before, I was very much against the way things were going and now, it is going well. I am very happy about it.

Councilman Hund: I would just like to offer again my congratulations to Pedro. It has been many years since our boys were small. I am happy to see him rise through the ranks and being Chief of the Clark Township Police Department. Congratulations again Pedro.

Councilman Mazzarella: I too am happy that we had the opportunity to discuss this this evening. I was getting the wrong impression of it as I was reading the ordinance and I think Sal and John put it pretty much in perspective, thank you for that information. Good luck Pedro.

Councilman Toal: Chief, I would like to congratulate you and wish you all the best and a safe tour. Again, I will keep my comments to the public.

Council President Smith: I just want to say congratulations to you and thank you for all the information and dialog on the sign ordinance. We will get to the bottom of it eventually. Real quick, the Benefit Ball was a huge success. I want to thank the mayor of the town and the benefit committee for putting that all together. It was a great evening with the Nerds and the DJ; there were over three hundred residents there in attendance.

Mr. Laezza: I am happy to say that when Pete Matos was a sergeant, I told him that he would be a Chief before I left here and now, I am happy that it came to fruition.

Mayor Bonaccorso: John, you said that to me one day. You said that he would be chief someday.

Mr. Laezza: I wish you luck and I am there for you Chief.

Chief Matos: The official Facebook page will be forthcoming. I asked my command staff to look into how to set that up, and what kind of things we will be posting on the Facebook page before we go live with it. Again, like I said tomorrow I will set up the account and once I have that there are some perimeters that limit the amount of information that goes on there and I will mainly be controlling that. I am also assigning both my captains to also have access to it just in case I am not available.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Good.

Township Clerk: Nothing thank you.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
March 2, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

Absent: Mayor Bonaccorso

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE
Dispensed

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger and the Union County Local Source by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

Proclamation: National Poison Prevention Week

Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines, household chemicals, and other substances.

Township Clerk: This proclamation will be presented on March 16th. It has to do with the National Poison Prevention Week that congress designated, and it just happens to also be the week that we have our meeting. The timeline is very important so please read through it. I don't know how the Mayor is going to want to handle it… if he wants to speak on it. Usually when we do a proclamation we have someone to accept it. I don't know of anyone is coming to accept this one. It is an important to get it onto our website, our bulletin board and to make people aware.

Council President Smith: I agree. I will speak to the Mayor and see if we can get a congressman here.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE:

1. AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 347 SECTION 33 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED STOP INTERSECTIONS

Township Clerk: The first ordinance you originally discussed December 1st of last year. This is the ordinance that would change the yield sign at Brant Avenue approaching the parkway circle to a "STOP" sign. Also, when we were looking through the code book we noticed that the stop sign that already exists on Valley Road approaching that circle is not in there, so it will also include putting that stop sign in the book.

Mr. Laezza: Council President just so that you don't think that we are totally inefficient, we have been waiting for the County to take action about authorizing this sign. They finally said to us to introduce the ordinance and then they will approve it when that is done. That is why it is here now.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance
Mover: Toal Second: Mazzarella

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

2. AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO SETTLE A TAX APPEAL AUTHORIZED BY THE TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF $34,258.50

Discussion: None

3. AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND OVERPAYMENTS OF $9,547.77 AND TRANSFER OVERPAYMENT OF $2,008.97 OF 2014 TAXES

Discussion: None.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Barr 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.

Council President Smith opens the meeting to the public.

Seeing no one coming forward Council President Smith asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

Motion: Mazzarella Second: O'Connor

Roll Call: All ayes
Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Barr: I would just like to say one thing on this yield sign becoming a stop sign on Brant. Everyone (council people) from the different wards always tell me that they get calls, they get calls, they get calls, and believe it or not the At-Large-Council gets many calls. I have been getting so many calls. I mean it is so true, I go, I am there quite often and it looks like there is a yield sign and people just don't care. We are going to have a lot more power once it becomes a stop sign, so I am so glad to see that.

Councilman Hund: Nothing.

Councilman Mazzarella: Nothing.

Councilman O'Connor: Nothing at this time.

Councilman Toal: I will save it my comments for the public meeting.

Council President Smith: I am also going to save my comments for the public meeting.

Township Clerk: Nothing.

Acting Chief Matos: Nothing.

Howard Lesnik: Nothing.

Motion to go into private was made by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilman O'Connor.

Council President Smith directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

Any Opposed: Nay

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION 15-40

WHEREAS Section three (3) of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS this public body is of the opinion that circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council wish to discuss:

Possible Litigation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subject matter of this meeting will be released when the reasons for discussion and action on it in closed session no longer exists.

Council President Smith directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

Time: 8:02 Workshop Meeting Resumed: 8:14

Motion to resume Workshop Meeting was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

Council President Smith directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

Council President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman O'Connor

Council President Smith directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
April 6, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting 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" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

Police Department Awards, Promotions and the Swearing in of new Police Officers (April 20th)

Councilman Toal: How many officers are we adding?

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are adding two but we have six promotions.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

Discussion: None

Council Vice President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

2. Public Hearing on the 2015 Municipal Budget

Township Clerk: We will be holding a public hearing on the 2015 Municipal Budget.

Mr. Laezza: There will be no vote on that, but we are having an amendment that night.

3. Amending the approved 2015 Municipal Budget

Discussion: None

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

Township Clerk: The public hearing on the amended budget will be May 4th.

4. **Council sitting as Pool Utility:** Authorizing the Council President as Chairman of the Pool Utility to enter into Employment Contracts with the Pool Director and two Assistant Managers

Discussion:

Township Clerk: This is for the pool; it is authorizing the Council President as the Chairman of the Pool Utility to enter into employment contracts with the Pool Director and the two Assistant Managers.

Council Vice President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

5. Authorizing the Tax Collector to Settle a Tax Appeal authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey in the amount of $8,593.81

Discussion: None

6. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $14,522.73 and transfer overpayment of $628.77 of 2015 taxes

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of $6,060.00

Discussion: None

8. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of $34,434.54

Discussion: None

9. Affirming the Township's Civil Rights Policy with respect to all officials, appointees, employees, prospective employees, volunteers, independent contractors and members of the public that come into contact with municipal employees, officials and volunteers

Discussion: None

Council Vice President Hund asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Toal Second: Mazzarella

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.

Council Vice President Hund opens the meeting to the public

Seeing no one coming forward Council Vice President Hund asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

Motion: Toal Second: Albanese

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have a couple of things. I am sure that you guys have read about it, but to bring everyone officially up (to date) on the Westfield Avenue Committee Meeting between the last meeting an now.... John and I attended a meeting of about fifty or sixty people, there were about five stake holders on Westfield Avenue there to discuss about furthering a "Downtown Westfield Avenue". Dean Russo is leading the charge on the merchants' side. We are very happy about the turnout that was there. I had coauthored a letter with Dean to be sent out, that has been sent out to all of the residents and business owners on Westfield Avenue, from obviously Jack's Tavern to Madison Hill Road. (The letter) discussed some options about getting together, or meeting and working through committees so that we could have a more stream lined focus. We have just recently done that as of last Thursday. So we are hoping to hear more back on that. We are at a starting block but we still have a long way to go. We are at a starting block, so that is the good news for tonight.

Since we have The Clark Tap in the room, as always..... Councilman O'Connor has conveyed some possible traffic concerns by some residents in the Clark Commons area. Council, I want to caution you tonight. Every single thing that was approved by the Planning Board to date is in 110% compliance. The thing that I want to say to Council is that you all worked with me for a long time, except for Steve being new, you know when your residents have a valid concern, or complaints. When you call me, I do what? I move very quickly to make sure that complaint is taken care of. I will not at this time be concerning myself with traffic complaints that may never happen. Until it happens, I really can't help you. What I would like you guys to do, as I talked to Councilman O'Connor before....people are looking at certain things and they are imagining certain problems at this time. I have to say "imagining" because no one has been going in and out of there yet. When there is concern, as I explained to Pat, I will jump on it for him. People are misunderstanding....you can make a left in from Walnut Avenue coming up from the

Holiday Inn, and you can make a right out there. One of the concerns was the island. Islands are down lower today, as you can see on School Street and Central Avenue that is for police, fire and first aid. If they have to jump that island to get in there, God forbid, someone has a heart attack in the middle of the parking lot, and God forbid someone gets struck by a car, God forbid a lightning bolt strikes them on the head. Do we really want the emergency responders going up to the light on Walnut, making a left, going down, making a left, coming in…… you want them at the quickest access point. So that is why these islands are built with the State DOT standards. Everything to date is in 100% compliance. I will help anyone of you like I have always had because you have always been good and supportive to me and you know when you bring a problem I will kill myself trying to get it solved for you. Council, as the weeks go on the conversation is going to continue around town, "What about this, and what about that?" The Planning Board looked at it; three different traffic engineers looked at it. Guys this is the best that we could do up there. Hopefully it will work and solve everyone's problems. If there is something that needs to be addressed, I will address it. If I need to recruit the help of Chief Matos, I am sure he will be too happy to help us as he has had in his short tenure so far. Until then guys there is nothing that I can do for you. Pat, I know that you are going to get the brunt of is up there already, I mean good luck to you in the meantime. If it is something that is immediate that we really could do today that happened out on the street, we are only too glad to help you, we will do that for you in a second. I can't start concerning myself with people telling me…. "They are going to make rights, they are going to make lefts, and they are going to do this…." It was on the plan, it was at the Planning Board, and you had a million days to come up and ask questions and talk to everybody about it. It is what it is at this point, it is not being changed, and it will have to go back before the Planning Board. There is nothing that is on there that is significantly different at all, there is not one iota out of there that is different then what is there right now. The landscape plan is an awesome plan. They will begin to plant certain areas very, very soon, probably this month you will see trees going up. August 7th is the projected grand opening date for the whole project. There might be a couple of store that starts earlier than that. Mr. Krame, I have got to say, the owner of the project, has done everything to the letter that we have asked him, from the day that he came before the Planning Board to this date today. So just have our citizens kind of cool their heels a little bit and relax, we will take each day…I love the people on social media that are complaining about the traffic and road construction up there every day. Let me tell you a little secret, if we did zero construction they would be complaining that they were sitting in traffic when the stores open. There is no perfect world here. You call a carpenter in to gut your kitchen and build you a beautiful state of the art kitchen; you will be eating at Manny's Diner for a while because obviously you are not cooking food. We are ripping lanes out, we are putting new lanes in, and we are moving lights. Three traffic engineers looked at the project and they are a hell of a lot smarter than I. I know my business like the back of my hand but I am certainly not a traffic engineer. I was one of the people in 97', or 98', I want to say on the public record that was complaining with Councilman Nevargic about TD Bank, thinking it was going to make a tremendous traffic concern up there. I was wrong, and I am a big boy and I admit when I am wrong, I was wrong, the traffic engineer knew more than me. Matos is out there, he had men out there on the circle. It is not our fault that people are knuckleheads and they don't know how to drive and they stop in the middle of the connector roads. The good news is that all of those people are from out of town, all those knuckleheads, not one of them are our citizens, and I know that, I could just tell (laughter). Chief, I want to thank you for your help over there. Pool Lieutenant Pollock, I mean the guy is a good soul, he is standing out there and

he just said to me, "Sal, you have just got to see what some of the people do" These are probably some of the same morons that get off the Parkway and make a left hand turn into the traffic coming. The only thing Chief that I need from you is that we need to get the County in there when we paint the arrows throughout the circle, they are like half gone, and they are very hard to see, all the way around, especially underneath the Parkway itself.

Chief Matos: Actually it belongs to the State.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Okay, we have to talk to them.

Mr. Laezza: We sent two letters to the State already.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are never going to answer, you know that. We will continue to send them. John and I have sent out some very important business letters to the State in years past and they never got answered.

Mr. Laezza: It is different from when I was down there.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The Easter Egg Hunt, Ralph had a boat load of kids again, and it was awesome, they all had a lot of fun.

Potholes are continuing. Bulky Clean-up has started the Spring Lawn and Leaf Clean-up has started, everybody is moving in full gear right now. I think that we are going to be in pretty good shape this year.

Mr. Laezza: Nothing.

Councilwoman Albanese: I am just glad that we took action on the emergency appropriation for the potholes, I did get complaints and I asked people to call. Councilman O'Connor said if you get a recording (on the DPW line) leave a message and action will be taken. I am really pleased with that. Unfortunately we had to spend the money but last year it was snow removal and this past year is potholes so we have to deal with it.

Councilman Barr: May 25th we have our parade. I am kind of saying something so that perhaps our reporter will be picking up some information to put out. I sent out all of the invitations, they usually come back slow, but now they are coming back slower than they have been. It is very difficult that once they start coming in I have to place them. I will be taking about it this evening, and then I will be talking about it the next meeting. I hope that they do start coming in because it has been nice every year but it gets to tough when they wait until the very end. I have to start trying to place everybody and we have to have the bands in a certain area, so that they are in cooperation with other areas. So if anything could be said in the newspaper, or on TV, I would more certainly appreciate it.

Councilman Mazzarella: Thank you Sal for acting so quickly on those devastated areas, it was really, really bad. The grading on the roads was terrible, the sub base was all broken up and everything. We had a really severe winter so thank you Sal for acting.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No problem that was something that had to be done.

Councilman O'Connor: I wanted to thank the Mayor for giving me some time to talk about the Clark Commons, and the commitment. Along with the Administration and the police force to help the area out when the issues would come an issue as opposed to assumed issues. Thank you very much for that.

I wanted to talk a little bit about the Relay for Life this year. I believe it has change from 12 noon till 12 am, as opposed to all night long. The reason that I mention that is because I have been hearing some noise in the neighborhoods that all night until 3 o'clock in the morning, I hear the music and (see) the lights. This year it just happened to change where it is from 12 noon until 12am. It is no longer a whole night. So that is something for the people in the neighborhoods that tolerated it because it is a great cause but it is something that they may not have to worry about going forward.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Those are some of the nicest people in town, the people that live on Kenneth and across because they very, very seldom complain.

Councilman O'Connor: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Especially when it is for a good cause.

Councilman O'Connor: Yup.

Councilman Toal: To the Mayor, on the Westfield Avenue corridor issue, it is in the rumor mill and I wanted to squash it, on Frank's Famous Dave's site they put the fences up, I believe they are doing remediation. Is that correct? They have signs up that they are talking about a shopping center. The question that I have before you is; are there any applications before any boards?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No. Brian if you read the sign….. I am not saying you, "people" it says "For Lease" "Will Build to Suit" "Shopping Center". A shopping center there is three stores and that's all it is. We saw plans originally, correct John? That I would have gone in there and dug the holes to help them…. that is how beautiful it (the plan) was. A little strip center with a few apartments on top, it is gorgeous. They have to read the sign. I mean you saw what was there in the past that is about what they are getting in there. The old Jack's, the old laundromat…..If the other little lot there where Frankie's Pizza used to be, if they adjoined they might get two more store in there, which would be a deli, whatever, it is not going to be Clark Commons West, or whatever area that we are going in.

Councilman Toal: I was just wondering if the local media outlet came in and let the people know that there is nothing before the boards, there is no application at this time. The owners of the property are trying to get a tenant.

Mayor Bonaccorso: If 1/5th of the rumors in this town were true it would be newsworthy. Same thing that was said about the A&P on Westfield (Avenue)….Trader Joes, Trader Joes never even

contacted the owner. But there were people with their right hand up swearing on the holy bible that it was coming. Sometimes we kind of roll with it because we hear it every day, but there will be something built there, and yes, it will be a shopping area. What else would it be? Would you like apartments? Would you like homes? Would you like a movie theater? What do you think that it is going to be? It is going to be a building with three stores in it. Hopefully, one of them is a deli or something to replace Dave's. What would they like to have gone there? What would they like to have go there? Do you know what I would like to also (say) for the paper, any people who really have the knowledge and the wisdom and would love to volunteer on our Planning and Zoning Boards....we just don't do it by party, we do it by brain power. So if you have a brain and you would like to donate your time and give us all of your insight, we would be more than willing to have your application. Go into the town Clerk's Office and it (your application) will be reviewed and when an opening arises we will be glad to fill the opening because we need those kinds of people that know everything.

Councilman Toal: I have one other question with regard to the Westfield Avenue corridor because it has been on people's mind, especially during the holiday, is there any update on the Merit Foodtown, you know it as the old A & P.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Nothing Brian, same spot.

Councilman Toal: That is all I have Mr. President. That is all that I need to hear boss.

Councilman Mazzarella: That site where Frankie's is, is that still under remediation isn't it?

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know...

Mr. Laezza: We think that it is pretty well cleaned.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is what we think but we also for eight years thought that they would have had it built. It would be eight years old by now. It is another group that just can't seem to hit the target the right way. I am going to tell you, and I will say it again, if you think that I am living with that fence for the next two or three years, if they don't act, we will. We will act and the same thing goes for the A & P because I have had it. We have been more than gentleman like, John and I, in our approach with these people to try and do something good for Clark. They are not going to fence it, give us the BS, and walk away. It will be deemed an area of blight and we will go after the property. (Councilman Toal: Outstanding) then we will show them how quickly, when you have realistic a developer, will come in and build something.....and then they can complain about traffic on Westfield Avenue.

Councilman Toal: Mayor, outstanding words and this township needs to hear that. We have got to step in and do something.....

Mayor Bonaccorso: We will Brian. We are trying to be gentleman like or the rumor mill will be that Bonaccorso condemned the property to give it to one of his buddy's and he is going to get the landscaping there (laughter). They know it all, but still undefeated after all these years.

Council Vice President Hund: I am sorry to reiterate but thank you for paving the road, to both of you (Mayor and Business Administrator. My constituents have stopped me a few times already to say thank you, it was much needed.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Chief Matos and I will be meeting with the County Manager, hopefully, this week. On September 19th and 20th, I believe it is that weekend...

Mr. Laezza: The 18th, 19th, 20th.

Mayor Bonaccorso: 18th, 19th, and 20th, you are right John, there is going to be a Food Truck Carnival on Friday night at Oak Ridge Park, and then on Saturday and Sunday there is going to be a rock and roll, like 80's, 90's, bands. It is going to be a 10th of Music Fest that is what they are projecting, like a 10th of it. It is a "pay for" to get in, so it keeps a lot of the freeloaders away when they have to pay.

Mr. Laezza: It is a $50.00 ticket to get in.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't even know what it is. Friday night it is free. It is going to be a Food Truck Carnival, tasting foods and all that, and then it is going to be the music. Frank, for the first ward, the Chief and I will meet, if we have to do what we do at Music Fest to cut off street parking, we will do that. Again, we will talk to Chief Matos and the County. We have that blue print, we have done it once, and it was successful. There is going to be onsite parking there.

Motion to go into private was made by Councilman Mazzarella, second by Councilwoman Albanese

Council Vice President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

Any Opposed: Nay

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION 15-50

WHEREAS Section three (3) of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS this public body is of the opinion that circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council wish to discuss:

LITIGATION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subject matter of this meeting will be released when the reasons for discussion and action on it in closed session no longer exists.

Council Vice President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

Time: 8:24 Workshop Meeting Resumed: 8:35

Motion to resume Workshop Meeting was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

Council Vice President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

Council Vice President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Mazzarella, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council Vice President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
May 4, 2015

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

The regular order of business will be suspended at the May 18th meeting for a Proclamation regarding Court Appointed Special Advocates

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. **Discussion; Business Administrator** Stop signs to replace yield signs on certain streets as recommended by the Township Engineer and reviewed and approved by the Traffic Bureau

John Laezza: Basically we are doing a number of streets in the Third Ward that had yield signs; we think it's safer to put stop signs. Now a day's the State has been given us a right to put stop signs where we believe that they are better served. So I gave it to Lieutenant Pollock and Lieutenant Pollock agreed, so that we'll have an ordinance to exchange those yields to stop signs.

Mayor Bonaccorso: John just refresh my memory and then I'll remember, that a yield has to be there to stop, if there's nothing there then you have to go through that whole process that we use to do.

John Laezza: Yes.

Councilman O'Connor: So is there a difference between a yellow yield and red yields or are they considered yield signs?

John Laezza: A yield is a yield.

Councilman O'Connor: Okay.

Council President Smith: When are the stop signs that are supposed to go up at the Clark Circle, it's a square now?

John Laezza: We just passed the ordinance and it will be effective May 13th.

Councilman Toal: And the signs go up there after.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We hope.

Councilman Toal: Are they our signs or the State's signs?

John Laezza: They are our signs.

Councilman Toal: Thank you.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

2. Authorizing the Police Department to obtain equipment from the Law Enforcement Support Office of the Federal Government Surplus Property Program in order to improve their emergency response capabilities.

Discussion:

John Laezza: Now a day's you just can't do it because we have to let the whole world know on what we are doing. And so we have to pass a resolution that you as the elected officials want us to have the ability to obtain federal surplus.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Hund

3. Award of contract for the 2015 Capital Road Improvements (Bid opening May 6th)

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: Mr. Laezza, Alternate No. 1 Fisher Place, I just need to get a definition of what that means.

John Laezza: It means if we have any more money left over we will do Fisher Place.

Councilman Toal: So is Fisher Place getting done or is Fisher Place…

John Laezza: We don't know until we get in the bids. We passed an ordinance for a million dollars and if the other roads come in under a million dollars Fisher Place will get it.

Councilman O'Connor: If there is enough money to do it.

Councilman Hund: Once the bids are accepted when do you think the actual construction will take place?

Mr. Laezza: It is now May, I would say July. We try to get it done before school starts.

Councilwoman Albanese: Clark is on the fast track.

Mr. Laezza: We try to make it within 60 days of awarding the contracts.

Councilman O'Connor: You are not going to be doing any design modifications like you did on Lexington Blvd or anything like that, right?

Mr. Laezza: Lexington Boulevard is good for 16' Councilman O'Connor.

Councilman Mazzarella: John, the road reconstruction is that just going to be the road or is that going to include the curbs?

Mr. Laezza: Road, curbs, sidewalks where needed.

Councilman Mazzarella: Sidewalks too?

Mr. Laezza: Where needed. The Mayor and I will select where the need be.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Toal Second: Barr

4. Award of contract for the purchase of a single axle dump truck (Bid opening May 6th)

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: This is part of the ordinance that we passed for $800,000.00; this is that section of the ordinance for the DPW; a dump truck, a sweeper, a claw and other pertinent materials.

Township Clerk: Before we go onto the Consent Agenda, I have three items, two of which I believe should be separate resolutions that they just came through today. So one is for the fireworks because we are awarding a contract that should be a separate not in the consent. The second one I anticipate I'm still waiting back to hear from the State of New Jersey but Whole Foods Place to Place ABC transfer is ready as far as the township is concerned, I just have to wait for the okay from the state. So that would be the next two resolutions.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Councilman Mazzarella Second: Councilman O'Connor

5. Approving fireworks

Councilman Toal: What day is the Fourth of July?

Township Clerk: It's a Saturday.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

6. Whole Foods (Place to Place)

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Albanese

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

7. THE RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT: We do it every year, this year the only difference is that Jennifer Kobliska is the Recycling Coordinator in place of Scott McCabe. That will be number 7.

8. Authorizing contributions to be made by township employees for Roth IRA 457(b) on a voluntary basis.

9. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of $584.87

10. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of $7,913.42

11. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $6,538.99 and transfer overpayment of $978.75 of 2015 taxes.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the 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.

Council President Smith opens the meeting to the public

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia Street: I was traveling on Central Avenue yesterday towards the Parkway in front of the Rite Aid and there is a left turn lane to go into Raritan Road toward Shop Rite. A while back before the construction there was like a low diamond in the road at the Rite Aid entrance prohibiting people from making a left turn from Central Avenue into Rite Aid, I think that disappeared.

Mr. Laezza: Nothing disappeared in front of Rite Aid.

Police Chief Matos: I know what you are talking about. The triangle that separated the entrance and the exist.

Council President Smith: Correct, it was kind of flat.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It's gone?

Mr. Laezza: But there's no left hand turn into Rite Aid.

Delia Collins: But there's no sign and people coming from Raritan Road to go up Central could possibly collide with people making a left into the Rite Aid parking lot.

Mayor Bonaccorso: When did it come out?

Delia Collins: I don't know, I just noticed it yesterday.

Mr. Laezza: It came out because of the property that we took away from Rite Aid.

Police Chief Matos: Now the construction there is not completed yet. I haven't look at the plan and I don't know if's on the plan and maybe they haven't gotten around to it yet.

Mr. Laezza: There's no plan to have a left hand turn into Rite Aid.

Delia Collins: Right. But people you know I'm sure they are cutting through to get to…

Mr. Laezza: Well I think we'll have Lieutenant Pollock look at it. But I think once again when the Star Ledger called me about the traffic problem; I said it's the drivers.

Delia Collins: Oh yeah I understand. No I just wanted to bring it to your attention because I do go home that way and a couple of years ago I almost got hit from somebody making a left turn from Central Avenue.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We have to see if it's on the plans to be replaced also.

Council President Smith: We will look into it and let you know.

Police Chief Matos: There is a solid yellow line there on the left turn. They are not supposed to make a left turn.

Mr. Laezza: You are not supposed to make a left turn over double line.

Delia Collins: I understand.

Council President asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.
Motion: Albanese Second: Hund

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes thank you Mr. President. Chief I would like you to talk to Lieutenant Pollock and I know if Councilman O'Connor has heard this. Over on Schuyler Drive, you know where Pat DelVecchio lives, they want resident parking only there. Now the one thing I will say is that if you are coming down Schuyler off of Raritan which is a one way. When you get down to Garside to Featherbed that is always parked on. But the street is crumbling now and we can't even get to it because cars are in the way, I mean eventually we are going to have to fix it. It's not a pothole project; it's a big project, so we'll have to do some excavation and some installation. Can you have Mike monitor that problem and see what we can come up with? I don't if they are looking for both sides of the road or one side of the road. I know some of it's the overflow from the nursing home. So if you can have him just keep an eye on it and let us know what you think. We have to have a traffic coordinating meeting if not we'll just go from there.

You have to see the shrubbery at Clark Commons; it's starting to come along nicely. Yesterday I drove into the Commons actually for the first time in a while and they are planting all the islands inside and stuff, so it's going to be really nice when the landscape side of it when it's done.

John and I also took a tour of the town to look at roads. And you know we just don't have enough of money at all to repair the roads that we need to repair, it is just so outrageous. So we are going to try to come up with a program, kind of a cut and take it out and restore it. We will know if our DPW is going to be capable of handling that, it probably will happen in the summer. What we are trying to look to do is if we can patch, not repair potholes, but patch enough roads to our roads that we'll be able to continue on instead of needing to be redone in five years maybe we can get ten years out of them or eight years out of them. Because if you look at certain roads there are certain little areas too that are real bad and if you don't do some kind of cut and patch in there. Also maybe we will look to a contractor to take some price bids on what they would want a square foot, saw cut it, dig out two or three inches and if it needs a little stone replace it, if not pour right on top and do a hot patch with rolling it out like a parking lot repair. We have to figure something out because you know the roads that are really out there are tough right now. And no matter how many we do and how many wards we go in, it's not going to make everybody happy. And it's kind of tough to keep telling people "well we'll get to it, we'll get to it". I mean you know the program, it's a million dollars a year we're putting it to roads and we have for fifteen years, so it's not like we're not doing them. But the last two winters knocked out the living daylights out of the roads.

Council President Smith: How many roads do we have approximately?

Mr. Laezza: Seventy miles.

Council President Smith: Seventy miles, but do you know how many streets we do, it looks like we do five to seven streets per year.

Councilman Mazzarella: That's kind of what you did on Wheatsheaf and Rainbow, that big patch.

Mr. Laezza: No we are going to do a little bit more than that. We just want to mill and pave. Those are the short roads, we just want to mill and pave. It will not include curbs, it will not include sidewalks, and we will just mill and pave it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That's what we are also looking into is to try to…you see the problem is going to be Council we are going to need your support. What happens is it's funny because we'll put a mill and pave in and we'll say it the bid, if the Belgium block curbing needs to be repaired, how much a foot, the guys puts a number in. Now all of a sudden you know and they are loose, they are like teeth and they fall out. So now we are in front of Bill Smith's house we're putting curbs, we're in front of Edie's house we put curbs, we go to Chief Matos's house over there we put curbs, all of a sudden John gets up and says "where's my new curbs, mine is dirty, it's ugly and there's are nice a clean", well give it a year it will be dirty too because you know. But that what ends up happening. So now you are to the point where you have one or two houses left and you say "well the heck with it, might as well do it" because these people are screaming and yelling.

Mr. Laezza: We can't afford.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Curbing is about eighteen dollars a foot, it's expensive. So I mean you know we are going to have support from you guys that when we do that unless the blocks fall out or we (tape inaudible) them by early on and say "wow these are really bad" but two houses are getting them, that's just the way the program is going to be.

Councilman O'Connor: I have to say I mean the town still does the Belgium block which is great. I mean some other towns go on to do just cement curbing which crumbles. So I think it's a great job that we are doing Belgium blocks when we can.

Councilman Mazzarella: But you know if a resident is adamant that they want their curbs fixed, they could certainly do it themselves.

Mr. Laezza: Anybody can do their own curbs.

Councilman Mazzarella: They can get a permit and get them installed.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So that's the problem. But I would like to see if we can find a program out there.

Mr. Laezza: A lady on Dawn Drive came to me about a curb and I said we'll be happy to have you put a handicap curb in front of your own home, you have a right to do it and she said thank you. So she can do it, but we are not going to do it, it's expensive.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So that's something eventually will work out but other than that it's been fairly quiet. The DPW is at full swing, they are getting hammered with bulky cleanup, and it's just heavier and heavier. In your letters out to your community or your conversations please remind people that bulky waste is free for your home in this town. Anything gets caught being brought in from another town you will be summons, it's not fair to the taxpayers of Clark. You know every Ward is heavy this month but it's like I said it's just people find the stuff or they you know they are just cleaning out a little bit at a time, it's always coming out versus doing one big cleaning like we use to do in October and the streets were littered. But it's a great program and people are using it and we are happy they are. But if they get caught bringing it in from out of town from their kids or their relatives they are going to get fined.

Councilman O'Connor: I remember when I was a kid it was done once every four years, that was it. So I remember once every four years every month.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well it was every election year. So then we went to the full time once a year and then we found a better way because it got too expensive.

Councilman O'Connor: They are doing a great job.

Mayor Bonaccorso: DPW is working very hard guys.

Council President Smith: Where do they take it all?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Down in Perth Amboy to the dumps.

Councilman Mazzarella: And they still are throwing out mattresses.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You know it's just a little (tape inaudible) sometimes that you know we've been doing this for so long now and it's not like it's a new program, everyone is allowed to make mistakes before you get to know it. It's on the website on what you can and what you can't and it's just constantly that there's a mattress out, there's a mattress out and you know it just never ends. But our dumps do not take the mattress, that's why we can't do that.

Councilman O'Connor: But when in doubt they can always call and ask, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well that's the point Pat. You know it's like I tell the new citizens when I meet them to go on our website ourclark it's easy to remember, look on at all the programs and read what we have and what we don't have and for some reason you missed it, pick up the phone and call town hall, somebody will give you the answer. The other thing that's starting to get a little bit rampant now is construction material for some home renovations. Scott and I had a conversation the other day and you know we're not trying to be hard about it. Like if a homeowner does a little project and there's some sheetrock or you know whatever enough to where to say unless a homeowner did it she has to get rid of it, that's the hard part when you do your own stuff, how do you get rid of it, he's picking it up.

Council President Smith: Pay for a dumpster like everyone else.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well I'm saying if you have a couple of tubs full of it you know what I mean.

Mr. Laezza: Well if you have a contractor to do fourteen windows in your house and you are taking all of the fourteen windows, that contractor should have taken those fourteen windows.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We're not taking that stuff.

Councilman O'Connor: But I mean not that I'm trying to plug anything but they do have those bags now that you could buy and they are pretty cool. You set the bag up your driveway and you put all the stuff in it and they come with a crane and they pick it up and put it in the truck and you are done, how great is that.

Mr. Laezza: You have to pay for it.

Councilman Mazzarella: Sometimes the more you do the more they people get spoiled.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes that's true. I know the Memorial Day Parade is (tape inaudible) a little bit so today I talked to someone with antique cars and they are going to put them in, Tony from ERA Village is usually away that weekend but he is going to do it. That's all I have thanks.

Council President Smith: I have a question on the sidewalks at the Clark Commons. I noticed on Walnut they did from Raritan down to the entrance, they left probably about a ten foot spot not finished, and then from where the entrance is down towards the Mac Cali is there a sidewalk going in there.

Mr. Laezza: There's a sidewalk going in front of that Cali building all the way to the Parkway.

Council President Smith: Just a question, why would they stop when all the equipment is there?

Mr. Laezza: Because they want to get the Clark Commons first, that's second.

Council President Smith: Well they didn't finish it; they left like a ten foot space.

Mr. Laezza: Because there was a ten foot space because the developer thought that he was going to put stamped pavers out there and not stamped pavers inside. We told him he misinterpreted; we want stamped pavers inside and regular sidewalks on the outside. So that when he showed us that the Mayor and I looked at it and said we don't like those stamped pavers inside but you can take them out, so he hasn't taken it out yet. He is going to replace it with a regular sidewalk.

Council President Smith: Oh okay.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Barr: I do have something. The thing is that Susan's TAP reaches an awful lot of people and I was just wondering if something could be mentioned that all those that are planning to participate that have received invitation; please return them as soon as possible. Because as much as they think that I make it look simple, it's very difficult to make the whole layout until you know who's going to be in it.

Councilman Hund: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to comment one more time about that roll off trailer. That is a very valuable piece of equipment for the Township of Clark. It saves what three dump trucks on a trip, it's fantastic. It saves wear and tear, fuel; it's a win for us.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We use it a lot.

Council President Smith: Have we been actually dropping it and filling up and picking it up and going to another.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Depends on what we are doing. What they are doing now is taking the tailgate off of it because it's hard to get it over the top. So they are just pushing it in, pushing it in and then (tape inaudible). It certain instances they will drop it down and load it up and take it depending on what's going on.

Council President Smith: Excellent.

Councilman O'Connor: May is motorcycle month, so I'll talk about that. And also now that it is getting hot you don't want to leave your pet in your car with the windows rolled up or in the car at all or your children as well. So there was a thing on Facebook I was looking for but I couldn't find it…it said you know outside temperature and then if your car is in the shade with the inside temperature and if your car is outside. So again don't leave your kids in the car and animals don't leave in the car. As hard it is for us to believe some people still don't understand what they are supposed to do.

Councilman Toal: No comment.

Police Chief Matos: No comment.

Council President Smith: I will hold my comments for the public.

Acting Attorney Howard Lesnik: I've said enough already.

Council President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilman O'Connor
ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
June 1, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of $30,309.83 for the Clean Communities Grant

Discussion: None

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Hund

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

2. Authorizing the purchase of three 2016 Ford Police Utility Interceptors in the total amount of $79,519.25 through the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System

3. Authorizing the purchase and installation of equipment for three Police Vehicles through State Contract and the Morris County Co-op in the amount of $34,512.21

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle a tax appeal authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey in the amount of $11,076.04

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of $531.97

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of $4,065.80

7. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of 2015 taxes in the amount of $5,086.58

Township Clerk: I sent you two additional resolutions. Did everyone receive them? (Council: yes) We do the tax sale every year and the electronic tax sale; the first time we did that one was last year.

Council President Smith: So we are just redoing them. Are they going to be #8 and #9?

Township Clerk: Yes. Unless the liquor licenses come through then everything moves down because you will be sitting as the ABC Board.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Barr

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

[redacted]

Frank is the Councilman with Katheryn Estates (Councilman Mazzarella: Yes) they had some work done in their lot and they needed some parking on Thomas Drive and in that area. I gave that to the Chief to handle for me. The Chief did that, and then Al and I ran into a lady over the weekend who was raving about the Police Chiefs involvement and how he was so professional and how he got it done and that she was impressed how a police chief would get involved with something like that. I had said that was because technically he was acting (police chief) once he gets the star….. (laughter). He did a good job. I sent Pete a text on Saturday night thanking him, look; you know what if it was bad he is going to hear it too, so if it is good you got to tell him. She was very impressed, and I said, "That's Clark that is what are Police Department is about, you know it is not above the Chief to come out and handle a problem if he needs too." She said, "Oh my God, I love him, he was professional, he was such a nice man." That is great to hear that is why we have him. Thanks again Pete, I appreciate it, I really do.

Clark Commons, you know a couple of stores are opening now this week and have. When you take a ride thought that….the people of Clark really cannot see that there was a concerted effort there to really try and make that into something high end, a high class shopping….with the landscaping and the flower boxes that are going in on Wednesday, weather permitting I guess. It really, really looks nice when you ride though there.

Council President Smith: They must have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on landscaping.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I think that the landscaping was about 600,000.00 total.

Council President Smith: Easily.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I took my wife there the other night for her opinion; I like to hear an outsider view of it. She said that she could see that there was an effort there to really make it nice. I really don't want to hear about the traffic anymore. You know what? Look, hopefully that traffic pattern that three traffic engineers agreed to be a very good pattern will work. I hope it does because if it doesn't we are all going to be sitting in traffic too. Like I said to my wife, do the people in Menlo Park complain when we go to Menlo Park Mall and Woodbridge Mall, and Bridgewater Mall, or downtown Westfield, or downtown Cranford, downtown Summit? You know there is a big reward coming out of that shopping center for the kids in this town. It is over a half a million dollars….we talked about this a hundred times, and here it is a hundred and one now that it is starting to open, it is over a half a million dollars in taxes and money going into that school budget that the people don't have to write checks for. We have over two hundred and something thousand dollars coming into our budget. So yeah, there is always some pain at times with certain improvements. But do you know what; I think that it is going to work well. The people will enjoy it and stop complaining about it. The road construction was very painful to say the least.

Councilman O'Connor: It is great so far, it turned out nice.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah, you have turn lanes, you have different things. Those improvements were paid basically without the town really footing a bill for it. The landscaping alone really shows an effort that the developer made in trying to make that into a first class center. John and I jumped on that the first day that he walked in the door. I figured it is something that we all are going to be proud of. We are also going to have a luncheon down the road and you guys will be invited. I want to have all of the managers of the stores come in, have the police there, and talk to them about what our vision for that shopping center is. What we are going to do there and I think that it would be a great public relation thing for them. Also at the last meeting I totally forget the

Downtown, Westfield Avenue Committee met with John and I....the Executive Committee if you will, they are very nice people. We are going to begin the process of looking to start a street scape starting from Madison Hill Road on Westfield Avenue, right up Westfield Avenue to Benjamin Street, but also make a right and bring it down to the Parkway Circle. So when people get off of the circle it will be on that road and then they will hit Westfield Avenue and that will kind of tie that right in to try and make this into a really nice looking Downtown. We applied for that grant, as you know for the Street Scape; we are going to wait on that. It should come in another month and hopefully we will get some idea. We are going to get some engineering engaged to check out what the preliminary numbers are and then we are sitting with the committee to talk about how they want to be able to contribute their share of it, etcetera, and so on. So the committee members are very pleased with the meeting as we were and I thought that it worked out very well. Hopefully we will be able to see Street Scape come down. We of course talked about A&P, the old Foodtown and the Jack's Tavern property. We are going to be talking about that a little bit deeper, John and I, in the next month because it is time something happens. Hearing from the old A&P owner that....every time we talk to him he has the fish biting on the hook ready to put it in his mouth, but talk is cheap.

Councilman O'Connor: Excuse me you said Benjamin Street did you mean Brant?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, up to Benjamin. Right past the Exxon to the left, Benjamin is right there and we will continue it right to there this way it ties it up. That is a little residential that little block before the bridge. So we will see how that works out. If things work out well, who knows, maybe by the next late spring we could start seeing some activity there. That is a good scenario with everything working well. It is realistic though, right John?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't think that is something that we are high in the sky. So they are good people, they have an interest, and we are going to go from there. That is all I have for you tonight, thank you.

Council President Smith: Two things: That grant for the Street Scape, is that through the County?

Mayor Bonaccorso: County yes.

Council President Smith: And the Mayors Golf Outing, the proceeds? I just wanted to get that on the record.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It goes under "Celebrations" account for town wide events.

Mr. Laezza: It is nonpolitical, it is called the Mayor's Outing but it is really it's the Clark Outing.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is about it and the Memorial Parade went well, thank you Al. The street naming of the Sanguliano Property, Harvey Court was very nice of the Sangulianos's to donate that street being that it is a private street and not a public street. So we had a busy month of May.

In June we have our graduations and we will be all set for that.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: No comments.

Councilman Hund: I just want to give a quick kudos to Councilman Barr for the parade the other day. He did such a wonderful job even though he was stressing until the last day thinking he had no one was coming.

Councilman Mazzarella: Sal, just a question on the mall. You said that some of the stores are going to start opening. Can we ride inside there?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes. We were told that Modell's, PETCO, and Party City were open.

Mr. Laezza: And LA Fitness.

Mayor Bonaccorso: And LA Fitness. Someone said no, that PETCO is opening Wednesday, they went to the door and it was locked. Party City is opening tomorrow morning.

Council President Smith: It sounds like most of the major construction is out of the way other than a few up the road there.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The work really now is on the food eateries.

Mr. Laezza: Well no. Basically there are a number of stores, I guess the east end, Ulta and those stores will be (inaudible) done. I have walked every one of those stores on Wednesday. They will all be open on August 7th. There will be another three or four store opening on the 26th of June. The parking lot has to be complete, the parking lot has only been completed from the driveway toward LA Fitness, the other side has not been completed, and the restaurants are not completed. They should all be completed by July 1st.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are putting the gazebo up and they are going to be putting a decorative fence around it. So that no one decides to swim in the pond.

Councilman O'Connor: The police will start patrols at…

Mayor Bonaccorso: The police are going to be in there.

Councilman Mazzarella: You're right that landscaping is beautiful.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Are presence will be in there at all times. We want it to be a place where kids can go and hang out, be respectful and enjoy it. We are not going to have any trouble in there at all because it is going to be well patrolled.

Councilman O'Connor: I was at Harvey Court and it was great what the mayor said. I just want to comment on the police department. A lot of times you will hear the kids saying that the police harass them, but there have been a couple of instances that I have been made aware of where the police officers actually stop their car, get out and talk to the kids, and actually might take on a little game of whiffle ball. There is a real comradery between the police and the younger kids. Again, that is a great thing that we're doing with the Police Department, thank you.

Mr. Laezza: No report.

Township Clerk: No report.

Chief Matos: Nothing.

Council President Smith: I have nothing.

Council President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman O'Connor

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
July 6, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: John Laezza, Business Administrator; Joseph Triarsi, 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" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, and Union County Local Source by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 279 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK RELATED TO INFILTRATION AND INFLOW

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to say for the council's information. John and I have spoken at length on this ordinance and what the recommendations that the Sewerage Authority put in. Our ordinance that we have presently in place really is probably the best of all of the communities that service the Sewerage Authority from the get go. But they wanted a couple of other things to be put into the Ordinance and it is not evasive at all and John agrees. So we agreed to kind of, how would you call it? Amend, amend it a little bit to appease them. (John Laezza: supplement the ordinance) But we do have a really tight ordinance the way it stands presently. For council's information, we also had a meeting last week with John and the Sewerage Authority because an issue that's coming down regarding exceedances, all communities are exceeding their flow rights. And what that means is if you reach a certain plateau on the exceedances you are imposed a service charge, a penalty, so to speak. And you know we think that it is not right that they do that. We talked about this and we have come up with some scenarios that the Sewerage Authority is looking at and one of them is timing the metering's to bring us more closely to not having the exceedances. This helps Clark but it helps all of the communities of the Sewerage Authority. And John, do you want to weigh in on anything on that?

Mr. Laezza: Yes, basically we kind of indicated to them that there are only eleven communities that are involved with the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, only two communities,

Woodbridge and Clark have expended a great deal of money to accommodate the I and I. Other communities are more lazed. We have all the rules and we follow all of the rules. There are a number of homes in Clark as in all of the communities that were built before the 50's that may have invalid or non-sewer sump pumps and they may be coming into our sewer system. And so these are little idiosyncrasies that we are going to try to correct. We have a problem with Rahway Valley's metering. They have a two-hour delay when it comes into our sewer and when it goes out of our sewers and are different peaks. So our engineers have studied that and Rahway Valley has agreed that the meters have some problems. So we believe we detected the township in relationship to exceedances, we probably have exceedances, we do have exceedances but when it comes to (inaudible) we can get them remediated, or abated.

Councilman Mazzarella: You see the effort behind us meeting with them; and it was not an adversarial situation. We wanted to partner with them to try to come up with some solutions and all of that or some path that we could follow, not only for Clark but all the communities whether you have a large amount of flow like Clark or a very small flow. Because if you look at it globally the Sewerage Authority is made up of the eleven member communities. And we are accountable to our tax payers and the Sewerage Authority is accountable to the rate payers, well the rate payers are the tax payers. So we tried to get our heads together and John and I walked away really favorable after the meeting and we think that they are going to sharpen their pencils and they are going to look at that timing issue that John mentioned. And I think that's going to bring our exceedances down. I don't know if any of the council remembers but I know that Joe does that many years ago we were placed on a moratorium.

Mr. Triarsi: Yes.

Councilman Mazzarella: And that caused a real nightmare. And it costed a lot of money from the town and the sewerage authority to go through the courts and all of that. We don't want to go there. We want to sit down and get our heads together, we had a lot of brain power at that meeting. We really walked away really (inaudible due to coughing) at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Laezza: It worked out well.

Councilman Mazzarella: Yes, and they are going to come up with some solutions to minimize the exceedances not only for Clark but for all of the communities.

Council President Smith: Excellent, thank you Frank and thank you John.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Proposed Ordinance.
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Barr

RESOLUTIONS:

2. Certifying to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that the members of the Governing Body have reviewed as a minimum, sections of the 2014 Annual Audit entitled General Comments and Recommendations

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

3. Approving the 2014 Annual Audit Corrective Action Plan and Authorizing the filing of said plan with the Division of Local Government Services

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

4. Authorizing Final Payment to Black Rock Enterprises LLC for the 2014 Capital Roadway Improvement Project in the amount of $9,190.69

Discussion:

Township Clerk: If you notice the change order actually reduced the total contract price.

Council President Smith: Yes.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Hund Second: Mazzarella

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

5. Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute an Agreement with the County of Union to Modify the Cooperative Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant program dated June 2011

6. Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the Union County Educational Services Commission for use of the gymnasiums in the Municipal Building

7. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute a Sub-Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

8. Affirming the renewal agreement with Liberty Power, supplier of electricity, for a 12 month period at a rate of 0.09833/kWh

9. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle tax appeals authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey for three properties in the total amount of $16,457.81

10. Authorizing the Tax Collector to transfer overpayment of 2015 taxes in the amount of $2,461.13

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: I have a question for John, on number 7 which is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The federal share is $75,000.00? (Mr. Laezza: Correct) and we are putting in $122,000.00, and that is for a generator?

Mr. Laezza: That is for a generator for the Municipal Building so that if the lights should ever go out at the municipal building we can still have people coming in the gym. We will have the facilities available.

Councilman Mazzarella: That is a nice chunk of change.

Mr. Laezza: Yes, we will have the (tape inaudible – someone sneezing) for the last two years with this grant.

Councilman Mazzarella: Okay thank you.

No further discussion

Council President Toal asked for a mover and second on the 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.

Council President opens the meeting to the public

Seeing no one come forward Council President asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.
Motion: Albanese Second: Hund

Roll Call: All ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Laezza: I only have one comment. It seems that the Chief has finally passed his chief exam. We will have a big party sometime in the summer I'm sure.

Attorney Triarsi: You say finally as though it were…

Mr. Laezza: Well you know it takes a long time with bureaucracy in Trenton. In Trenton it takes a long time for get things done.

Councilwoman Albanese: Chief congratulations. And I just wanted to mention that I attended the Future Gov, NJ Government Innervation Summit and basically they had different speakers there. It ruled up technology within the township, large towns, small towns, you know from streaming videos to everything that you could imagine, as to watching on a website where the snow plow is in the town so you can see what streets to travel out of town on. And I would like to see us implement some of those things that might be appropriate. So I will be talking probably to the Mayor and the Business Administrator about some things that we might be able to do. Edie also attended as well and I think that there are a lot of good things from the aspect of the Clerks standpoint, which are very attractive. You know with the Open Public Records Act, there are a lot of technologies that are available that can cut down, or give information to the public on our website which I think would basically result in better service and reduced expense in the long run. That's it thank you.

Councilman Barr: I just want to congratulations the Chief.

Councilman Hund: Congratulations also.

Councilman Mazzarella: Goo job, congratulations.

Councilman O'Connor: I will join in, congratulations. Half a year is done and the township is in great financial shape, so thank you Mr. Laezza.

Councilman Toal: Chief, as I always say, keeping the town clean, safe, and safe under your direction now and I know you are going to do a great job and we thank you for your service and time.

July 4th was busy in town. We started the morning off with the police department, again a fine service. Billy Waterson's sister Jenny came out and the PBA 125. Again thanks to the police department for honoring the past and Billy Waterson. And again Sue was there and did a nice job on the story, covering it. Fireworks, the Clark Fire Department did an outstanding job, Clark Public Works outstanding job; Clark Police Department outstanding job with crowd control. This year I got out quicker than normal, normally it takes me about an hour and forty-five minutes to get out of this building and to my house after the fireworks, this year it was thirty-five minutes. But again, the police department with crowd control, the crowd was nice and it was a great show. Again, thanks to all of the departments involved. July 4th was a special day in the township and we appreciate all of those who made it that special. I will see you at the public meeting.

Township Clerk: A priest from St. Helens said that half of Westfield was on their lawn watching Clark's fireworks. So I said to Mayor Sal that the Mayor of Westfield should be calling him to thank him because he saved all that money.

Mr. Triarsi: Don't hold your breath.

Council President Smith: I just have on thing. June 18th I went to the Freeholder meeting to pick up our supersized $30,000.00 check for the matching grant for the Westfield Avenue Improvements. So I thank the Freeholders that were there and they were very glad I was there and they invited me back many times. No but actually, they missed Mayor Sal but he had another engagement. So now we have $60,000.00 to start Westfield Ave.

Mr. Laezza: We started.

Council President Smith: I know we already did. So I went with Dean Russo, one of the business owners down there. So that's it, that's all I have this evening.

Police Chief Matos: The only thing is that the July 4tj event, we had no issues what so ever. The crowd disbursed very quickly. I was not here but the actual report indicates that everyone (inaudible due to councilmen talking).

Mr. Triarsi: I have no report.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Smith

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, N.J.
August 3, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; Howard Lesnik, Acting Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Appointing Paul Delaney as a member of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department

Discussion:

Township Clerk: The Chief had sent me an email saying that this gentleman was on in the past so he is already trained and we are just waiting for his physical. If you don't get the physical before the 17th then we will pull him off.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Barr Second: Hund

Council President Smith: And then I think we received a resolution or a potential….

Township Clerk: Yes. I sent out an email because this company that we dealt with last year, Inservco, they are our administrator of the Self-Insured Retention. Clark is self-insured. They thought that they had sent us a proposal and they had not. So, the last minute on Friday they sent the proposal, they have not increased the price, it is still $14,280.00. And so, we had them last year and I guess the administration was pleased with them and this is just a renewal of that contract.

Council President Smith: I understand Mr. Laezza knows all about it and has it budgeted?

Township Clerk: Yes, absolutely.

Council President Smith: So, this will be added and we will vote on it at the…….

Township Clerk: That will be added as a separate Resolution to be so you need a moved and someone to second.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Mazzarella

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

2. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle tax appeals authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey with credit to be issued in the amount of $9,983.70 and a refund in the amount of $2,995.30

3. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of $5,197.76

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $14,544.80 and transfer overpayment of $4,254.45 of 2015 taxes

5. Approving the Amended 2015 List of Clothing Bin Operators

Discussion:

Township Clerk: Chief, did you want to talk about that?

Police Chief Matos: We are adding, I believe its American Recycling Technology that we are adding two new bins to the back of our headquarters. The old company that was there removed their bins. This company that is coming in is going to be donating directly to our youth aid programs that support our juvenile bureau.

Councilman O'Connor: Very nice.

Police Chief Matos: This company also has two other bins in the Rite Aid and they are going to be giving us a portion, a small portion, of the donations for that bin also for our youth aid bureau.

Councilman Mazzarella: And the other locations are still the same.

Police Chief Matos: Nothing else has changed except the old company that had two bins behind our headquarters they left so we are replacing them with American Recycling Technologies. They are bringing in two bins to be placed in the back of our headquarters. And that company has the existing two bins that are at Rite Aid so we will be getting funds from all four of those bins.

Councilman Mazzarella: And the cameras that you have on those two bins that helps a lot, correct? From like people just throwing trash because I've noticed in the past....

Police Chief Matos: Yes, the bins are in view of the camera, but no we have never had an issue with garbage.

Mayor Bonaccorso: When they were down here by the tennis courts there was all kind of stuff.

Police Chief Matos: Correct.

Councilman O'Connor: There were things were all over, toilet seats, everything, it was crazy.

Mayor Bonaccorso: There are cameras behind police headquarters.

Councilman Hund: Sal, is there way that we are able to advertise that those two bins over the other ones since we are getting proceeds from it?

Police Chief Matos: On the bins themselves it's going to be painted on in the front of the bin, it will say exactly what that bin succors. It will have our town decal with our badge stating where the proceeds are going.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The one behind the American Legion, who does that support? Is that for the veterans?

Councilman O'Connor: It doesn't say on the thing.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Do you know what Steve; I would definitely put that on our website. The only thing is that I just have to make sure that like the one behind the American Legion isn't for Veterans because then we are kind of robbing Peter to pay Paul (tape inaudible) but we don't want to do that either. If it just goes to the company, then that would be wise to put it in that bin and let our youth aid get some money out of it. Because then the money goes right back to our kids.

Police Chief Matos: Almost all of the recycling bins that I see in town they usually almost all have an advertisement in the front that indicates where the donations are going to.

Councilman Mazzarella: I don't know if it is still the same but there was a bin, or a couple of bins that they would take the clothes and rip them up and they would sell clothes as rags. I mean if you are donating used clothes there are a lot of people that need them rather than just cutting them up for rags.

Police Chief Matos: What these companies do with the clothes once they are in the bins, we don't know.

Councilman O'Connor: You don't know.

Councilman Mazzarella: Right. But we certainly have the ability not to approve them if they are doing that, correct?

Councilman Barr: How do you know who it is from? Where it is from?

Chief Matos: We don't know. We can only look into making sure that they are a reputable business but as for exactly what they do with the clothes or with donations (Mayor Bonaccorso: we don't know). Some of these companies come from out of state even.

Council President Smith: Thank you Chief.

6. Authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the County of Union for Leaf Composting

Township Clerk: And that price has also stayed the same.

7. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute an agreement with the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission to participate in a Cooperative Pricing System

Township Clerk: They had a varied mix of things that you can purchase through them. And so, whether or not the Township actually uses it, at least the town will be authorized to use it if it becomes advantageous for something that is needed.

Council President Smith: That makes sense.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Toal Second: Mazzarella

Council President Smith: Before we get into the Public Comments, you mentioned Rite Aid with the bins. Maybe you can answer this: Behind Rite Aid I think that there are now three- or four-yard containers. I don't know if you can answer it or it is a question for Mr. Laezza. Are they allowed to keep them there? They are using them as storage for their store because they don't have a big enough backroom. It doesn't look very……

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know Bill. We would have to check with Construction. They would know that better than I. I'm going to ask Mike to take a look at it.

Council President Smith: Okay, I will shoot Edie an email tomorrow. (Township Clerk: okay)

Mayor Bonaccorso: Are they blocking the driveway at all or the flow of traffic?

Council President Smith: No. Where the drive thru is, right to the right of that there are two…I think that there is one up against the building and I think that that there might be a fourth one.

Councilman O'Connor: They have been there for quite a while.

Council President Smith: They have been there for a long time, for quite a while. But now with the whole area being beautified over there and you drive by and it's the only thing that you see and it looks like bad. When they expanded the inside of their store and they took away a lot of their backroom space and now they are using those containers as storage.

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.

Council President opens the meeting to the public

Seeing no one coming forward Council President asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

Motion: Albanese Second: O'Connor

Roll Call: All ayes
Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I went through the shopping center tonight before I came and it was pretty busy. Things look like they are moving really well in there and businesses seem like they are doing pretty good. And as you know probably Friday is the grand opening of Whole Foods at 8:30 and you are all invited to be there. It's also supposed to be a really cool day for the first time in a long time. But I'm sure when Whole Foods opens, we'll see some more influx of people because a lot of people are very excited from not only our community but others that come through Clark. As you know and you heard that Chief Matos has the plan for the community police cars to be in there and that is going to be very important. So, I know that he will follow through and make sure that his men will do what they need to do in keeping that area and all of our areas safe as they are in Clark.

Down at Kerry Field, Pat we did some work down there on the building, we beautifying that up. So, if you are in your travels take a ride and see what is going on downtown.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Council President Smith: How does that affect the lights? I know that the lights are on the Kerry Field building.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know, I don't know.

Councilman O'Connor: What was the question?

Council President Smith: The lights for that field where they practice, the actual power for that was attached at the Kerry building. So, I am not sure if someone moved it or disconnected it for now.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know Bill. I haven't been there. But Scott has been telling me that it looks good and that it is cleaned up over there, and we will go from there on that. And that's basically it; it is very quiet in here most of the time. Right now, it is a typical summer in Clark.

Council President Smith: That's good.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: Yes. August 15th the Clark Volunteer Fire Dept. is going to host a double wet down because there are two new engines. There is going to be beer, soda, food, games and music by the Nerds, and The Mix. And it's going to be lots of fun for every one of all ages and what I like people to know is to try to attend to show support for a great Volunteer Fire Department that's there any time they are needed, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Councilwoman Albanese: What time is that, Al?

Councilman O'Connor: It's 12 noon till 6:00pm. There are more specifics that Al is not getting into with regard to alcohol and all that.

Councilman Barr: I said that they have beer.

Councilman O'Connor: Right. I mean as far as purchasing a cup and ID and all that stuff.

Councilman Hund: No comment tonight.

Councilman Mazzarella: Nothing.

Councilman O'Connor: On Sunday I did the Blue Knight Ride, it was a charity event to give money to the Valarie Fund at the Deutscher Club; it was a motorcycle ride throughout the Watchung Hills. It was a very well attended event and it went for a good cause. A lot of businesses in town gave door prize. I know Modell's also sponsored it with gift certificates as well as a door prizes and as well as coupons for 15% off when you enter. That's it on my report.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Council President. I am going to put into the administration that following three properties for property maintenance issues please send them a letter. 37 Westfield Ave: the lawn and shrubs are just a disaster.

Mayor Bonaccorso: 37 is what?

Councilman Toal: That's the old Padusniak, it was a glass place for a while.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I think that we did send them a letter.

Councilman Toal: Okay, please give us an update. 81 Westfield the building conditions again. Then 83Westfield Avenue it's the Rice Bowl, but not the Rice Bowl building but the garage.

Councilman O'Connor: The one that is on Katheryn Street?

Councilman Toal: Yes, the one that is on Katheryn Street.

Mayor Bonaccorso: John has spoken to them about that. What is 81?

Councilman Toal: 81 is one door over from there, next door to it. It is the white house. The residents on Katheryn Street are getting upset that things are moving slowly. I said that its government but still whatever we can do to expedite, I would appreciate it.

Councilman O'Connor: 81 is the house that everyone parks in front of to pick up their takeout.

Councilman Toal: But the garage is the problem. It is attracting, from what the one resident told me he saw vermin. Nothing else needs to be said. I have been doing doors again and I like doing doors, but no one is home they must all be on vacation.

Council President Smith: I have no comments this evening.

Township Clerk: I have one item. We received a letter today from the Division of Alcoholic Beverages regarding they issue new licenses now for NJ Winery. They can place them in locations and this I think is a nice fit, it's just the applications so far, they haven't approved it yet. But this Balic Winery from Hamilton Township is looking to have retail privileges at Personally Yours.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, Dean Russo told me about that. What they are going to do is be able to sell his baskets with wine in it.

Councilman O'Connor: Oh, nice.

Township Clerk: He can also offer samples on the premise if he wants for consumption there or he can just sell the products. So that's at the State and they notified us. There is no council action on that, I just wanted you to be aware.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Council President Smith: It will be a nice addition.

Police Chief Matos: No comment.

Howard Lesnik: Nothing tonight.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman O'Connor

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
September 8, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting 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" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE:

1. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3-29 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED "DEPARTMENT OF POLICE"

Discussion: None

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

Mr. Laezza: Let me start then the Chief can answer. About six months ago we started the process of accrediting our police department, we did the first phase. In that phase we looked through our ordinances, and prepared those ordinances, and updated the regulations for the police department personnel. The regulations are the responsibility of the Chief of Police; we will adopt them subsequently to us adopting the amended township police ordinance. This has taken a while because originally I gave it to Mr. Triarsi and he indicated that there was nothing in this ordinance that our ordinance doesn't have. Well, there are some things in this ordinance that are not in our ordinance and vice versa. I compared them, section by section, to our ordinance and this accommodates everything that is in our ordinance plus additional information that the accreditation company thinks is necessary for our ordinance. It accommodates everything that we need. Rather than amending our ordinance by sections we are basically replacing our ordinance in its entirety with this ordinance.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The other thing about having the company accredited is that there are certain things that we must do consistently year in and year out to do it. The Chief will do it that is not even a conversation. What is protective for the town down the road is when the Chief retires and another Chief comes in, maybe he (the new Chief) is not as consensus, and they come in and get their accreditation like that and say that they don't want to do this, and they don't want to do that, or the other thing. Then they come to the Mayor or BA, whoever that person might be at the time, and say, "Hey, you know that we are losing accreditation", then I said, "Well why?" So there are standards that the Chief has to keep up with as the head of his department. He has been doing a terrific job for us. The only worry of mine is that the next chief would not be as consciences as he is right now. This whole system that we put in over at the police department is all part and partial to being reviewed twice a year, reviews in command, tracking systems to make people better. Officers get reviewed by their sergeants; by their lieutenants. Even emails, these poor guys are using their own emails, and now they have emails. Training, it is an unbelievable system that it could tell when a person needs training on a certain date verses me

looking in a book and then going to the man and saying that he needs to train. What if I am sick? What if I am away? What if I forget? I get busy? This is all the important things that this program does that we put in, and it seems to be working very well.

Chief Matos: There is not much more to add then this is the one of the last things that we need. We revamped almost every policy and procedure in the department last year. We have been working on this ordinance now for about seven months, going back and forth. So this is all that I am waiting for to finally pass the rules and regulations.

Councilwoman Albanese: I was just going to say that it is good, even if it is every year, or every two years, to look over all the policies because there are always changes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let me tell you guys a couple of things that you don't know prior to Chief Matos, we in the past have had certain instances internally in the department where the men should be doing this but they didn't…bah, bah, bah. I would ask the Chiefs then if they (the men) were trained. The Chief would say, "Well, you know, I forgot, he really wasn't" I mean it is nothing that is life or death training it could be on a policy or the function of the use of a computer or something. "Well, he was trained at the academy but we really didn't have the training here" "They were supposed to go on line" This stops all that, there is no more of that. If tomorrow the Chief comes to John or I and says that he needs the Council to pass, or amend the ordinance and add something into it, we come to you (the council) and you do it. Everybody gets that sent to them in their box. Not only does the Chief know that it was sent to me but he knows when I opened it, so there is none of that, "I was on vacation". Now the Chief says that everyone has to get back to me by September 30th, he is going to be told a week in advance who hasn't yet, right up to the day.

Councilman O'Connor: Everybody is being held accountable.

Chief Matos: Late last year we purchased a Document Management System which is a computerized web based system that we have been putting all of our Policies and Procedures, Rules and Regulations, and Attorney General Guidelines into this system. In the past we were using binders, and what makes it tough was that you had to go to a binder and figure what needs to be updated and what doesn't need to be updated. With the Document Management System once a year we get an alert to look at this policy, to look at the Rule and Regulation, to confirm that it is still good. If it needs an update it is just a matter of going in, updating it, making the changes that you need, resending it out to everyone, then everyone has to sign for it. So there is always a computer tracking system that every officer is accountable for, takes time for, basically it is a computerized signature. It makes it real easy to go in instead of having to issue hard copies to 40 people. We are just basically sending it out electronically.

Mayor Bonaccorso: If the Chief goes back to his office right now and send out a directive saying, "No Clark police vehicles shall chase a vehicle up the parkway for more than two miles, unless it is a crime of X" He types that out and sends that out to everybody and I am on vacation, on my first day back it is in my mailbox and I have to read it. That is our responsibility to say that you have to read your mail when you come in in the morning. So it takes all of those loop holes out, it is very protective of the department, it is very protective for the personnel that work there, and it keeps the guys that don't think that they have to be accountable, accountable.

Councilwoman Albanese: It is like a win, win all over.

Council President Smith: You need a degree to be an IT, you need an IT degree now to do all of your computer work.

Mayor Bonaccorso: There were policies (in the manual) about buildings that don't even exist in Clark anymore. To be fair to all of the Chiefs that we had, they have all been, for me, terrific people to work with, and we had a good relationships, you know, how did they have the time to do all that stuff, like you said, with the binder and stuff. Truthfully, how do you have the time to sit there and go through all of that, to be fair to people?

Councilwoman Albanese: Technology has made it easier.

RESOLUTIONS:

2. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County to participate in the Union County First Alert System at the rate of twelve cents per call

Discussion: None

Mr. Laezza: This is just a continuation of what we have been doing.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution.
Mover: Albanese Second: Barr

3. Award of Contract for the Collection and Disposal of Leaves

Discussion:

Township Clerk: What I did is our bid specks indicated that we could opt for a second year with the current vendor. I sent him an email asking him if he would honor last year's price and if not would he give us a proposal? He wrote me back saying that he would honor last year's price. There is no reason not to go with him. The Department of Public Works was completely satisfied with this company. We will anticipate awarding that contract on the 21st.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution.
Mover: Mazzarella Second: O'Connor

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle tax appeals authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey with credit to be issued in the amount of $2,244.47 for Block 57 Lot 11 and $3,133.35 for Block 71 Lot 4

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: That comes to me right from the Tax Collector

5. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $158.40 of 2015 taxes

Discussion: None

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda
Mover: Toal Second: Hund

Mr. Laezza: We have something else to discuss. About sixteen years ago we created the Hyatt Hills Commission. We are looking to make some changes in the operation of the commission by eliminating the commissioners, per say, and having the Mayors of each of the towns act as the Commission since now it is a separate company. Billy Casper Golf is running the golf course. We have the two mayors of each town, whoever they may be, overlooking the operation of the commission as it relates to its needs as the Hyatt Hills Golf Course, as a recreation facility. This basically makes a change to the agreement. You were supposed to have a copy in your box and a copy with regard to the changes. If you agree we should adopt this resolution, making the changes, it will be subsequently an amendment to the Hyatt Hills Ordinance that was originally created.

Council President Smith: Does Racer not own it anymore?

Mr. Laezza: Racer Trust has leased it to Bill Casper Golf.

Council President Smith: And the reason we need to keep a commission of the two mayors is to make sure that it stays as a golf course, and that no one else can come in.....?

Mr. Laezza: It is zoned as a recreation.....

Mayor Bonaccorso: We can't enforce that. Because it was created, John if you will, as a public entity, when they wanted to take it back and run it themselves, more or less it was a good will gesture to keep a two man commission on. We are not responsible for the day to day operations any longer, it is going to be more like a hands off board of directors that will meet with them a couple of times a year or so to hear about the happening of the golf course. The golf course is being actively marketed for sale. That is not a secret, it is out there, but it has been for a couple of years now.

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So, you know, no one wants to pay x amount of dollars for a golf course. Golf courses are closing throughout the country, so they are not interested in that. From the day that they came in they said that they were going to try to market, and sell it. They basically told John and I that they didn't think that they were going to be very successful. Their job, as the bankruptcy trustee, is when the judge appointed them to liquidate all of GM's assets; they have to try to liquidate. Now, I am not going to tell you that it is going to be a golf course for 1500 more years to come, or it is going to get sold tomorrow, I have no idea. At the end of the day it is zoned for recreation, it would have to come before this governing body, the appropriate boards, to try and change that zoning. There is a massive clean-up that would have to happen up there depending on what people want to put in. There are monitoring wells up there that the GM trustee is paying a million dollars a year John, on that company...I forgot the name of it, but it cost a million dollars a year to continue to monitor and clean the water on that site. So when you hear that it is going to be sold tomorrow, well, maybe it could be, to what? I have no idea because there are (inaudible) areas up there, as you know. But it is just not something that could easily happen. I know a couple of months ago I went back on the forum, whatever, if you want to believe what is written on that thing, but it was that the commission ran it bankrupt, this and that, it is not true. These people felt that they could do it better, and they wanted to do it better. From the looks of the place, I don't think personally it is. They spent a lot of money on manicuring that facility, I don't think that they are spending as much on it, but it is still a very acceptable and a very playable golf course. Each group has their own idea on how to run something. As a non-paid volunteer member of that commission, when they came in and said that they are going to do

it because they think that they can do it more efficient and better. I said, "Thank you, have a good night". You can't get fired from a job that you don't get paid for. There is a little group that is up there constantly, they are probably the same group that when GM put it up for sale, and they said that Donald Trump was going to buy it for 22 million dollars; the golf course is probably worth 3 million. Those were all the rumors you heard back then.

Councilman Barr: Sal, isn't a big portion basically covering what is underneath?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Oh yeah, but some of it is clean. There are areas that are dirty and contaminated and there are areas that are very clean there. So like I said, my personal guess is they are probably not going anywhere for a long time, if at all. But when things are up for sale, you never know. It is just not going to be that someone is going to show up with load of lumber and start building something. There is a big process of what it would have to go through, not only here, but in Cranford.

Council President Smith: Isn't the liquor license there a special liquor license that the state authorized?

Mayor Bonaccorso: A concessioner's license.

Council President Smith: Who owns that?

Mayor Bonaccorso: The commission owns it.

Council President Smith: Hold that over their head.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, I mean, for what it is worth, there is a guy up there that running a very good establishment that is trying very hard to make the place go. The other part that myself and the Mayor of Cranford spoke about was that we still believe that it is in the both town best interest to keep that as a golf course, and to do anything that we can to help it as a golf course. So we are looking at all of that. When our commission is up there they spent a lot of money on the golf course. You know, there is a pond up there, I remember getting water bills for $20,000.00 to fill that pond, on a summer like this, a drought. If you don't water, you don't have to fill it up. The theory from the founding commissioners, and this is back to when John was in Cranford and was a part of correlating that golf course, was that they were going to try and run the most pristine 9 hole, well-manicured type of golf course in New Jersey. I think that they did, I really do, and I thought that the place was excellent. So we will see. We wish Racer, and Bill Casper best of luck and we will be there to help him along the way to make sure that the place continues on being a recreational open space.

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.

Council President opens the meeting to the public

Seeing no one come forward Council President Smith asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

A motion to close was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Toal.

Roll Call: All ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I would like to remind the Council that on Friday morning at 9:00am, at the Nelson Memorial on Broadway is the 9/11 ceremony. I would suggest getting there about 8:45am-8:50am, and we will be out of there by 9:15am -9:20am.

Also to note that on Wednesday, September 16th from 12:00pm–2:00pm, is our Senior Citizen BBQ at the Deutscher Club, please come out. Chief, you are invited with whomever you would like to bring with you. It is our 15th Annual Senior BBQ. There will be a lot of people; it is a lot of fun. I will introduce you to the seniors because they kind of really like that. Believe it or not when you really talk to our seniors and get to know them the way we have, they really were impressed when Chief Danco would come and cuddle, Scherb, and now Pedro would come, and they like that. They like to know who the police chief is; they like to know how safe it is. Come and say hello and have something to eat, they will come over and say hello. That is a good day. So we will see you hopefully on those days. If you are obviously jammed up with work, we understand. At our first BBQ, 15 years ago, we learned a lot, the seniors were bringing their friends from out of town, and the next year we said that they had to show proof of residency.

I did have a discussion with the Mayor Steinman today about the proposed football stadium at Rahway Park. Quite frankly his opinion is that it is going through, he wants it desperately, and quite frankly I can understand his position. He understands my position and our position for the most part. A field is a field, I am not getting into the worms and the bugs and the birds, I don't have a big flavor for any of that stuff, I am not getting into that, I don't know about it. Basically his position is that he is trying to accommodate his kids, and I understood that from day one. The things that I am working on, you know, it was 5000 seats and it went down to like 1200 (seats). The parking is a concern. He said to me today that the Rahway Pool would let about 1600 people on a very hot Saturday or Sunday, and he said if you take 1600 people at capacity that is about 600 or 700 cars. I said, "Correct" He said that is where they are all getting parked, in the pool parking lot, which is near the field. He said his plan for bussing is to take the school busses, they will come in, drop off the team, the band, and their equipment, and they are going to get parked at, I think, Franklin School, across from Saint Georges Avenue. As far as traffic goes, I think it is going to probably be like any other game where fifteen or twenty minutes after a ball game, such as we have right here next Friday night, Westfield Avenue, Emerald is kind of busy with people, and then it dissipates. I think that if we have any abuse of traffic laws; I think that our Chief will have the right people up there to take care of that for us; I have full confidence in that. He had 10,000 people in the park for the 4th of July, he asked me how many calls did I get about there being problems, and I said, "zero". We have a mutual respect and a working relationship and we share services, like the County. I know that there have been some people asking if we are going out to the meeting. My answer is no. I do meetings with other elected officials across a conference room tables. If he was rude to me, or he or the town shut me out, I would then have to take to a public forum. As long as they give me the respect of sitting down and hearing me out across a table, I will always follow that venue as I have for the past 15 years. He does appreciate our position and he is very sympathetic to the people up there, like he said, it is nothing personal. I understand that. He wants to provide something for the student athletes of Rahway. He also said to me that he will continue to work with us in any way possible if this gets passed. Some of the citizens that I spoke to, I said to them that a Public Meeting is for the public, so go out and voice your concerns. I encourage our citizens to do so if that is what they want to do. Steve, as the 3rd Ward Councilman, you and I have had many discussions on this and anything else that has gone on. Anytime a councilman has got any suggestions or concerns he has forward them to

me and I have tried to get an answer back, sometimes we can and sometimes we can't. There will be a meeting coming up I think it is next week on the 15th or something. I wish the citizens of our community the best of luck. If this becomes a reality it will then be our job, between me and the councilman and the at-large people to make sure that any concerns or problems are nipped in the bud up there, and that the quality of life for our residents goes unchanged. So we will see where it goes.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just wanted to mention to everyone that the library has a display dedicated to 9/11. Hopefully you can stop by and take a look at it. It has all types of memorabilia. It is as soon as you walk in the entrance, in the display case there. So that will be on display until September 30th.

Councilman Barr: Nothing.

Councilman Hund: I just want to reiterate the Mayors comment to the Public Meeting on the 15th, for all the citizens, if they want to voice their opinions, to attend the meeting and be heard. That is all, thank you.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to thank the Chief for his efforts on research on the vehicle cameras and the body cams. There is no question that it is going to help our community, people traveling through our community, and our officers. That is an important thing, thank you.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments, thank you.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. President, 21st Century Clark Police Department, amazing. If you think about the concepts of what they went from, and now, the body cameras, it is what we needed because it is a YouTube generation. But we need to turn around and make sure our officers are protected for what recently happened, and to make sure that image is of "whatever" is actually shown. The truth does come out, and we are protecting our own men as we send them out in harm's way of crazy residents, crazy transients. We must protect our offices and we give 100% to you Chief, and your department, along with the Mayor. Thank you again Chief. We are going into the high tech world. We are 15 years into the new century, as I said, they are our building blocks.

The County Manager Al Faella, and the Parks Department, we had a recent incident, I will get into it with a little more detail at the Public Meeting, but we had a recent incident with a dead deer in the reservoir behind Ivy Street. It was not pleasant ladies and gentleman; it was a floating carcass that just permeated the air with stench. Again, thanks to the Mayor's office, the Clerk…this young lady (Edith Merkel) helped me tremendously. The County came in with a backhoe and they dug a hole and got the deer out of the reservoir, they took out a couple of trees and cleared out the path. Again, to John Victor, and the residents of Malvern Court, and for the residents over there thank you for being patient, and understanding. It was not pleasant to open your windows on a summer morning and having the brutal stench coming through. Thank you to Al Faella, the County, and the Clark Police Department, for their assistance on that one. Somehow the deer got hit on the Parkway and ended up in the reservoir, it floated downstream, rotted, and turned the entire neighborhood into a disgusting mess, and it was disgusting.

With regards to Rahway Park, again, it is not an easy subject. I do understand what the Mayor of Rahway is doing for his children. My opinion, find another location. Rahway Park was originally a poor farm during the 1920's and 30's for those indigents and needy people of Union County. It is a pristine park for many years now, but it is Rahway, it is their town, and they have a right to do what they must for their children. I also say to the County Manager and those who have been

putting this project together, or as they are trying to do, a berm, extra trees, replanting, replenish the tree canopy that you are going to be taking down, and make sure that those residents don't see it in the Clark section. Make sure it is protected with a nice green berm. Those are my comments on Rahway Park. Thank you.

Council President Smith: The only thing that I have is the Unico Feast is coming up October 9th through the 11th. Chief, I know that you are well aware of it with your staffing of that with your police officers. I know that Ralph will be looking for volunteers if anyone is available.

Township Clerk: I have located the Hyatt Hills information (information being handed out).

Chief Matos: I would like to thank the Township Council for their consideration in (inaudible due to paper shuffling) I did not take that lightly, I tried to make the best decision that would get the most bang for every tax dollar.

Also, the Food Truck and Rock Carnival is coming up. I would just like to reiterate that there will be no parking west of Lake Avenue, signage will be put up, and the streets will be limited to residents only.

If there are any questions regarding the cameras, please do not hesitate to call.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese.

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
October 5, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Joseph Triarsi, 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" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

Council President Smith: It looks like our October 19th meeting is going to be Pancreatic Cancer Awareness proclamation.

Township Clerk: Yes, ordinarily we do that in November because they usually declare that the whole month of November. This year they are declaring one specific day, "World Pancreatic Cancer Day", which will be November 13th and our Public Meeting does not take place until after that. Todd Cohen, and I am sure the family, and some others, will be there.

Council President Smith: Okay, same as last year.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Public Hearing:**
   Authorizing the submission of applications for funding for the Year 42 Community Development Block Grant Program

Discussion:

Township Clerk: You will need to hold a Public Hearing, which you do every year, before the submission of these applications.

Mr. Laezza: Basically we have two grants, one is Social Services, which Councilman Barr takes care of, and the other is Curb and Capital Needs that Councilwoman Albanese takes care of. They represent us well. Every year we put in an application and every year they reduce it to a certain level, and our two council fights for our rights to do it. It runs almost fairly easy.

Council President Smith: It looks like we are putting it in for $55,000.00.

Councilwoman Albanese: So did you hear that the Federal Government is reducing the Block Grants awards to the County. So proportionally everyone is taking a small piece.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Barr Second: Albanese

2. Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2016 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: Basically, this is our State Aid Grant for roads. Basically, if you recall, we went through a 2015 Grant for Lexington Boulevard. They should be adding more to the Lexington Boulevard because it will need an entire new sewer system put in. So we figure it will be an expensive job so there will be many years of State Aid on that one particular job. That is the beginning of our road program, there will be further discussion on the road program for 2016, and it is going to be very extensive. However we have the water company putting in new water lines on Westfield Avenue this winter and on Katheryn this winter. All of the water lines in the third ward will be cleaned so there will be a lot of activity in the third ward. We also advised the people on Fischer that we did not pave the road because we were putting in that water line cleaning before we pave it so it doesn't get ripped up again, so hopefully it will be paved in November.

Councilman Toal: Thank you, I appreciate it.

Council President Smith: So when they do the water lines they use just rip the strip up, replace the water lines and then….(Mr. Laezza: inaudible).

Councilman Toal: Mr. Laezza, you mentioned Lexington (Boulevard), are you talking Lexington from Raritan down to the Parkway, or are we talking the dean end section off of Brant?

Mr. Laezza: Raritan to the Parkway.

Councilman Toal: Raritan to the Parkway, ok, thank you.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Hund

3. Authorizing the Health Officer to enter into an Agreement with the Visiting Nurse and Health Service for 2016

Discussion:

Township Clerk: As we know so far the price has stayed the same since last year. This is one that we do every year.

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Barr

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle a tax appeal authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey with credit to be issued in the amount of $7,086.94 and a refund in the amount of $12,271.74

Discussion: None

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of $7,844.15

Discussion: None

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply a sewer account balance adjustment in the amount of $1,380.96

Discussion: None

Council President Smith asked for a mover and second on the 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.

Council President Smith opens the meeting to the public

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

Council President Smith directed roll call.
All ayes: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Last night, not last night but the night before, seventeen cars were opened, not broken into, opened up in the third ward, up by the Emerson area. What was taken out of the cars was loose change. One car did have a lap top taken out. I spoke with the Chief today about it. Basically with the history when we have this happen in Clark, when one person calls in on it, the number usually goes into the teens, double digits. What happen when people park their cars outside in the driveway or street and do not lock them? People maybe with drug habits, other habits, go down the road, they hit the door and look to see if it is open, they go in, grab the change, put it in their pocket and scram. There is no breaking and entering I mean that how it done. The most important thing is for the citizens to understand, please lock your vehicles out in your driveway, or out in your street. I mean it is a great thing to park in the street of Clark and feel pretty comfortable that no one is going to break in, and you leave your car unlocked, but the truth is that today, with the addictions that are out there, you get people who just walk down the road....it is virtually impossible to grab them, unless someone sees them out the window, or a cop happens to drive up the road. They are usually on foot, they hit the door handle and if it opens they take the change, and go, right down the road. The last time we had this was on the west side of town, there were twenty two. So when I was told that there was one, I knew there was more because right down the block they go. So the police department, of course, is investigating it, and of course it is going to be impossible to find the person unless they catch them in the act. So the thing is, if you can put it out on your "TAP" to tell people to please lock their cars to avoid this kind of problem. Normally when thing like this happen nothing of value is taken other than change. They want the money to go out and do the things that they need to do with it. They are not looking to walk down the street with bundles of stuff in their arms.

The leaf clean-up, believe it or not, will start the last Monday of this month. October is here. It is going to start, and we will go in our ward rotation, you know, the first week of November is ward one and two, the second week of November is ward three and four, so on and so forth. We should have the entire town cleaned, with the help of Mother Nature, again, if Mother Nature cooperates, God only knows. Probably by Saturday the 12th of December everything should be cleaned up, if Mother Nature cooperates.

Councilman O'Connor: I think that it is important to remind everybody that all this information is on www.ourclark.com, because whenever I am asked a question and I am unsure I just go there and the answer is there for me. I get back to the people but all that information is there for the people to see.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right. You know Pat, it is kind of like me saying for the last fifteen years to put your branched out the third week of the month and we will pick them up the fourth week, and they put them out the day after we pick them up.

Once we get into leaves we are basically doing nothing else.

The road program next year, as Mr. Laezza said, we have some heavy roads that have some real problems, they are going to need construction and sewer, so hold onto your hats (inaudible due to paper shuffling).

Brian, as the water company said, they are going to clean-up Westfield Avenue, and go down to Katheryn (Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. Mayor) and then the 3rd Ward is going to have a lot of cleaning. They fixed that problem earlier this year, as you know, up on Bradly, (Councilman Toal: Yes) all those houses over there, they had low water pressure. So it seems like they are sinking a lot of money into Clark this year. We have been in touch with them over the years about certain areas of low pressure, and what we thought.

Mr. Laezza: The 3rd Ward will be going from 500 per minute to 1500 per minute.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah, we will be in good shape with that. So they are going to be doing that.

Friday night, as you know, is the UNICO Feast here. So if you can come by, it is a good night.

That is all that I have right now, that I could think of.

Councilman Hund: What are those streets set for sewer?

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are talking about Colonial with Rich O'Connor, John and I talked about that with Rich O'Connor. Lexington is the other one that has major problems, so we definitely have some problems coming our way with some big jobs.

Councilman Mazzarella: Is that storm drains or sanitary?

Mr. Laezza: Sanitary.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Storm on Colonial.

Mr. Laezza: Sanitary on Lexington.

Councilman Mazzarella: That is going to help minimize the infiltration.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just want to mention that on October 17th and 18th is the Four Centuries in the Weekend, over at the Dr. Robinson House. It is nice to stop by if you have the time, even if it is for a few minutes.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Mr. Laezza: In regard to Councilman Barr. The volunteer fire company is getting old, it is difficult to get young volunteers, and we are having a problem filling our quotas. It has not reached a critical stage yet, but if you know of anybody that is interested in being a volunteer fireman, press them.

Council President Smith: Have they up'd their recruitment strategy?

Mr. Laezza: They have lifted the, "within a three mile area" if they are trained.

Councilman Hund: I will wait for the next meeting.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to say to the Mayor and John that it was a tremendous move that you did getting that roll off trailer; it helps tremendously, especially with leaf season. Thank you for that.

Councilman O'Connor: I just want to take the time to acknowledge the Mayor and the Administrator for the fine job with regards to Best Practices again. We have no loss of revenue, no penalty that we have to pay. They make it look easy, but it was not easy when they first got here. The processes they put in place over all of these years have made the government run very, very efficiently. If anybody thinks that the job is easy they are mistaken, because it is a difficult job, they just make it look easy, so thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Pat.

Councilman Toal: The Mayor, Administration, and Mr. Laezza, thank you on the Fischer Place, those residents have been waiting a long time, again, whatever gets done, it is being worked on, that is the first thing I said to these people, "We are working on it". So I thank you on that. Katheryn Street, again, that was my next street that was going to be bugging the heck out of you about for 2016, and that was Katheryn Street. So hopefully it will be done with the reconstruction of the sewer line?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Like I said, one street is going to need sanitary and the other needs storm, so we could budget whatever you guys want but there is a tax quote attached to it.

Councilman Toal: Absolutely, but you know the cut through of Katheryn Street and how it has become.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Once we pave it and it is nice and flat then they will be telling me that people are speeding and to put more bumps on the street.

Councilman Toal: I have another issue that just came up and I will be sending it to the Administration on Bartell with the dance studio again. I will bring the contact information to you and resolve it. Again, it is a residential zone, a neighborhood, and you have a commercial entity that got grandfathered in and they have over……

Mr. Laezza: Our zoning ordinance says you can have a home business.

Councilman Toal: A home business that is basically has overextended to what their properties are and they are just getting too many cars and too many kids now. It has outgrown its location that is what the issue is. We will have a discussion on this and go through the proper channels.

That is all I have Mr. President.

Council President Smith: The UNICO Feast, which the Mayor brought up, is Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So if anybody is around and if you have some time to volunteer…I know it is pretty late in the schedule but he (Ralph Bernardo) is still looking for people.

Mayor Bonaccorso: One other thing that I neglected to mention is that I got notification from Union County today that we will be awarded a Recreation Trust Fund Grant or a Historical Trust Fund Grant. So I said to my secretary, "Recreation or Historical?" and she or it could be both (Mr. Laezza: It could be both). So one of the entities, or both, may have a grant coming, so we will let you know as soon as I hear.

Council President Smith: That is good, that's very good.

Township Clerk: No report.

Mr. Laezza: Nothing.

Mr. Triarsi: No report.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman O'Connor.

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
November 2, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; John Laezza, Business Administrator; Howard Lesnik, Acting 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" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Public Hearing:**
   Authorizing the submission of an application for funding for the Year 42 Community Development Block Grant Program

Council as Board of Health:

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: The first Resolution requires a Public Hearing on November 16th.

Council Vice President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution.
Mover: Barr Second: Albanese

Township Clerk: The next two Resolutions are the Council as the Board of Health.

2. Award of 2016 Animal Control Contract through a fair and open process (Proposals Under review)

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: We received two proposals which are currently under review by the Health Officer and the Business Administrator.

Council Vice President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution.
Mover: O'Connor Second: Mazzarella

3. Authorizing the Health Officer and Township Clerk to enter into an agreement between the Township of Clark and the City of Elizabeth STD Clinic

Discussion: None

Council Vice President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution.
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Barr

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of $2,140.22 and transfer overpayment of $298.14 of 2015 taxes

Discussion: None

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of $668.43

Discussion: None

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply a sewer account balance adjustments in the following amounts Original $4,925.00, Revised $1,125.00, Credit $4,425.00, Additional $625.00

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Clark Special Events Committee and the Department of Recreation to conduct a Community Bonfire

Discussion: None

8. Approving the Council Meeting Calendar for 2016

Discussion: None

9. Approving the 2016 Holiday Schedule

Discussion: None

10. Police Vehicle Resolution

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: I have one more to add; Chief Matos contacted me regarding an Ordinance that needs to coordinate with the police Table of Organization, is that correct?

Chief Matos: What we are currently doing at the Police Department doesn't quite jive with what I read on the Table of Organization, but it would be pertinent for us to match the Table of Organization to what we are actually doing, and for what we charge for police vehicles during road details.

Mr. Laezza: Currently we charge $25.00 an hour with a minimum of three hours; we want to make it a set fee of $100.00 for each project, $100.00 a car for each project.

Chief Matos: Currently we are charging a flat rate $100.00, but the Ordinance says $50.

Township Clerk: So in this particular Ordinance there was a prevision added in June of last year that says any....

Mr. Laezza: Any changes to the Ordinance can be done by Resolution.

Township Clerk: So we would just add a Resolution so instead of saying $25.00 an hour minimum of three hours just a flat fee of $100.00.

Councilwoman Albanese: So we are going to add that to the Consent Agenda?

Township Clerk: Yes. If you are in agreement with that then we could put it on Consent.

Councilman Mazzarella: That $100.00 is for three hour, or four hours?

Mr. Laezza: The $100.00 is for one hour, or fifteen minutes, or four hours, or eight hours.

Councilman Mazzarella: Okay.

Mr. Laezza: It is a flat rate.

Council Vice President asked for a mover and second on the 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.

Council Vice President opens the meeting to the public

Seeing no one coming forward, Council Vice President asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.
Motion: Albanese Second: O'Connor

Roll Call: All ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Last week the DPW picked up the whole town one time (leaves) it was not a tremendous amount. But do you know what? I should say that Scott (McCabe) thinks that we picked up about three hundred yards of leaves already. So in one week that is not bad, you know? That is about three hundred to four hundred yards of leaves off the street. They (DPW) are continuing out there and hopefully the wind will cooperate in getting them down.

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: Just on the leaves; the past weeks I have noticed there were three separate locations that put our branches. I went over to the house and I talked to the resident and I said, "listen, you have to get those branches off of the street, they are not going to pick them up, you can't mix them with your leaves, we have been saying that time and time again, it stopped in September." The residents were kind enough to remove the branches.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We had a resident that stopped in here when we stopped our grass collection and asked why we were stopping the grass collection now. It was the middle of October. I told him that this is when we stop it every year. He said that it stops in November. I said, "No, it stops in October. He was insisting that we picked up grass until November.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments this evening, thank you.

Councilman Toal: Friday night around 9:30pm on Central and Raritan there was a multiple accident.

Chief Matos: It was a head on collision. The vehicle that was traveling north on Central Avenue going to the Parkway towards Raritan Road made left turn, she made a left turn to her right and ended up on the wrong side of the road, and hit a car head on.

Councilman Toal: No fatalities right?

Chief Matos: No fatalities.

Councilman Toal: The reason that I am bringing that up is because I came up on the accident after the fact, and that has been concerning me for a while. We had a situation here that actually played out into a reality. It is a dangerous situation, it is a County road, of course, the State DOT, or whatever, but we need to have that looked at. The Garden State is full of numbskulls, driving off the Parkway at a high rate of speed, driving down Central, and going left onto Raritan, and then making the wrong turn, or whatever. I am just trying to say that we need to have something, or have a letter sent to somebody, because we have been waiting for that to happen for a while.

Chief Matos: I can tell you from experience, I have been in Clark now twenty years where I have seen numerous cars make that mistake, but I have never seen anyone go that far as she did.

Councilman Toal: She went all the way....

Chief Matos: I have seen cars come real close to and then go over and around the concreate barrier. I have also seen, years ago, on that concreate barrier, when I first got here, when Raritan Road was only three lanes there, the concreate barrier was wider, I actually saw a car....did you see the "Keep Right" sign on the post? The car went up on it; it was up on all four wheels and dragged the thing (the sign) out of there.....

Councilman Toal: I am just saying about signage, or whatever you could do in a sense of increasing the visibility to stay to the right...signage or whatever, a reflective.....because it is dangerous.

Chief Matos: I have seen cars pull out of the gas station and make a left turn and go on the wrong side of the road, waiting for the light on the wrong side of the road, waiting for the light to turn green, looking at traffic right in front of them, looking at headlights....

Mr. Laezza: You cannot put signs up for people who are ignorant.

Councilman Toal: I completely agree with you on that, but when you see that devastation of those cars, and the situation on the roads, the cars were completely stopped, then the cars got detoured around, and you saw the mangled cars, it just put the chill in you.

Councilman Mazzarella: What kind of sign would you put?

Councilman O'Connor: Actually there is a sign there, it is a yellow sign, and it says "Stay to the Right". I am for safety but....

Chief Matos: The problem is that it is a wide intersection.

Councilman Toal: Yes it is.

Chief Matos: So people are not normally accustomed to making such a wide left turn. Most intersections that you encounter are just not that wide.

Councilman Toal: The issue is that you now have two lanes making that wide turn left.

Councilwoman Albanese: Maybe you can have better dotted lines. Some of the intersections we have dotted lines, you know?

Mr. Laezza: If they can't see a barrier, then they are not going to see a dotted line on the street, they pay no attention. She was probably texting.

Councilman Toal: Please.

Chief Matos: You cannot put a dotted line because a dotted line actually allows people to cross, so what you would need there would be a solid line, but you can't put the solid line across an intersection.

Mr. Laezza: People don't pay attention to double solid lines.

Councilman Mazzarella: That intersection is tremendous as far as the way it was.

Mayor Bonaccorso: As my dad once said; there is no cure for stupidity. So what are you going to do?

Councilman Toal: I brought up my issue, I thank you for listening.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Brian, we will always look at it but...

Councilman Toal: When you see an accident like that you are like, holy....

Mayor Bonaccorso: But do you know what Brian? We will look at it but I won't promise you anything with that. You have a good concern, don't get me wrong, but some of these people are just pathetic the way that they drive.

Councilman Toal: Was there anything that was happening on Halloween? Was it quiet in town?

Chief Matos: It was quiet, there were no issues.

Councilman Toal: Good. Thank you to the Mayor and the Business Administrator for their assistance. When somebody does come up with an issue, we throw it to the Clerk, and then to the BA, and we get results, and we thank them for that. Thank you Mr. President, that will be all for tonight. Thanks to you Chief.

Mr. Laezza: No comments.

Chief Matos: No comments.

Township Clerk: No comments.

Council Vice President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Mazzarella

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
December 7, 2015

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; Howard Lesnik, Acting Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

Absent John Laezza, Business Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Dispensed)

This meeting is in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" As Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Award of Contract for Professional Planning Services for 2016 (Proposals to be opened on 12/15/15)

Discussion: None

Council President Smith asked for a move and second on this Resolution
Mover: Mazzarella Second: Hund

2. Resolutions awarding Professional Services contracts through a fair and open process for 2016:

Township Clerk: We received only one bid for the Auditor, it is the Auditor that we currently have. We received one (bid) from the Engineer, and for the Labor Attorney I believe we received two proposals, for Bond Counsel we have four proposals, and Special Counsel we received one proposal. After the review (of the proposals) that same people we had last year will be the same people next year.

Council President Smith: Is that Mr. Laezza and the CFO that decide on that with the Mayor?

Township Clerk: Yes.

A. Auditor – Wiss & Company, LLP
B. Engineering Services – Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC
C. Labor Attorney – Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy
D. Bond Counsel – Rogut McCarthy LLC
E. Special Counsel and Director of Law – Triarsi, Betancourt, Wukovits & Dugan, LLC

Discussion: None

Council President Smith asked for a move and second on this Resolution
Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

3. Council as ABC Board

Approving the Place-to-Place transfer, expansion of premises for The Clark Bar at Whole Foods Market to include the outdoor service of alcohol

Discussion:

Township Clerk: What happened was that when they first applied they only licensed the interior of the building and now they are saying that they want seating outside. They complied with everything, and the State said okay, so now it is up to you if you say okay.

Council President Smith: The plan looked great.

Councilman Toal: But you are taking a food store and you are placing tables outside to serve what?

Township Clerk: Not the food store, the restaurant.

Councilman Mazzarella: The bar, they have a bar.

Township Clerk: They have a restaurant in there.

Councilman Barr: Is that going to open up for every other place to apply?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Anyone could apply for outside dining, that is not a problem. To have liquor out there you would have to have the ABC in Trenton to say it was okay and for the council to agree to that. So they have the Clark Bar, so if you just want to go out there on a nice spring day and have a sandwich and a beer, you can. All of the laws will be in place so that they (people) can't go wondering around with it (alcohol) and stuff like that.

Council President Smith: Similar to Applebee's.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Or Hyatt Hills, out on the patio. Some of you were around back when they did that, when Lana's opened up and they wanted to go out on the patio, they had to readjust their license to go out on the patio.

Councilman Mazzarella: Sal, is this contained right in front of the bar area?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Township Clerk: You should view the plans in with your packet.

Council President Smith: Yes, there were about ten or twelve tables in the schematic, all fenced in, and an entrance and exit from the building.

Council President Smith asked for a move and second on this Resolution
Mover: Mazzarella Second: O'Connor

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Renewing membership in the New Jersey Municipal Self Insurer's Joint Insurance Fund and authorizing the Mayor or Business Administrator to execute the agreement

Discussion: None

5. Appointing Special Police Officers effective January 1, 2016

Discussion: None

6. Authorizing the Police Chief to issue Clothing Bin Permits for the year 2016

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: I have a question on #6.

Council President Smith: Sure.

Councilman Mazzarella: Chief, are there any additional clothing bins permits that you are issuing, or the same?

Chief Matos: No, everything is the same as of this year. 2015 and 2016 are going to be the same, we have no additional.

Councilman Toal: Chief, have we had any problems in the last twelve months with those bins with regards to any vandalism or anything else?

Chief Matos: Not that I know of.

Councilman Toal: No complaints at all across the board?

Chief Matos: We have had no complaints.

Councilman Toal: That is all that I am asking. Thank you, that's perfect.

Chief Matos: Last year my office did an audit and made sure that everyone's paperwork was up to date, and that every bin had a permit on it. The ones that we found in town that didn't have them we had them either terminated of removed (Councilman Toal: Good.) So everything is up to date.

Councilman Toal: Outstanding Chief, I appreciate that. I want to keep this town clean.

7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply a sewer account balance adjustment in the amount of $112.50

Discussion: None

8. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2015 taxes in the amount of $555.62

Discussion: None

Council President Smith asked for a move and second on this Consent Agenda
Mover: Toal Second: Barr

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.

Council President opens the meeting to the public

Seeing no one coming forward Council President asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.
Motion: Albanese Second: Hund

Roll Call: All ayes.
Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: With Clark Commons opening this year for Black Friday, the Chief and I had a couple of conversations. The Chief has assigned a patrol car into Clark Commons, Target, and the ShopRite area for the overflow of shopping to show police presence. Now a day there is a lot of credit card stuff going on with these stores and everything else, so we wanted to step it up. I think basically the day was basically uneventful, it was nice and quiet. The owner of the Commons was so thankful and excited that he talked to us about hiring a police detail, or a car, to patrol the Commons either a day or two prior to Christmas. So we sent him a proposal on how much it would cost him and he will be getting back to us soon on that. We just wanted the new center, along with Target and ShopRite, which are very, very busy....ShopRite not as much because they usually hire their own people in there, their own details prior to different holidays. We wanted to keep those stores rolling. So the car was doing that little business district and it worked out well. So we will see what happens.

Last Tuesday night, Councilman Hund asked me if I could attend the meeting with him on some burglaries down on the Westover Road area. I asked the Chief to come and he brought Captain Concina, our Patrol Commander, with us and we met with a group of Clark and Linden people because it is that area. Along with us were the Linden Mayor, Linden Police Captain, and a Detective from Linden. We talked about some of the burglaries that are going on. The group was a very nice group of citizens, no one was there pointing the finger at anybody, or hurling any kind of accusations. I guess the best way to say it is that they were there really to pick the Chiefs brain in Linden on, "What should we be looking out for?" or "What should we be doing?" the Chief lead the comments with some really good remarks on what to do, and what to look at. I and the Councilman also stressed to them about how important it is to..... "See something, say something" because people just don't do that. "Oh yeah, I did see a white van out in front of that house for like a half hour the other day". The Chief had a good point in saying that if someone is ringing your neighbor's doorbell, when you know that they are working, and you have never seen that person before in the neighborhood, call us, we will come down. He had done some

internal things with his department to try and sure up that area. We had this happen from time to time, it has been happening in Linden, it has been happening in Clark, we are right next to each other. I thought that it was a very, very good meeting. It was very informative and the people were very, very nice in both communities.

We had the Tree Lighting and Breakfast with Santa, a lot of you where there, that went off great. Big crowds again at both and it went very, very nicely.

That is my report for tonight, other than that it is pretty quiet. We will be having our annual Christmas meeting in December.

Today is Pearl Harbor Day.

Councilwoman Albanese: Just a reminder that Saturday the Dr. Robinson House will be open in case anyone wants to visit. I think that it is from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. We will probably all get notices on that.

Councilman Barr: I would just like to mention that at the Senior Holiday Luncheon Event I was speaking to all of the seniors, and Chief, a lot of them were saying that they see the police around all the time now, excellent.

Chief Matos: Thank you.

Councilman Hund: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to say that the DPW guys are doing a fantastic job picking up the leaves, they really are.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are trying to wrap up the town.

Councilman O'Connor: On Sunday I attended the Clark Emergency Squad installation luncheon that they had. At their Organization Meeting in January, I will announce their new officers. The Chief was there as well, thank you for attending.

Councilman Toal: I met with a bunch of residents last night at their house, Marie Falzone, on Rolling Hill Way, and her neighbors. It started out that it was supposed to be one or two people and it ended up to be about eight (people). They were talking about the issues regard the old rest area that is a maintenance yard for the Parkway DOT control. They brought their concerns to me.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Fence?

Councilman Toal: Fence is number one, but now we have openings and kids coming through the fence and playing in the DOT maintenance yard. There are real concerns, I did walk around with a flashlight with the residents, and they did explain their concerns. They gave me a little bit of history of it. I listened to them contently and I am bringing their concerns back to the Administration and to the town. Whatever the DOT can do to fix it and correct it.....

Mayor Bonaccorso: If there are holes in the fence Brian, we will write another letter. I think that we have done that for you, but we will do that again.

Councilman Toal: I am going to give the names and address of the residents to the Clerk so we have a record of what transpired.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Councilman Toal: We are getting more and more children in this town. What is going on? It is amazing how many new faces are popping up. It was a good time at Breakfast with Santa.

Council President Smith: I just wanted to comment again on the tree and menorah lighting that Ralph Bernardo and his team of volunteers put together. It was another exceptional function for the town and citizens, so kudos to Ralph again.

One thing regarding the pool, I know that it is December but just so that the Council knows, we had approval to redo all of the landscaping in the front, to put up some fencing, and fix it up a little bit because it is about 40 years old, most of the landscaping. That will be taking place over the coming months. As well as some lifeguard stands and some new shade areas.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Bill, I don't know if Ralph told you yet that the tree company that works with PSE&G wants to store some of the equipment there, they are going to be in town butchering trees because they don't trim, they butcher. We laid the arm on them to say that we will let you do that but we want some tree work done out in front on the island between the driveway as you come in.

Council President Smith: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So Ralph was going to get back to them. I guess they agreed to it, I haven't heard.

Councilman Mazzarella: Good trade off.

Council President Smith: That is excellent because we were just doing in front of the building but that strip between the roads, oh my God; there is poison ivy and overgrown trees.

Chief Matos: Just to add on to what the Mayor was saying about the meeting that we had with the residents last week down on the East side, like he said, we experienced some residential burglaries down there. We are diligently investigating that matter; we have increased the patrols in the area. I spoke to the residents and I advised them of somethings that they can do to protect themselves and to protect their neighbors, and look out for their neighbors. There is one resident down there that is starting a Neighborhood Watch that I have been communicating with over Facebook, and emails, and text messages over the last week. We are working on getting them signs "Neighborhood Watch" signs put up in the neighborhood. Even with that, overall in town residential burglaries are down compared to last year. What is up are the motor vehicle burglaries. I have been posting information on what is going on, I don't want to bore you with the details, I am sure everyone has read it on the Facebook page. We do believe that criminals are using electronic devises to unlock your locked vehicle. There is some information on the Facebook page on how to protect yourself. I have been putting that information out there for the residents. I don't put my keys near my front door anymore.

Councilman Barr: Chief, this might be something helpful, I happen to have, and I put this on my garage a long time ago, a motion detector. If you go anyplace near there that light goes on.

Chief Matos: With the burglary issues that we have been having down there I advised them of that, to get some motion lights. If you are going out during the day keep a radio on in your house, make your house seem like there is someone in it. The best defense is a neighbor that does see something.

Councilman O'Connor: One of the thing that is important, and that you brought up, and I have experienced myself, is residents calling me. I ask, "Did you call the police?" They say, "Well, I didn't want to bother them with something small" So I think by you going there and saying, "Hey, we are here, call us". I think that goes a long way. People don't want to be a bother and they think that they are.

Chief Matos: Do you know what it is? A lot of people, and I try to stress this to the residents, is that a lot of people think that when they see a bad guy, they are going to be able to say, "Oh, that is a bad guy" No you are not. It is just going to be someone walking along.....look what just happened in San Bernardino, the resident thought that he saw something that didn't look right, and he ended up not calling because he figured that he was just wrong, or thinking that they can't believe that this could be happening in their neighborhood. So, I try to tell the neighbors that if someone is walking in the neighborhood and you don't realize who it is, keep an eye on the person, see what they are doing, and if they seem out of place, call and let us handle it.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The Chief has been really keeping in touch with the people down there, with different questions and everything that they have. Every now and then you get a rash of this. He (the Chief) was going over some statistics with me the other day and really our burglaries are down. It is just that you get this rash in this little area, and it has happened before up on the West side, some years ago.

Councilman O'Connor: How about my neighborhood that just got hit too.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah. The difference I think is that the Chief is....what I commend him for is he is not hiding behind it; he is out there talking about it, and going out on the Facebook page. Unfortunately over the years you deal with a lot of different personalities and there are some people, some police, they are like, "that is not happening in my town." No, I think that the best thing you can do, and I agree with him, is that you get people involved and let them understand. If we hire tomorrow two hundred more police officers, we could not put them on every street in Clark, it is impossible. You need to have help with burglars because unless they (patrol) go by and they happen to see some guy crawling in or out of a window, which most people are not that stupid, because if the car can see you going by they are usually in back of the house, which then you hope a neighbor will call in, it is very, very difficult to stop this type of thing sometimes. I am completely supporting the Chief with his movement with the community, and getting people involved, and talking about it openly, it happens, that is the way it is. We found out at the meeting that our response time is hell of a lot quicker than Linden. The funny part was, and I shouldn't say funny, it is just ironic I guess, we think that every time something happens we say, "Well how bad was this?" They talked about a burglary on Westover Road in Linden and the Captain say, "Oh yeah, I remember that one, we had a double shooting down on Baltimore Avenue at the time." That is a city with a lot of problems down there. I mean, did you see that Rahway had its 4th murder this year? Two of them were on the Clark line. In perspective, look, if someone robs your home or a scarf out of your car it's still your property and there is no making light of it. Every town has a multitude of problems. Like I said, it was just ironic that the Clark resident's kind of look.... "Oh, yeah, we had a double shooting down on Baltimore Avenue"

You are lucky if you saw a cop at your house then. Anytime that goes on the police are tied up for about four or five hours. Thank you Chief for your hard work and diligence, I am very proud of your efforts and how you are handling it. We are on it, and hopefully it will end very quickly.

Councilwoman Albanese: In South Amboy, the Office of Emergency Management sent out a note to all of the directors that they sold on EBay, I think it was, thirty thousand UPS uniforms in the past, I don't know, how many months….

Mayor Bonaccorso: I read that on Facebook, I didn't know if that was true or not.

Councilwoman Albanese: I guess around this time of the year with people getting a lot of deliveries, they said the main thing is to make sure that there is a UPS truck. If you do not see a UPS truck, there are no deliveries made without that truck.

Chief Matos: If I could just say something about that. If something like that had happened, I am a little leery as to whether it is true or not, because I think that I would have gotten something from the State Police that this was a homeland security issue. We would have gotten an official notification and I haven't seen that, I have only seen that on Facebook.

Councilman O'Connor: The Tap reported that in Cranford they were having people stealing packages again as well. It is this time of year, neighbors are important like you said.

Councilwoman Albanese: Right.

Councilman Mazzarella: Done the right way that Neighborhood Watch does work.

Councilman Toal: Yes, we had it in Clark in the early 80's.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Albanese, seconded by Councilman Toal.

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Barr, Hund, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Toal, Smith

ADJOURNMENT