

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
315 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
January 4, 2016
8:00pm**

ROLL CALL:

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

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

Dispense

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 and Tap into Clark 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 January 19th meeting for Police Promotions

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. **AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 145 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED "FEES" TO ADD A SECTION ENTITLED "RECREATION DEPARTMENT"**

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: Council President and Members of Council, down through the years Ralph Bernardo, our Recreation Director, has generated many, many programs, throughout. Each program basically accommodates specific areas of recreation, or adult needs, or children's needs, and for those services there are fees. The fee structure has to be done by ordinance and this basically gives a fee for each of the programs that we have in place. Any subsequent programs that are added can be done by resolution that is what this ordinance says. The fees that are in this ordinance are the fees that have been charged for the last three or four years.

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

2. **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 3-30 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED "VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT"**

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: This is an ordinance that was recommended by the Fire Chief, it is a reconfiguration of the Fire Department. The Fire Departments T. O. (Table of Organization) basically had a Deputy Chief, a Battalion Chief, and Captains; there were three Captains and two Lieutenants. They have amended it to have a Battalion Chief, and five Captains that are appointed by the Fire Chief. Basically the other criteria are the same criteria throughout, it just distinguishes their titles.

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

RESOLUTIONS:

3. Awarding Bonds in accordance with Refunding Bond Ordinance 15-19

Discussion:

Township Clerk: Those quotes will be taken once the bond ordinance becomes effective.

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

4. Authorizing transfers of 2015 Appropriation Reserves

Discussion: None

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

5. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2015 taxes in the amount of \$16,805.22

Discussion: None

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$25.00

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Albanese 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 Hund opens the meeting to the public

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia Street: Happy New Year everyone. (Council: Happy New Year) I just have a question; Councilman O'Connor had brought up about properties on Terminal Avenue. Is there any way to find out what properties are being purchased? Are we as a tax payer....?

Mr. Laezza: Public information? Sure.

Delia Collins: Would I go through OPRA?

Mr. Laezza: All of the properties on the Retro Fitness side of the street.

Councilman O'Connor: Retro Fitness on Terminal Avenue.

Councilwoman Albanese: It is on the east side.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Terminal Avenue, on the Retro side.

Mr. Laezza: On the bank side.

Delia Collins: Oh, okay, I'm sorry. I just didn't know if it affected anything between Central (Avenue) and Westfield Avenue. There are some vacant buildings there.

Councilman O'Connor: There were a couple of public articles about it as well.

Delia Collins: Oh really?

Councilman O'Connor: That is what I saw.

Delia Collins: Okay, I will look it up. I also have a question, and I know that the Mayor does not like rumors. There was something posted on Facebook about the property over at Hyatt Hills Golf Course, that they wanted to turn that into a retail establishment.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Delia, I will give you the whole idea. The Hyatt Hills... I don't like to speculate but I can tell you fact here, so it is not speculation. Hyatt Hills has been up for sale for about five years now, five or six years. We had met with the company when they took over, Racer Trust, it is the company appointed by the bankruptcy judge out in Detroit Michigan for GM (General Motors), and they are essentially running the Hyatt Hills Golf Course. When we had the commission formed, that we had at one time, we were all responsible to them. Now they have done away with that basically, except for a two-man commission which is myself and the

Mayor of Cranford. We are kind of caretakers just advising more so than anything. We did have a company come in from New York; they came in to see myself and John, with a plan for retail, townhouses and apartments. I basically showed them the door and told them that we have zero interest in it. The property is zoned for recreation, we will not be changing or rezoning anytime soon. I had mentioned at a meeting that I went to the County and had begun talks with the County to see if they would take over Hyatt Hills. But yes, that could be a consideration, I don't think this governing body here, and I don't want to speak for anyone, I know that I am not going to favor any kind of development on that site other than recreation. If someday the golf course fails and they want to keep that as a recreation center, I will probably, without seeing it, I would probably support nine out of ten things that people would put in front of me as long as it stays recreation. I don't think that we need any more retail or any more housing there. You know, these guys try to come in and strong arm you with the threat of eminent domain and everything else, and we just told them that we were not interested and we told the Racer Trust that we will not be changing the zoning, and if they want to sell the property that they should sell it as a golf course. They want to get a lot of money for it and it is not worth a lot of money, the Hyatt Hills Golf Course, it is a nine-hole golf club and that is all that it is worth. We are hoping that Union County would step in and maybe take a shot at owning it for us.

Delia Collins: So GM has no say in it?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No say in it anymore. It is the Racer Trust Company.

Delia Collins: (Inaudible).

Mayor Bonaccorso: They would have to then come before our Zoning Board to try and change the zoning. I know that if they came before the Township Council we would not be interested in changing the zoning on something like that. I don't want to say.... I would hope that both towns would never have to purchase it but I would strongly consider doing that before I would let it turn into a development. These guys are slick, they really are, they come in telling us that one of the major things in their settlement of the GM properties, they are dispensing properties all over the country, is that they want to make sure that the Township is happy in what they are selling them as. We told them that we are not happy at all. So we haven't heard from them in about three months.

Delia Collins: Are the people that are running the golf course an independent company?

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is called....

Delia Collins: They have their own Facebook page, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, it is golf pro, Bill Casper. It is a golf course management company. They were hired by Racer Trust to run it. Kind of like they run the concession for them.

Delia Collins: I was kind of taken back when I read that. As you say, to not believe rumors all the time.

Mayor Bonaccorso: There are always a lot of rumors.

Delia Collins: Like there is supposed to be a Costco on Terminal Avenue.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, Delia again, if things are zoned, they are zoned. You cannot go and unzone it, it is called spot zoning then and we would lose that in court quicker then we could blink our eyes. Right now it is zoned recreation and as far as we are concerned it is going to be. I mean when Clark Commons was being built they had Costco coming there, Walmart coming there, the A&P on Westfield Avenue has been a Trader Joes 50x's.

Delia Collins: I heard a rumor that it was going to be a flea market.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No. The last that we heard there was a Savers Thrift Store; it is like a big high end thrift. They were talking to the ownership about coming in over there. We heard that and we called the ownership in, and they did say that they were talking with them, we said that we would rather see it go in a different direction but it is some 60 year old company that is in very strong financial shape and etcetera and so on, so I don't know, we will see what happens in the next couple of months.

Delia Collins: Okay, alright.

Mayor Bonaccorso: But that is part of a true rumor that they are talking to them very seriously.

Delia Collins: Oh really? (Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes) Okay, thank you and have a prosperous New Years.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you and thank you for your questions.

Jim Bordon, 19 Post Road: I just have a question, or maybe it is a clarification on the Ordinance that making changes to the Fire Department Ordinance. I have not seen it but I understood it to be basically changing the Organization Chart from when we had Lieutenants and Captains to now having a Battalion Chief and Captains. You mentioned that they are "appointed positions" and that is my question. Those positions are elected from within the membership....

Mr. Laezza: They are still elected positions.

Jim Bordon: Okay. If it is just changing the Organization Chart that is something that has been in effect basically.....

Mr. Laezza: That is what it is.

Jim Bordon: Okay, fine, thank you.

Council President Hund asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

Motion: Albanese Second: Smith

Roll Call:

All Aye: Albanese, Barr, O'Connor, Smith, Hund

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: No comments.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just want to mention, and I mentioned last month that Jerry is trying to have a CERT Training Class. A couple of people can't make it in their schedules, but if any of the Council Members, or if you know of anyone that is interested, it is going to start in early February, on Tuesday nights, nine weeks, two to two and a half hours per night. Maybe we could put something on the TAP on that, the CERT Training that is available.

Township Clerk: Excuse me, one second, Council President; we just have to close the Public Portion (of the meeting).

Councilman Barr: No report.

Councilman O'Connor: No report.

Councilman Smith: No report.

Township Clerk: No report.

Council President Hund 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, O'Connor, Smith, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
Monday, February 1, 2016
7:30pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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

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Township Clerk: Ralph Bernardo has asked for time at the February 16th meeting for presentations.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

1. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayments of \$9,326.65 and transfer overpayment of \$540.46 of 2015 taxes
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 \$192,260.56 and a refund in the amount of \$10,349.60
3. Appointing Marc Hayden as Alternate II Member of the Environmental Commission for a one-year term

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this 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 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: Barr

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Brian and Delia, on Central Avenue and Raritan Road today, if you go by there between the White Diamond and Getty, that island that you guys are complaining about you will see an orange warning cone, they are drilling to put a sign in there.

Delia Collins: Oh okay. I pulled in from Central into Rite-Aid going towards the Parkway...

Mayor Bonaccorso: They did all that, I mean they are not going to stop it, they are what they are, I mean you know people are nuts. I don't mean to be to blasé about it.

Delia Collins: When my car gets hit then you'll...

Mayor Bonaccorso: No Delia, that is what they have insurance for. I hate to say it and I hope you never get hit but we would have to have a cop on every street. You know it's just impossible, I mean people just do not know how to drive, I don't know how they get their license, I really don't, it's amazing, it's amazing to see.

I received an email from the Police Chief the other day that he did some crime police statistics and in 2015 the Clark Police Department was up fifty-one percent in arrests. And quite honestly if your first reaction is "whoa we had that much more trouble", no it's still the same town, he has his men out working very hard and aggressive. And when you do motor vehicle stops you find warrants, you find drugs, if find this and you find that and his guys as you heard me tell him and tell you before are working very hard. And I think he is going to do a presentation one night for you all on that. So Chief again great job to you and your men.

Thank you for those who attended the Benefit Ball the other night, it was a great success. I think that they did very well, so keep up that good work. And that's all I have for tonight thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments for this meeting.

Councilman Barr: No comments.

Councilman Mazzearella: Nothing for tonight.

Councilman O'Connor: The Finance Committee met earlier this evening with Mr. Laezza and reviewed a draft budget of the 2016 budget. A copy will be ready for the council review tomorrow. And we are looking to introduce it on February 16th. When you review the budget, if you have questions, please direct them to the Finance Committee and we will get you the appropriate answers.

Councilman Smith: No comments.

Councilman Toal: To the Administration, when I was doing my walking, and I say this to all of the residents, you don't need to go to the gym, just walk the streets of Clark. I was doing everything along from the Madison Hill Road Parkway bridge down to the falls yesterday and with the snow you have to go all the way around, you can't cut across some of these lawns. So doing a lot of the homes and meeting a lot of the residents whether they are shoveling and the kids playing in the snow it's what we had when we were kids in Clark and it is great. Post Road, next to Madison Hill

Road are some very bad potholes, whoever you can refer that to in Public Works, I would appreciate it because you have little kids playing on bicycles in this weather...

Mayor Bonaccorso: Brian we will be getting to that as soon as this the weather breaks this week because everything will melt off and then we will start working on that.

Councilman Toal: I appreciate that. Just as long as it is on the list for that we did bring it to your attention because the residents brought it to my attention when I was walking on Post Road yesterday. It is a very tight knit community over there in the fourth ward. That's basically it, but again, thanks to Public Works for a great job with the clean-up and the town recovered quickly from the blizzard, that's all I have thank you.

Mr. Laezza: Councilman O'Connor discussed the budget. So we will have the budget document ready for you to review and it's a very austere budget.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Mr. President, I would like talk about something that I forget, I am not thinking about it anymore, which is the 30" snow that we had. I communicated with a lot of council members throughout the snow with their wards and the things that were going on and for the most part be it The Tap or Facebook or some of the other sites, I think that Public Works got a rave review for what went on. As always, we have our constant complainers that never will be happy. The snow as you know, and I don't need to review, was so bad that with my own personal business, I had to stop at 5 o'clock on Saturday because I couldn't see out of the windows of my truck anymore. Now lucky that I didn't have to go through the night like the DPW does. The DPW did not even have a dinner break on Saturday. They came in like 5:00 in the morning, on Saturday morning and stood right through to 9:00 Sunday morning. They went home for a few hours to get some sleep and came back out and they didn't have a dinner break on Saturday at all. I told Scott that in the future I don't want that to happen, they have to eat, because you get tired if you are not eating and keeping your nutrition up. It was trucks that we had our big bumps with, when they went to turn they were literally getting stuck. We had two loaders going around pulling our own trucks out. I told Scott and you know I know what I'm talking about when it comes to plowing and things of that nature that if this was a six to twelve-inch storm, there was things that I saw that I would have went bananas on with. At thirty inches it's completely acceptable. It is a whole different animal at thirty inches. And with the thirty, when we had it years ago, there was a break in between for a few hours. This snow never stopped once it started, there wasn't a break. Steve, I was up in your ward a lot, I was up in Pat's ward a lot. The problem in your wards guys especially on the east side of town Pat, the streets are just too small (Councilman O'Connor: yes) East Lane, West Lane, Sunrise, that area, we had some complaints from that end. Two days after the storm I was following Scott McCabe around, and he was with a loader in a truck and I was showing him areas that I wanted cleaned up to get cars out and things of that nature. The County was up here today on Raritan Road across from TD Bank doing work opening that up. So you know we are living in a world right now of immediate gratification. You know I remember looking at my phone on Facebook as I was plowing Manny's Diner and some lady was complaining at 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon that she hasn't seen the plow yet. Well, number one, you are not the only street in your ward and number two is: where are you going? Really, like, where are you going? When (Governor) Christie declared a state of emergency for that kind of snow, he should have put a travel ban in that any car on the road the police department should ticket unless they are a nurse, a doctor or emergency personnel person that has to get somewhere. Because you have people just driving around and I don't know why. And I mean it if they put a travel ban in, then Chief every car that is not an emergency vehicle, you ticket, because they are getting in the way of the plows, the police department, things of that nature. They don't belong on the road. Sunday morning it was still treacherous and they are driving into the bagel shop and they are driving into Dunkin Donut,

like seriously? So the guys really did a good job and I am on them and I am out there. I called them on some streets that I wasn't satisfied with. But at thirty inches isn't a lot that you can do. So I appreciate you guys that got in touch with me, your patience on it. And I kept telling Scott, and he said okay and kept going, kept going, so they were getting out there. And I got some messages on Facebook thanking us for our response but guys, thirty inches, it's impossible.

Councilman O'Connor: It becomes physics at this point, the snow is just too heavy.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is too heavy Pat and there is not where to push it.

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Like we say that in every snow we go curb to curb. I said Scott we can't go curb to curb. You are going to get a path and a half down the middle of the street if you are lucky and that's the way it's going to be. We're lucky that it's going to rain, it melted, it is really going pretty quick. If this was December when it's freezing, we would have a lot of problems but that's the truth. So I mean you know some of these people just have to cool down. We had some people in there that were completely obnoxious. And I have no problem telling them to put their butt in a truck with us and we will take you around for an hour then you could tell me how easy it is to push thirty inches of snow.

Councilman Mazzearella: There's always a few malcontents that always come out.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I understand that, we know that. But it's like it's thirty inches of snow. Then they say that they want their street open. Steve called me on a street, the name not to be mentioned, he said "Sal, you know they called on a street." So I called and Scott went down and cleaned the whole street. The next day Steve called and said, "Sal, could you get them down there to open it up?" I said, "Nope". He said, "Get it a little wider" I said, "Nope, sorry Steve" He asked 'okay why?'. I said, "Because then they are going to call up and say that we pushed snow at the end of their driveway." "It is what it is, let them deal with it" He said, "Okay" I said, "Blame me" Because that's what it would have been next, "you pushed the snow back in my driveway" Well, where are we supposed to push it?

Councilman Barr: You know another thing that ticks me off is that when people throw the snow in the streets. They clear them and then all of a sudden you go down streets and you see the snow.

Councilman Mazzearella: That happened at the corner of Stemmer and Mabelle, they threw it out in the streets.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I will get into that more at the Public Meeting. But you know like I said, I am sorry, I am out there, I do it, I know what I am talking about. And like I said to Scott, six to twelve inches, I better not get a complaint, I said because there is no excuse for that what so ever. Then I had people stopping me and whatever saying that you guys are awesome. Linden couldn't open up the schools because they could not get down the streets, Cranford and Westfield were in bad shape I was told. Scotch Plains is in horrific shape, Jennifer lives there.

Councilman Smith: Roselle Park.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Roselle Park.

Mr. Laezza: When we were at the Chamber of Commerce meeting they indicated that Clark was the only town that they could drive through.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Was every street perfect? No. But at thirty inches it is not going to be. You know there is just so much that you could do out there. Guys we have thirteen men; every truck was in their zone. There are two trucks per zone. We had loaders out. I mean it was tough out there, it really was tough. So but again thanks for everything and like you know I said we always try and get on it but this was just crazy, thirty inches.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you for being so accessible to us during the storm, because I know you picked the phone up, so thank you.

Council President Hund: Question for you, what could we do about the cars that park on the street?

Mayor Bonaccorso: You know what we are going to have to do, you know Steve I have always tried to be, unlike some people think of my reputations, I try to be kind hearted to people because when you do things like that you now put a burden on them to say, "Well where do I put my car?" We say to park at Brewer at the tennis courts if you like and people have done that. Truthfully Steve in most of your ward there shouldn't be a car allowed on the street at all, at all. Pat, you too. I am not talking about down where you live but James, Alice, Coldevin, Poplar, all that. I mean there shouldn't be a car on the road. And I think John what we are going to have to do, I don't know if we have to do it by Ordinance is pass an Ordinance that when we have.... look, the small storms we can deal with, they should get off voluntarily but I think if we are going to get a storm John where we are going to get over maybe twelve inches or a number that we can all agree on that is going to be mandatory that every car off the road.

Mr. Laezza: I think we have an Ordinance and it is over three inches.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, but over three inches is not enough you know what I mean, three inches they could get around, I am not worried about that. But I'm talking about over twelve, over sixteen, over twenty.

Councilwoman Albanese: But I think we have the leeway with the way that the Ordinance is written to enforce it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: But Angel they don't know then when we are doing it. I have no way to communicate to these people to say, "ok guys, sixteen inches, I want every car off the roads. She reaches a lot of people but she doesn't reach everyone unfortunately.

Councilman O'Connor: Same with me.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Same thing with our Website. So I mean maybe that's something that for next year's hand out for you guys we can put right on top ordinance passed over twelve inches, sixteen inches mandatory every car removed from the road or you will be summoned"

Police Chief Matos: The one issue that I see right off the bat is this. You have the residents saying that they didn't know it was going to snow sixteen inches it started snowing and by the time I realized it went over sixteen inches and my car was already covered in snow and I did not have the time to go and shovel it out.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Pedro we get all that, you know that.

Police Chief Matos: And the one thing that we learned with this storm and every other dangerous storm is after a while tow trucks are not coming out even if you wanted to remove that car, they are not coming.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right.

Chief Matos: Because at one point this week the tow truck driver said that he did not care who was in an embankment we don't care who is on the side of the road, we are not coming because we are getting stuck ourselves.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right.

Chief Matos: We are not coming.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, it is impossible.

Councilwoman Albanese: Should not have been out there.

Councilman Mazzarella: But if a resident gets popped with a summons they are going to remember next time.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Do you know what? Let's call the reality, what we deal. We are going to get them in here screaming, "I pay taxes!" They are going to call you, you are going to call me, it goes on and on and on. And it gets to the point though, you know we are pretty kind hearted here because those other towns will tell you, "too bad Jose, it is what it is, go pay the ticket" You know you get up on Post Road and Wendell Place those streets are too narrow. You are getting twenty inches, thirty inches of snow, you are in trouble.

Councilman Toal: And Sal, not one complaint from either one of those streets. It came from the cul-de-sacs, if came from the dead-end sections that people left their cars out.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Those are hard streets. Bill lives on a dead-end down there, it is hard because you are pushing everything down to the end.

Councilman Toal: And Scott responded to my eight different calls that I put into him and he was great. They were done the next morning and those people, before they were bothered, then came back the next morning and said, "thank you for everything that you guys did".

Mayor Bonaccorso: Guys, unfortunately they don't speak to people respectfully. Jennifer had to walk someone out the other day because she wouldn't stop.

Councilman Toal: Who was it?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Some lady, I don't know, I don't care who it is. She walked her right out, she said, "come on, she said enough" She was in there saying, "I pay taxes" "how dare they" they wanted Valley Road plowed more and this and that. When you have that kind of (inaudible due to coughing) to get the road open. I've said this for fifteen, sixteen years now. The next day is when

we come back and open up. Do you know what I mean? The corner of Featherbed Lane and Victoria Drive that corner was sticking way out, unacceptable to me. But I didn't call Scott because he was putting out forty-five other fires. I took my own truck and pushed it up.

Councilman O'Connor: Do you know how many complaints I got Sal? I got zero complaints because we understood.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The next day they came with the loader and pushed up some more.

Councilman O'Connor: They took it up and put it up in that area, it was perfect.

Chief Matos: One of the residents, who will remain nameless, lives on a specific street, called us up screaming at us, cursing at us about the snow plowing not being good enough and that he felt that the plows should get pecking orders and the people who pay the most taxes... (tape inaudible, laughter)

Mayor Bonaccorso: That's not a bad idea but here's the problem. What if you live on a modest street where you are the first knock down on the block, so I have smaller ranches and capes is what's on that street where right in the middle of it a guy builds a large colonial. So should I just come and just drop my plow in front of his street because you are paying twenty-one thousand in taxes where they are only paying ten, so like how do I do that. Now let me tell you something, it's fine and that's a funny statement but that individual should really seek medical attention because if you really think that way you have a problem, there is something wrong with you.

Councilman O'Connor: That goes back to the point about how people drive, people feel entitled.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Some lady called the school district and said that we should be closed for a week. Why? John Pingor had all those schools open on Monday, it was us that sat in the back of his building when we were talking about clearing out his lot that day and had a delayed opening. Because I said to the Chief, the Captain, the Traffic Lieutenant Pollock was there, a Sergeant was there, I said, "guys, I don't think we need to close school's tomorrow" But then we started talking about combining the school traffic with rush hour traffic.

Councilman O'Connor: That's smart.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So I called Ed Grande, the Superintendent and he said, "whatever you want, no problem, that is easy, we get the day in and everyone comes in a little bit late" Even in with that traffic it was hell, but it was better then what it would have been if we put everybody on the road at eight o'clock. This lady wanted the school closed for a week.

Councilman O'Connor: Especially with the new drivers too.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right.

Police Chief Matos: The end of January Officer Giusti, one of our new hires started the academy again. He did start the academy the last time around but he got hurt during the academy. So we are putting him through the academy. Hopefully he will graduate this time, not hurting himself, he hurt his knee but he healed up.

We have our five new special officers that are starting their academy this Saturday and they should graduate within eight weeks.

Township Clerk: I just have one item that may or may not come up for February. Clark Circle Liquors has submitted an application to move from their current location to Raritan Road. We are really looking at March but they have all of their paperwork in order and if the State says it's okay we might be able to do it in February. It is a bigger location for them, more exposure.

Councilman O'Connor: They are going where Country Squire used to be right?

Township Clerk: Yes. They have been doing a lot of work in there.

Councilman Toal: Circle Liquors became Wine Anthology and now they are moving to Country Squire, okay?

Township Clerk: We have never had a problem with that licensee at all, ever.

Council President Hund: I have nothing further.

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, Mazarella, O'Connor, Smith, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
March 7, 2016
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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

Council President Hund: The regular order of business will be suspended on March 21st to recognize Clark's Championship Basketball Teams. We are only going to be doing the two sixth grade teams because the Varsity Team has their Varsity Letter Winter Sports evening that night. We were going to look into doing it the following month but we had some other things going on, such as, Police Awards. So for the Varsity Team I will hand the certificates over to the coach and he will hand them out at the Varsity Awards Night.

Township Clerk: So now the 6th grade teams you are going to make sure the kids get theirs.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, we have it all worked out.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

2. **Public Hearing on the 2016 Municipal Budget**

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

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

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

4. Resolution Approving the Certification List of Volunteer Members of the Clark Fire Department Qualifying for Credit Under the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP)

Discussion:

John Laezza: Let me explain #4 and #5. Down through the years since 1957 this never happened, and the State Controller's Office decided that they were going to do an audit of the LOSAP Programs throughout the State. And they found that in the programs that they looked at there was some gamesmanship as to how they arrived at it. Fortunately for the Township of Clark both our fire volunteers and our first aid volunteers have followed the law to the nth of the degree. But they asked that we had to get a break down as to how they selected each person, it's either they qualified, what their formula was. And they had paperwork to back up each of those audit things. That was then given to me. Then the list had to be brought before council to approve it and then we had to post it on their bulletin boards in each of their buildings so that the people that were involved made sure that they did not get cheated out. We had to go through the process so that they can get paid. Just a little bureaucracy that adds up.

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

Mover: Barr Second: Mazzarella

5. Resolution Approving the Certification List of Volunteer Members of the Clark Emergency Squad Qualifying for Credit Under the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP)

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Mazzarella

Council as Municipal Pool Utility:

Township Clerk: The next three Resolutions are the Council as the Pool Utility. I have grouped them together, unless you have an objection there will be one mover and second.

6. Award of Contract for 2016 – 2017 Pool Maintenance – Bid opening March 15th
7. Authorizing and Directing the Council President to enter into employment contracts with Mike Kozlowski as Pool Director and Robert Cahill and Jessica Heulitt as Assistant Managers for the 2016 pool season
8. Setting Resident and Non-Resident Pool Membership Rates and Fees for the 2016 season

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

Mover: Smith Second: O'Connor

Township Clerk: There was no other pool related items. With the pool concession stand, we are still under contract for another year.

Council as ABC Board:

9. Approving the Place to Place Transfer of the Liquor License held by Clark Circle Liquors t/a Wine Anthology from 77 Central Ave. to 1075 Raritan Road

Discussion:

Township Clerk: They have met all of the requirements of the Township and the State already.

Councilman Smith: Are they just moving it from one location to another?

Councilman O'Connor: They are going to where Clark Country Squire used to be.

Township Clerk: It is a place to place transfer. It is the same owner. It's a bigger location.

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Barr

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

10. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2015 taxes in the amount of \$15,362.94
11. 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 \$621.86
12. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of \$16,728.44

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

Mover: Toal Second: Albanese

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each person addressing the Council shall first give his/her name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Council President Hund 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 Smith

Council President Hund directed roll call:

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Chief on great job by his men on the burglary here on Schuyler Drive last week. They caught a burglary in progress. Which was also a very, very good "heads up" help from a citizen who we are going to be bringing to the

awards meeting in April to honor him for his work. If you haven't heard, this individual called in and stood with the police department right through it till the end. So it was very good help. It was we who have said before to catch a burglar is very difficult unless someone calls in to say that they spotted someone in the window, we see him by the back door, or if the police officer is lucky enough to be on that street, which is a very hard thing to have a police officer on every street. But his men did a great job and we are very, very proud of that and I was happy too because I just brought the sign to the front entrance here that says 44th safest. It was a great job Chief and I told you before to thank the men on behalf of myself and the Council.

Councilman O'Connor: Sal, I don't mean to interrupt but what people don't understand is that this guy could have been armed.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Chief, if you want to elaborate, please do. I spoke to a lot of guys that were there. Captain Grady was at the front door and he had said that when this guy came out....it was only seven o'clock at night, pitch black, and he said that if this guy would have had a gun the only time he would have known it when he heard it go off. (Councilman O'Connor: Yes).

Chief Matos: The one officer that went into the backyard, and you can see it with the body cameras, when he rounded the corner, the individual was in the house and he shuts his flash light off because it is glaring out into the back window, he tries to come out the backdoor, obviously he knows that the cops were there, he runs to the front and runs into Captain Grady who had just arrived, he runs back into the house and now they can see him running around, he has the flashlight and he is trying to figure out how to get out of the house. So it ended in the backyard. I went back there because I just happen to be in my office, the backyard was pitch black, pitch black. He manages to get out of the sliding glass door and hops off the deck, runs across the yard, they chase him, they tackle him just as he is trying to go over the fence. He actually threw his bag with the proceeds from the burglary over the fence. And then he just wouldn't go, now there's a fight. It was four cops and all the body cameras came off, they ended up on the ground and all that you hear is a bunch of screaming and people yelling. But eventually they did take him into custody and no one was hurt thankfully.

Councilman O'Connor: That is when you need a police dog.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It was a good job and you know what thank God for the citizen who helped.

Councilman O'Connor: That was great.

Mayor Bonaccorso: He was able to be out there and the police were there quick and got it all done, so that was a really great thing.

Councilman O'Connor: It is an old school neighborhood.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes. The other thing that is going on is I have asked on Friday and followed up today is that Mr. Triarsi is going to be writing a letter on my behalf as Mayor for the bankruptcy judge for the Hyatt Hills Golf Course. A couple of months ago John and I were asked to be indulged in a meeting where RACER Trust who is running the golf course wanted to come in and have a meeting with us and bring some people that were interested in purchasing it. The meeting lasted what about seven minutes right John?

Mr. Laezza: Approximately.

Mayor Bonaccorso: About seven minutes. These were some guys from New York who handed us a booklet of buying the Hyatt Hills for development. They were going to literally build on every square inch of it, low income houses, townhouses, and retail.

John Laezza: Walmart.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Walmart they were looking to put that in there. As I thumbed through the book as they were pitching, I got to the last page and said, "Stop, get out, there is no reason to meet, there is no reason for you to waste my time and for me to waste your time, this will never happen." They said, "What do you mean, what about the revenue, the ratable?" I said, "I will never bring this to the Township Council for a rezoning of that property from the golf course." In the mean time you have heard me mention that I have spoken to the Freeholder Board, members of it, and members of the County Administration about purchasing the golf course as a golf course and become part of the Union County Parks System. They are very interested in doing that. They have reached out to RACER Trust, and RACER Trust, I think, in my own opinion is playing the stall game by saying that they do not want to negotiate or talk to the County until we settle a tax appeal. I think that is ridiculous, a sale would not take a weekend to do, it would take several months. And we are engaged in conversation with the tax appeal. John and I have a problem with it though because they are trying to say that their property is worth about three to five million dollars but they have it on the market for about twenty million, so which is it? So that is our problem. We have to also decipher the fact that the Hyatt Hills Golf Commission had paid some of those taxes, so any of that money that it would get on appeal is not all theirs, it would be ours, both communities. So basically, we wouldn't have to pay it, we could wash it off. In the mean time I am asking Joe to write a letter to the bankruptcy judge urging him to get on RACER Trust in sitting down with the Union County Freeholder Board and working out in purchasing the golf course. When RACER first came into this town they met with John and I and they went through the whole self-appointed, we are appointed by the court to liquidate assets. So we talked about the liquidation of the golf course, he said, "look, it will probably only stay a course, no one is going to really.....courses are hard to sell," but he did say one thing and it is on their mission statement on their website that "What we put into a town is very important that both the township is in agreement with it" I indicated to them at that meeting that not only wouldn't Clark go for this and I know that by speaking to the Mayor of Cranford in the past that he wouldn't go for a housing/retail center up there. So we are going to ask Joe to write this judge a letter asking him to have them sit down with the County and get this deal done. And if they are serious about selling the property as a golf course, this deal should be done, it's not going to be that hard. But this is a very, very crucial time for us right now. If we do not get this done this could lead to major problems later and we want to get this done. So we are going to be on it every step of the way. And then the Freeholders I've spoken to and members of the county administration for being so diligent and looking to work with us again and doing a good thing for open space, continued open space, and for both communities. So we're going to be on this right up every step of the way and we'll go from there, I have a couple of other strategies in mind, this in on hold and that's all we can do to let some heat out there to get this thing done.

Councilman Mazzarella: Sal, let me ask you this. I know this is a long way in the future and all but what if RACER does not want to negotiate and they want to be held fast to that. Do we have an option maybe because of the common good of the community go to condemnation?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well you know I heard that too, I don't know. I would really have to sit down and talk to Joe about it.

Attorney Triarsi: I don't think that we would want to discuss that in a public session.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No we would have to go into private. And plus Joe I would like to speak to your privately first before we get to that point. But it might be Frank. Frank look this is a danger. I mean you know we developed of the Clark Commons, it was an abandoned factory, it worked, it worked. This will not work; it will destroy that end of the town if not the entire community. And this is something that we're going to be very diligent and very on. I've been on this thing now for a few months talking to people and I'm on it constantly because we have to get this thing to stay a golf course. Or even if the Freeholders take it over and let's say down the road someday it's not a golf course because it fails, which I don't think it will. But twenty years or twenty-five years from now it will always be a recreational space. So that's very important. So golf course/recreational facility you know I mean hey they can make it a park if they want. They could put soccer fields and baseball fields out there if they want and I'm sure it would be a heck of a lot better than what John and I saw that afternoon. So it was a quick seven-minute meeting, they paid for the tolls to get through the tunnels or the bridge and it wasn't worth the time they sat here.

Councilman O'Connor: From the Second Ward thank you very much Sal.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well you know we still have a lot of work to do Pat, so hold that thank, I appreciate that. But we have to make sure, you know I'm just happy that I have good dialogue and good work with the County to come in and help us and work with this. I mean basically ladies and gentlemen I told John either they buy it or we have to, it's going to be one of the two. I really do not want to be in the golf course business. Although you get a management company like they have it up there now to do it, but I rather not. The County is equipped for it or not but if we have to save that property we'll do that. Because it could be a nightmare from what we saw up there, a nightmare.

Councilwoman Albanese: Well right now we have the zoning in our favor, right, recreational?

Mayor Bonaccorso: We do and we are going through the COAH process for all that because you always have to worry about builder's remedy and you know all these left wing liberal court favoring everybody but the right people out there. But it was a brutal plan, it would destroy Clark. So it's probably the biggest thing we're going to be working on in the next six months to a year. Hopefully we'll have it done as soon as possible. But we hope that Joe's letter to the bankruptcy Judge will be able to get a call to these people saying "hey what are you pulling down there, you have the county and you have both councils that want this done, what are we doing."

Attorney Triarsi: I need the name of the Judge and the District Court because I haven't got a clue where this took place.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Joe I texted McCarthy today and I told him to get to you. Do me a favor, if you don't hear from him by tomorrow, call him also. Because I love Danny, he's a great guy and a pretty good attorney but to get back to you is another problem.

Attorney Triarsi: I'll call him tomorrow morning.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So he's the attorney up at Hyatt with us and we have a good thing too because BJ Kowalski is a member of the Freeholder Board who lives in Cranford. So there's a lot of stakes here and you know it's something that we are on and like I said this like I said is going to be something that's going to be our masterpiece. Because if this came to Clark we're looking at a destruction of this community. I can't say it any other way. It was scary what we saw. I mean we were approached by the developer of Clark Commons that wanted our blessing and we said absolutely not. And he was looking to develop that also but keep it at least fifty percent of it recreational and even with that we said no. Thanks for building the Commons go ahead someplace else now, we really don't want that. And that was a minute compared to this plan. So I will be bringing you guys up to date on what we're doing and how we're doing it and when we're doing it. If we need to we'll step up the heat. I have a couple of ideas on what I want to do and you will hear about them as we go along. That's it, all the services are going right now. If the weather remains starting around March 15th St. Patty's Day, they could start with their lawn and leaf clean-up putting stuff back out onto the street and that will go right through the end of April until we start our regular fourth week of the month branch cleanup and then the grass pickup starts in April. But right now another week or so they can start putting things out into the street. The weather looks like it's breaking but I don't trust it. It's the only state in the country to get all four seasons in one week. That's it, thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: I don't have anything at this time.

Councilman Barr: Yes, actually I do have something. In reference to everybody has heard about the senior couple that had someone come to the house and said they were from the water company and they let him in and they were robbed. I had a lot of calls from seniors wanting to know what to do. And I said well you call the company if you are not sure, I don't know where the company is. So at our last Thursday senior meeting I spoke to the seniors and I made something which it's not only for seniors but they should all do it. What I did I put down a paper like this that has important phone numbers, it has emergency 911 and then I went and got all of my services Comcast, New Jersey American Water, Verizon etc., etc. I got the account number and I had their telephone numbers and what I did I also called like Verizon and I said can you give me a number, because usually if you call Verizon and they will say "oh well would you want to have this about this or are you looking etc., etc." and I said I want to get a person which they gave me and they said that Verizon never sends one. But I think everybody should think about this, like we had this right on the closet door in the kitchen because my wife does not know all of these companies that we have and if someone does come to the door and they say that they are from Verizon, or wherever they are from, you don't open the door and you say "one moment please" and you could just right away call the company.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Al, that is a great, great thing and it is really a smart thing to do. The other thing that you have to remind the seniors about at the meetings is that normally if someone is there from the gas, water or electric company you'll see a truck or a van or a car in the street. But I was telling my mother the other day and she asked "well what do you do" and I said "just call the Clark Police and say that someone is here telling me that they want to come in my home and they are from the water company could you send a car." They will come down and check them right out. You know, depending on the age of the person too. If it was me, I would call the water company but maybe an elderly person might just want to call 911 and have a police car there immediately.

Councilman Barr: Seniors panic.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well that's why. So like I said, tell them to do that, what you did, that is a great thing but on the other hand to be careful and maybe just call the police.

Councilman Barr: By the same token when I have 911 or even the Clark Police Department.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is what I am saying because let the police come down and sort it out, they will be too glad to do it. Because that happened over on Fulton Street and the poor people got robbed. You know it's not funny they prey on the elderly.

Mr. Laezza: We should email that to every citizen. Give that to Jennifer and she could put it on the email.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I always feel bad for the poor elderly people who get scammed like this but just call the police, it is the quickest and best way to do it. They will come down and let them know immediately what goes on. And look for the truck, they always come with a truck, car or van, they never walk.

Councilman O'Connor: And the thing that I liked about this, not that there is anything to "like" but the people came forward. A lot of time when the elderly are taken advantage of, they are ashamed, embarrassed, they don't say anything. This is something that will help everybody else in town.

Councilman Barr: Well they were robbed that's why.

Councilman O'Connor: Yeah, I mean but still you know some people might would be like "oh whatever" but I think it's good.

Councilman Barr: Plus, the same with the vehicles, a lot of times if you get someone that might say "oh yeah, we are doing this whole neighborhood so we are parked at the end of the corner.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah well I'm just saying though Al. If I remember right, somebody say that they are here because you might have gas in your water, natural gas in you water, was that it? So that's kind of a direct you know where a canvasser yeah you are right where the car can be down the road or something. But the people just have to just call 911 and get the police there, they will sort it out really quick.

Councilman Barr: I think I said I called Verizon for that number and they said right away that they never send anybody just like that, either you have called and you have a problem or something is when they come.

Councilman Mazzearella: To go along a little further with what Al said, that is excellent, but the residents that called me when they found out about this, they had asked and I told them to call the company that they claim that they are from. They said that when they call they are put on hold. So I told them to call headquarters, call police headquarters, you will get somebody at headquarters.

Police Chief Matos: Actually the easiest way to do it is when the person comes to the door and they ask to come in, just say, "hold on, I am calling the police department" If they run.....(laughter).

Councilman Mazzearella: This is excellent but their main concern is when they call, whatever the utility is they always get on a phone prompt and it takes a while, it takes a while. Headquarters is the place to go when they are uncertain.

Chief Matos: Here is another thing thought, unless it is an emergency the public utilities are not just going to show up at our house.

Councilman Barr: Exactly.

Chief Matos: Like I received an email from the gas company that they were going to send people around my neighborhood, knocking on doors to check on certain whatever.... they normally don't just show up unannounced.

Councilman O'Connor: So one thing that I was a little remiss at the last meeting that I forgot to mention and I know that everyone was talking about the snow storm and what a great job the DPW did, but one of the things that I did want to mention was Clark Power. They usually close on Sundays and they stayed open on Sunday to make sure that the system was taken care of if a snow blower needed parts, they stayed open.

Councilman Smith: Just one thing, the Recreation Department, Ralph received another award for the "Savvy Senior" newsletter, he received it last week. He just wanted me to announce and I will announce it at the Public Meeting as well.

Councilman Toal: Question; can we get an update on what is going on with the water company? Where are they with their project? Do they have much more to go? Are they going to be digging up more streets?

Mr. Laezza: Yes, yes, yes.

Councilman Toal: Thank you. I just thought that the people should know what is going on with the water company and the streets.

Mr. Laezza: We are improving the infrastructure in the community so that when there is a fire in your house the fire hydrant will work. Number one, when you turn on the faucet in your house you will get clean water, that is one of the jobs that they are doing. The second thing, I had a meeting with them and they were just going to put strips down each street, we are now working on a program on whether they are going to put the whole street down or we'll share some of the cost. So they are going to be accommodating us.

Councilman Toal: Thank you.

Mr. Laezza: And the third process that I want to talk about in regard to the street program is each of you have a favorite street that you wanted and the it totaled up to \$3,850,000.00. I am recalibrating it to something below that. So you will be getting that Ordinance, hopefully, by April 1st.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Councilman Toal: So the streets that we call trenches because they are trenched up instead of lovely streets, that will be in some form corrected and leveled and all that.

Mr. Laezza: Paved.

Councilman Toal: Because I was hitting the streets this past Sunday and literally (tape inaudible).

Mr. Laezza: When I had the meeting with the water company I said to them I'm here to do a Donald Trump, make me a deal. I said it because that you do there is not going to satisfy our residents, so we don't have to re-rip it up, so find out from your contractor what he was going to charge you to do that and then get from your contractor what he is going to charge us for the whole thing and we'll work out a deal.

Councilman Toal: Okay, I'm just going to ask the administration to let that be heard at the public meeting because the people are asking about that kind of stuff. That is all public information and I thank you for your answer.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We will Brian be only too glad, but you know the public has got to kind of understand. (Councilman Toal: in Clark) well, in every town that this is outside contractors working to do an upgrade on the infrastructure of the community and it was done over the winter months. As the Mayor of this town I would not allow them to pave those roads in the winter months because by the time spring came they would have been crumbled up with pot holes galore on brand new paving. They would have told us that, "you made us do it". So you know I mean as the Mayor and you as a council person we like to work to the needs of our citizens, sometimes we have to be a little bit patient. Because if you want the job to be done right there's certain times a year that you can do certain kinds of work outside, and it can be done the right way. The other thing that they have to remember is that I drive that road every day up and down, like most of you do, we don't have a flying carpet that we just fly through the air on, what affects them, affects us. And Council, I am just going to urge you guys, in the future on different things, people have to understand this because you are going to get driven nuts and then you are going to drive us nuts. I mean it is a mess, we agree, it is, we agree, I ride up and down it myself, and I hear from people too, but like I tell them, they are making the water lines better, there's low pressure, if there was a house fire up there the hydrant would be spitting water out.

Mr. Laezza: If the lines broke and the streets were flooded we would be the first ones blamed.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yup, yup...why didn't you people know? Like I said, I know that you know how to handle it but it is just in saying that let's slow our engines down. I know that this is the immediate satisfaction era we are living in with Facebook and Instagram and Snap Chat and with, "I am in traffic today!!!! I am in traffic today!!!!" well, so am I, so are we all, you know? Like when we were fixing the Commons, the traffic up on Raritan Road. Well, is there any traffic today? No, not in front of the Commons there is not. It was way worst, 100 times worst, until we did that. But then again, April is coming so we'll be hearing from people on how bad the town is running from now until November.

Councilman Barr: Sal, well eventually like they have asked too with Westfield Avenue and I have said what you just said that they are working on it and eventually it will be taken care of.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah, do you know what it is Al, even though we had a good warm relatively warm winter for the most part you can't be paving like that. You know a little patch is fine but not a whole street like that. And I'm going to tell you something Council, John did a tremendous job working with them because they were going to pave what they did any gutters, if you will, and we are working with them not to get the whole street paved which is going to save our citizens a lot of money. Kathryn Street too, I was down that street today and it is terrible but it will get done.

Councilwoman Albanese: Are we actually adding fire hydrants as well? Because their new ones and I wasn't sure if they were replacements or new.

Mr. Laezza: They are replacements.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay.

Councilman Toal: Thank you gentlemen.

Mr. Laezza: No comments.

Police Chief Matos: No comment.

Council President Hund: My only comment would be that I would like to thank Sue for her wonderful coverage of our basketball tournament on the TAP.

Susan Bonnell: It ran in at least three others towns that I know of Westfield ran it, Berkeley Heights ran it and Warren ran it because they all had teams that participated.

Mayor Bonaccorso: 170 teams, over 300 games in three weekends and we went home fried.

Councilman O'Connor: Parents happy to get their weekends back, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is amazing how you have to fight with them to work the stands and stuff. It is the cheapest league in town by far, registration wise, and if you have the tournament you keep it cheap.

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, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Smith, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

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

**April 4, 2016
7:30 pm**

ROLL CALL:

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

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

Township Clerk: At the Public Meeting the regular order of business will be suspended for police department awards.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Appointing Volunteer Fire Fighters

Discussion:

Township Clerk: The Chief has given us three names. We have complete paperwork on one and we are waiting for the rest of the paperwork on the other two. If the paperwork does not come in, then it will just be whoever has their paperwork in place would be on the Resolution. Currently you will see that the Resolution has three names.

Mr. Laezza: Basically the paperwork is physicals. To make sure that they are physically capable of being volunteer firemen.

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

Mover: Barr Second: Mazzarella

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

2. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2016 taxes in the amount of \$7,004.64
3. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of \$13,297.67 as credit and \$375.00 additional charges
4. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$225.00

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

Mover: Toal Second: Albanese

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each person addressing the Council shall first give his/her name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Council President Hund opens the meeting to the public

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia Street: I know Pat probably got a message from one of my neighbors regarding the train.

Councilman O'Connor: Yes, I did.

Delia Collins: Could you go any further with it?

Councilman O'Connor: So what happened was the woman called me and saw the Conrail man on the tracks the next day. So they said they were going to be doing some work there. So she asked if the train could be moved back behind where it use to be Bally's which is now 24 Hour Fitness. The man measured the length of the train and then he went and measured the area behind the 24 Hour Fitness and unfortunately there is not enough space to be able to put that train there because it is overgrown. So I explained to the woman on the phone that I am in the process of trying to get in touch with Conrail to see if they could do it. And I also asked someone who had a relationship with them to maybe get involved to try and help them. But at the end of the day they have to blow the whistle if the train is on the track for safety reasons.

Delia Collins: I understand that but the incident that happened on Amtrak this weekend.... I realize that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The Chief is on it too because I called the Chief.

Police Chief Matos: I have been and I have been keeping an eye on the track. I actually walked down there the other day when we got the first call. It is not a train it is just some railway cars. They had it on the siding.

Councilman O'Connor: I used the word train instead of railway cars.

Police Chief Matos: And over the weekend, I usually stay up pretty late and when he was blowing the horn he was barely like just tapping it because he knows that he doesn't want to wake up the neighborhood. He knows that it is a useless gesture because there is nobody on the track anyway. I am a little bit further away than you are from the track.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You are a block.

Chief Matos: I am a block.

Delia Collins: It is only four cars.

Councilman O'Connor: She said he went out there and measured the whole thing with the wheel and it won't fit.

Delia Collins: Really?

Mayor Bonaccorso: The railway Delia, as you know, because we had problems up there before, they are not very easy people to deal with.

Delia Collins: No I understand that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Even to try to get in touch with them to cut the brush back there, we have gone through that for years, and years and a lot of times they come and sometimes they haven't, we have had to call them back.....

Delia Collins: We got a letter from the pipeline too that they want to go back there, I guess and survey it.

Councilman Toal: Just say no.

Delia Collins: Yeah.

Councilman O'Connor: But everybody does a good job on Georgia Street, they all have the telephone numbers of Conrail and everybody calls.

Delia Collins: I have them.

Police Chief Matos: I only train after you called me Friday. Over the weekend I only heard the train three times and it's usually before midnight.

Delia Collins: Yes, but it depends on which way they are coming you know whoever is driving the train. But I think after the incident this weekend.... They even do it during the day. I know that it is federal regulation.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Unfortunately,

Chief Matos: If they see something on the track they have to do that.

Delia Collins: Of definitely, yeah. About your comments, about COAH. I had a good education and I still can't live in Clark now.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Low income, seniors, yes, it is a good thing. But I'm taking about Delia, when a builder has a right to grab a piece of land and not only build what is to the zone but add another half to it to bring lower income people in. I can't afford to join Trump National Golf Course down in Florida but I don't go to the court saying you should allow me. I mean, I can't afford to live in Alpine New Jersey but I am not there petitioning, "Where is a place for me?" Low income housing like we provided at the Terminal Ave....

Delia Collins: There are not a lot of units over there.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right, and it could be worked on in the future, that's fine, I don't have an issue with that.

Mr. Laezza: That only allows 20% units.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They only allow 20%.

Delia Collins: Oh in that development?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah, that is all that we have to put in. But that's my point when they can go, you have a beautiful green space like Hyatt Hills, technically by NJ COAH laws, they can go in, buy the property, go before the judge, put in a ten story low income apartments because some judge says that it is okay. I don't think that is okay at all.

Delia Collins: I don't know, you said that blankly. You have senior citizens that have worked all their lives....

Mr. Laezza: It is not about senior citizens.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is not about seniors. This is about taking a piece of land like Hyatt Hills and destroying Clark Township on it. And any judge that sits there and goes for it I have great, great opposition to. Because the whole COAH thing to me is nothing but a bunch of malarkey anyway. Try to sit down and really figure out the formula. I think I probably have it down pretty good because I have only been here in government for twenty years. But take a council person that has been on for four or eight years and ask them to tell you about the COAH laws, they will say, "bababab" because it is unbelievable to understand. Sometimes COAH doesn't even understand what they are putting out. So that is my problem. Again, I am a working guy, I am not a millionaire guy I'm a working guy but again, when I say, not when they are going to take a township such as ours and destroy it with those kinds of building because some judge says it is okay by some Mount Laurel decision. I think that is horrendous.

Delia Collins: I know but it just feels like I rode around last week on the other side of Clark and I am like looking at these houses that they are building, I know that it helps you with the taxes, but it is amazing what size houses that they are building.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am not saying that I can afford any ofDelia, Clark is a very thriving community, we have...we have, Clark is really a very remarkable community. Because let me tell you something, as Mayor I full well know that there are people working two and three jobs trying to live here. That is why we try and stay as fiscally sound as possible. But I also know that there are people here that do very well and that we have some people here that are extremely wealthy. So it is kind of like a balance of everything. We don't have like an Alpine where everybody seems to be very wealthy up there. But in Clark you have those types of class of people and I have always told every council person that I have asked to run for office that you better understand that you have people here that are working two and three jobs to stay in this town because it has a lot to offer, and then you have people here whose taxes don't matter too. That is why whether it is the Board of Education and what they are doing or the Township Council and Mayor, what we are doing, it becomes something that you really have to keep your eye on. (Delia Collins: okay) That is what I was saying. To me, I get very angry when I am sitting at a meeting and they are going to threaten builders remedy to come in and destroy Hyatt Hills, and destroy Clark....and Cranford for that matter. That is where my anger is aimed at.

Delia Collins: Just watch the County.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are helping us right now. I don't get involved with in County Government, never have, never will. I just worry about Clark and what we get from the County.

Delia Collins: Then you have to watch what they want from you. They will be building a stadium next to Hyatt Hills.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I understand what the people in the 3rd ward felt, we were happy to help with what we could do. The bottom line at the end of the day I still rather take.....let's say between football and soccer twenty events there a year than having some low income housing tenements, retail shopping and all that up there. It still at least shuts down at night and is not there 24/7, being used 24/7. That is what they do, that is their business. The County different government then what we are, they do what they need to do and they have to look at all 21 municipalities. I am very happy with the help that they give Clark when we need them, such as Hyatt Hills, such as this year with dredging the reservoir, that is going to be very, very big for the environment and of course flooding down in the flood areas up in the 1st ward and areas like that. That is because of (inaudible), a lot of Democratic friends, they are nice people.

Delia Collins: You have your opinion.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Oh yeah, I am just.... you know Delia, I judge you on how you deal with me. I judge people on how they deal with me and I don't care what side of the political aisle that they are on. If they treat me and Clark fairly that is all that is all that I could ever ask for and because of that relationship I have made a lot of actual friends on the other side of the aisle, because they have worked for our town and I have gotten to know them from meeting and dealing with them and over the years have developed friendships. I wish that I could say that about some of the Republicans but I can't.

Council President Hund asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting
Motion: Toal Second: O'Connor

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Mr. President. We received the other day from the State of New Jersey \$180,000.00 Department of Transportation Grant for Road Program, so that was a good piece of news.

As you know all of our Spring Services are in motion right now, spring lawn and leaf clean-up, bulky clean-up, if anyone is noticing out in front of the preschool there is a sidewalk being put in because everyone keeps walking across the lawn. They are not only wearing out the lawn in paths but also bringing mud into the building on wet days. So we thought that it would be smart just to put a nice sidewalk in there for everyone to use.

Today, John and I received word that on April 14th, at the Union County Chamber of Commerce Mayors Dinner that I will be up for Mayor of the Year and John will be up for Business Administrator of the Year for our work with the Clark Commons. Which by the way everything up there is running very smoothly, the stores are doing very well, so we are very, very happy about that. I am going to be talking to Mr. Triarsi shortly, as we touched on earlier, he is, as I told you at the last meeting, he did a letter to the RACER Trust about moving forward with negotiating, sitting

down with the Union County Freeholder Board, we haven't heard from them as of yet. In about another week, if we haven't seen a response, I will have Joe pen a letter then to the bankruptcy judge, bankruptcy court judge to see if he could put some pressure on them. I really don't trust RACER and what they are doing, so I want to make sure that we could keep the heat on them. Because with this COAH stuff going around you always have to be worried about the builder's remedy wasn't coming out. Although we are in court right now, as we are supposed to be, renegotiating our COAH standards. And right now John we are at peace with that, I think.

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Everything is us. The State has agreed on a number which is 90.....

Mr. Laezza: A little more than that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: 102 units, I think. Something like that off the top of my head. And we laid out a plan that would be proposed for those units and again it doesn't always mean that they are going to be there, there is a regional trust agreement that people can buy off the properties like they did up at Miele's, things of that nature. So we will see what happens as that goes. The most important thing is that we put the mechanism in place to stop a builder's remedy, because in today's liberal, bleeding heart, ridiculous society all a builder has to do is decide to go in there, buy the Hyatt and then get double or triple the development on it. COAH is something that I absolutely don't agree with. You don't have the dough to be in the town, oh well. There are a lot of places that I would like to be but I can't afford to be. I don't go around and ask people to make court rulings for me, that is just the way it is, sorry, that is just the way it is. You live where you could afford. The more you learn the more you earn. If I were to listen to my mother I would have been a doctor, just the truth. But any how that's where we stand with all of that.

The road projects, we are bringing them in now. John did a hell of a job saving us over a million dollars this year in road projects. He could explain a little bit more on that. And I have got to say it was a great, great job that he has done thus far. So that's going to be a great savings to the community.

They are talking about the Board of Education budget being a \$17.00 home tax decrease this year because of the money that they brought in for Clark Commons. I am a little disappointed, I was hoping it would be more. But truthfully, they are getting whacked over the head with special education, those costs are through the roof. I think that they went a million dollars over budget last year. This was from kids moving into town, getting sent into programs and without very little help from the State of New Jersey. So that is something that they are dealing with. But they have to try to find some way to keep some of the children in house and provide an efficient education for them to help them with their needs. So that is very important that they do that. That is about it, are there any questions from anyone? Thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: Just a few thoughts. First of all, I am glad that we are able to have three new recruits in the Volunteer Fire Department. We haven't seen that in a while and it has been an issue, so that is really good news.

As far as what the Mayor said about the approach with RACER, I think hopefully by writing the letter to them first that will look favorable with the judge when we get to that round. The only other question that I have is on COAH. The hundred and some odd units, is that prospective...the requirement?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay, and that's all that I have, thank you.

Councilman Barr: Like Councilwoman Albanese said with the fire department. It is important that we have three (potential firemen) that are probably coming in. I know when I go I stop in town hall and if I see one of the guys, I ask them if they are from Clark and how old they are and ask them if they would think about joining the fire department. We have actually gotten men like that.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to say for the record that I am in total agreement with the Mayor on this RACER Trust negotiation that may ensue for the Hyatt Hills Golf Course. As far as I am concerned it will stay recreation.

Councilman O'Connor: I wanted to congratulate Al Barr on his list of emergency numbers, it is hanging on my mom's refrigerator. She showed it to me and she's very happy with it, so thank you for that.

And again my vote just shows that we would like to keep Hyatt Hills a golf course. I mean that is what we are here to do and that is what we want to do.

Councilman Smith: This weekend is the Softball and Little League Parade at 9am, it kicks off on Denman Avenue. The Council and Mayor are invited so we are going to try and be there by 8:45, 8:50 am the latest.

Councilman Toal: The Mayor had already mentioned that the streets in Clark are definitely in need of attention this year, especially that we have some really bad streets. And to the public, we are going to try and do everything that we can to address them and get them back to a new condition.

Easter Sunday morning I was over at Saint Agnes ushering. And when you see the Clark First Aid Squad and Clark Police in first hand, in action.... Easter Sunday usually the Catholic Churches fills up pretty heavy for the holiday, so we had an emergency case where an elderly woman, who spoke nothing but Polish, collapsed in church. We immediately called 911, and police headquarters sent two units immediately and officers were inside the church and we got the lady off to the side to the cafeteria. The Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad was there immediately, with the medics and the lady got the attention that she needed. One of the officers new some Polish so he was able to deal with the daughter. Again, just seeing it first hand, you hear all of the cases that are presented across the dais but when you see it firsthand it is really...the training that goes through to our officers, the training of the first aid personal and seeing it right before your eyes....and the lady recovered, it was a blood pressure issue of medication. But again thanks to our squad when you see it first hand and to our police officers. Thank you Chief for your training and keeping those officers right there for when they get that call. They responded with nothing but professionalism and helped that elderly woman out. Easter Sunday is supposed to be a really special time and to have that go on was not easy. But thank you Mr. President that with that and the roads, we just have to work on Clark roads and open space, open space always.

Mr. Laezza: I talked to the Chamber of Commerce meeting last week and my opening comments to Councilman Toal's regret is that the Township of Clark looks like Munich 1945, the roads in Clark have been beaten up pretty badly by the water company, however, after negotiations with

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the water company the roads will be all paved starting we figure when school is out, so they will start about July 6th and they should be completed by September.

Councilman Toal: By the water company or by the Township of Clark?

Mr. Laezza: By a contractor.

Councilman Toal: Thank you. If you could say that at the Public Meeting I would greatly appreciate it.

Councilman O'Connor: Not every road is going to get paved.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No. John is talking about Westfield Avenue. The water company dug it up, they had to pave a big piece of it. We are paving a piece of it with them. They are going to go out for bid to a contractor to do so, which is a very, very big savings to the community.

Mr. Laezza: The water company, basically on all of their roads and all of their jobs that they do basically cut the holes and just patch them up and that contractor to patch them up was "x" number of dollars. We indicated that the Mayor and Council would like the streets paved from curb to curb, so we are paying the differential. When we had previously determined what they would have cost us, it would have been three million dollars, it will be costing us less than two by working with the water company.

Councilman Mazzearella: So we are saving a million (dollars).

Councilman Toal: For one street.

Mr. Laezza: All of them.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Where they worked, Westfield Ave, Katheryn, Gertrude, Ivy, Schindler, Charles.....

Councilman O'Connor: Will there be a listing of the streets up anywhere in case anyone wants to know?

Mr. Laezza: You will see it in the Ordinance next month.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That was over a million-dollar savings with John working with the water company.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. Laezza.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So we are able to get more streets done. They are still going to do the Colonial Drive, Lincoln Boulevard, Lexington Sewer Project and road, a lot of construction here in town this year.

Chief Matos: I have no comments.

Township Clerk: If you recall in March we were going to transfer a liquor license for Clark Circle Liquors to Raritan Road. They have now said that they will not be ready until May 16th but would like to be on the April 18th meeting with an effective date of May 16th.

Councilman O'Connor: If that is legal I have no problem with that.

Township Clerk: It is legal. The other one that has come across my desk is that the owner of Molly McGuire's is going to be buying Tarantellas.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Township Clerk: So that transfer is almost done, we are just waiting for the police background checks to come back. And if that happens before the April 18th meeting then that will also be on.

Councilman Smith: So the owner of Molly's is buying Tarantellas. Doesn't Tarantella's also own Molly's?

Mayor Bonaccorso: He is going to be the property owner, landlord. But Stanley and his brother are getting out of the business.

Councilman Smith: So they will own the businesses but Stanley will still be the landlord.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Stanley owns the property that the White Diamond is on, Molly McGuire's and Tarantellas.

Council President Hund: I just want to wish the two of you good luck on the 14th, bring home the big award for us.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
May 2, 2016**

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Toal

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dispensed

This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Clark.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:

- 1. AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 195 SECTION 131 ENTITLED "DOWNTOWN VILLAGE DISTRICT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK CREATING A SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: The first Ordinance that we have for your consideration and discussion is an Ordinance that relates to the Downtown Village Area. This is an Ordinance to make the Downtown Village a Special Improvement District. I think that it's incumbent on each of you to read it in detail and to become accustom with all of the criteria within this Ordinance for consideration for introduction on May 16th at our Regular Meeting. This is an Ordinance that will affect seventy-seven property owners on Westfield Ave from Madison Hill Road to Brant Avenue. It is an Ordinance that will incur costs for each of those properties on an annual basis in excess of their regular property taxes for the partial cost of paying for some of the bond issue. The town will be paying a major portion of it, paying for the lighting, or paying for any special services that the properties in that specific area seeks over and above normal services. It is an attempt by the Mayor and I with the agreement of the task force to try to assist the commercial properties down there in attracting businesses and try to make our Downtown Village more attractive to developers. It coincides with a number of areas of how after 16 years the Mayor wants to improve that area and this was one of the ways. It is a major undertaking. What we will be doing is, if you want to introduce the Ordinance, we will be sending notices to each of the individuals to give them an idea of what it would cost them each year. The Mayor would like to have a Special Meeting so that we could hear their concerns and we could discuss their concerns.

Councilman Smith: Was it ¾ of a point?

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Mr. Laezza: $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point not to exceed 1 point at any given time for the life of the Special Improvement District. The monies will be used, one portion, to pay some of the cost of the Capital Improvements and put some money aside for operating costs, that will pertain just for that district, keeping the sidewalks clean, watering plants, making sure that it is attractive, to help them promote their business in ads, things of that nature.

Councilman Smith: So the owners of that properties will get the tax increase?

Mr. Triarsi: Included in their property tax.

Councilman Smith: They will probably pass something along to their business owners.

Mr. Laezza: I have broken down individually, predicated on the assessed value of each of those properties, how much each of the owners will pony up for this program.

Councilman Mazzarella: How long will they be accrued that?

Mr. Triarsi: It goes on every year.

Mr. Laezza: As long as they want to keep the Special Improvement District running.

Councilman O'Connor: So for example there are some vacant properties at the top of Brant Avenue, as that gets developed will the amount of money that they need to pay increase based on the total value of the property?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mr. Triarsi: My office is in Cranford is in a district like this so we pay an extra point in property taxes and for that the Township puts things in like curbing, brick sidewalks, some plantings, some Christmas decorations, fancy lights. They put a magazine out that talks about the people that are all in the district and they try to promote the district, they do all of that kind of thing. It is all supported by the one percent that we all pay as an additional tax dollar.

Councilman Barr: So do you think that you are moving to Clark then?

Mr. Triarsi: I'm sorry?

Councilman Barr: Are you thinking of moving to Clark then?

Councilman O'Connor: So Mr. Triarsi when you first moved into that zone was it already that district?

Mr. Triarsi: Yes, they wanted my property in that district.

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Mr. Triarsi: Because it was a large piece of property.

Councilman O'Connor: So you actually incurred a change over into this district?

Mr. Triarsi: No, when I bought the property it was in that district.

Councilman O'Connor: Okay.

Mr. Triarsi: All essential business district is in it, and works pretty well, I mean you guys have been through Cranford, you see how well it is maintained.

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Council this is where, as I say (inaudible), we have had people that want a downtown improvement, none of us will ever disagree that it is a dump on its best day. We did not plan the downtown, and if Toal was here he would give the forefathers who did, you have a Parkway running through it, you have gas stations on it, it will never be Downtown Cranford or Westfield, it would be very hard with those gas stations and things there. But on the upside there is a two hundred percent changeover for the better that we can do down there, that is true too. Business owners are in business and we want to help their capability of earning money, not overtaxing them. On the other hand, you can't ask for the entire community to pay for their business zone because the entire community is not making money off of it, they are. The homes that are there will have property value when they go to sell someday, that Special Improvement District will enhance their property value, and hopefully people will come in and put offices and stores of this nature in there. The plan is to rip everything out down there, go with concrete sidewalks that are going to be colored.

Councilman O'Connor: Stamped?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, we have to watch Pat, we are a little nervous because out front here (430 Westfield Ave) and the Commons, they had some real nasty slips, when they get wet. So we think to address it we will color it with a beige type color and leave it as a sidewalk. There is going to be forty something lanterns down there...

Mr. Laezza: Forty-seven.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Forty-seven lanterns down there. We intend on having beautiful flowers hanging off those lanterns, which means that we need people to water. A great beef for Councilman Nevargic was when those bricks went in, in 2001, down there, which was a slip shop job we inherited from the prior administration, but there was no plan, they just put some bricks down there. There were some new trees planted and they were dying off and Pete would say, "Do you think that the store owner would come out with a bucket of water and throw it on the tree?" So we are not going to assume that they are going to do that for flowers, we have to do it, we have to have labor down there who is going to clean-up, sweep-up, keep it weed free, things of this nature. We heard the people downtown loud and clear and we are excited to bring to you, to collaborate, to put together a beautiful plan to try and make that as nice as we can. There is still going to be room for growth down the road as that street develops, but now it is up to them

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is up to them.

Councilman O'Connor: So Garwood just went through a transformation.

Mr. Triarsi: They are still going through it.

Councilman O'Connor: It looks beautiful. Is that what we are aspiring too? Something of that nature?

Mr. Triarsi: Garwood doesn't have this kind of a thing. Garwood has got right now a proposal before the board to redevelop the Petro site, and they have a redevelopment plan. They are not using condemnation they have already selected a redeveloper and it is working its way through the Planning Board and they are having some difficulty with the residents because of the size of the development. I think that there are 300 apartments, plus stores, it is a big project. What he is talking about is east of that, across the street from Kings (Councilman O'Connor: yes) that whole section there has been recently redone, but that is privately done. I was skeptical when I walked in because I knew it was going to cost me more money but I have to tell you, they have a Redevelopment Committee, the Redevelopment Committee is responsible to the Mayor and Council, who make the appointments over there. They collect a certain amount of money and they use that money within the redevelopment, within the area, and it makes a difference. The place is always neat and clean. As John said, there are flowers out all the time, there are decorations out all of the time, there are pretty lights. It just makes for a beneficial street scene, a street scape, and I think that it ultimately helped the town.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You show that you are trying to work with people down there that are interested in having a business come in. It is the old A&P property and the Jacks Tavern property, we are going to have to get very heavy handed pretty soon because they are just destroying it down there and they are not doing anything about it. We are trying to be nice, we are trying not to be heavy handed about it, but I told John that once we get this thing in place it is time to bring them in and say, "Let's do this or we will start talking condemnation" I am not playing anymore.

Councilman O'Connor: That fence did not help much.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well that was a spite move to Bernie's Westfield Auto, that is why when the other mayor was here for eight years he did spiteful moves like that. They wanted Bernie to sell, and Bernie was his buddy, and then Bernie backed away, so he put a fence up. It was a spite move, there was no other reason for it.

Mr. Triarsi: One last comment on this Mayor, I would urge the Council to read the whole thing because no one wants to pay the additional $\frac{3}{4}$ or 1 point. They are not going to want to do it. They are likely going to come up and put you under the gun on it. As they live with it, it is meaningless, I mean you don't feel it, you don't see it, it just gets eaten away at taxes, and you do get a benefit from it. Initially it is a shock to them, be forewarned.

Councilman O'Connor: There is good representation from the town, from the people in the district, from the store owners, from the government to ensure that this runs properly, based on what is written in here.

Mayor Bonaccorso: John played with a lot of numbers and this was probably the cheapest way that we could go. Like I said to John, there was talk in Rahway last year about a Special Improvement District costing like \$1,500 a spot a year or more, I forget what it was. It was entailing half of the town, the place went nuts and they ended up beating it in court. Look, I am not fighting with anyone, my thing is very simple, it is the voice of the people. You people ask for something; we did it in the best way that we know how to do it for you. Do you want it or don't you? And if you don't then please don't come here and complain anymore about it. Now the representatives on the

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Downtown Committee are very good people, they are very excited, they want to see things happen down there. Things are starting to slowly happen down there, there have been a couple of turn overs on buildings, and things of this nature going on. So we hope that it can happen but they have to help pay for it because they are getting the direct benefit down there.

Councilman Smith: Two questions, last year we got fifty thousand (dollars) from the Freeholders for that?

Mr. Laezza: Last year we got thirty and this year we got fifty.

Councilman Smith: Has any of that been used or has that been put away? The second part of that question is the Downtown Committee, Dean Russo and all of that crew has any conversation on this been with them? Do they have any idea about it?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Councilman Smith: Okay.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, we met with them last week on this.

Mr. Triarsi: Mayor I think that you are right, I think the way to do it is to make sure that these people come in, the property owners, and you talk to them before it goes on deck so that they know what they are getting.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We talked to the committee Joe, that is up to them now. I said to John that I want to have a Special Meeting just for this that night.

Mr. Triarsi: I think that it makes sense.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Like I said guys, I am not getting red faced and screaming at anybody. You don't want it? That's fine (Mr. Triarsi: Yes) No problem. If you want it then we are here to help you. Even at this number we are still paying a good share of it (Councilwoman Albanese: Absolutely) It is not like they are even splitting it 50/50 with us.

Councilman Smith: Can you divulge a ballpark of what the increase would be?

Mr. Triarsi: How much is a point John?

Mayor Bonaccorso: It depends on the property size.

Councilman Smith: I know; I mean it the range from 50 dollars to 500 (dollars)?

Mr. Laezza: No, the range is from the low \$600 to a high of \$7000.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is on their frontage.

Mr. Laezza: As an example a property that is valued at \$250,000. will cost them \$1,875.00. A property that is assessed at \$460,000. they are going to increase by \$3,456, a property that is valued at \$555,000 will be \$5,505, so $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point is \$750.00.

Councilwoman Albanese: What will the annual funding based on that one point on all of those businesses?

Mr. Laezza: \$96,000.00.

Councilwoman Albanese: What do they have in Westfield?

Mr. Laezza: The same thing, the same concept.

Mr. Triarsi: The same concept.

Councilwoman Albanese: They rule over who moves in right? What businesses....

Mr. Triarsi: No, no. Well, there is zoning. The zoning determines who moves in but not the plan, no. This is modeled after Cranford.

Mr. Laezza: The properties that are down there have a value of \$12,913,000.00 that would bring us in \$96,849.00.

Councilman O'Connor: Per year to help fund.

Mr. Triarsi: That is what they are going to be able to spend annually to run their repairs.

Councilman O'Connor: Plus, the Township's money to run it as well.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Don't get me wrong, any increase is an increase and we understand that because (inaudible) for anybody. And believe me when I say to you that I am not trying to be a wise guy about it, we always had a desire to improve that area. These people, a couple of them that had moved in started doing well and they really want to put the whip to the horse, and we said fine. There are only so many ways that you can do it.

Councilman Smith: You may need an extra DPW person.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Number one, we are going to need an apparatus to go down there filled with water to water every morning in the spring and summer months. You are going to need people down there cleaning up, and doing different repairs, and doing things of that nature. Right now when it snows down there, and you guys know this, I send the DPW down there the day after the snow and we clean the snow right off of the curbs and the sidewalks so that people can open doors and get out of their cars, it was never done before. I it a little thing but we have to line trucks up down there, with a police officer, loading and hauling, it is a half a day job if not better. So we are glad to do that anyway, as a service, but these are the things that they come to expect. They are going to have participation in what goes on down there (Councilwoman Albanese: That's right).

Mr. Triarsi: That is the reason why I said that you should all be familiar with this.

Councilwoman Albanese: It is successful in the other towns.

Mr. Triarsi: I will tell you that in Cranford it has worked. We hear the same complaints every year "Why are we paying one percent when "so and so" who is a resident, has the luxury of coming into a nice clean area for shopping, and they don't pay anything." That is true, but it is not designed

for the residents, it is designed for the business people to make more money and have a better trade. It is working for them.

Mr. Laezza: When you read the Ordinance you will see that the Mayor and Council will be appointing a Chairman, they will be appointing two people who are property owners, two people will be locals, two people who will be citizens throughout Clark that have no dealings with it directly, and two people who are either proprietors or employees of a business conducted within the district.

Basically I just wanted to give you information today. We will set up a meeting to try and get it introduced May 16th and we will have a Special Meeting in June. The first week in June is our regular Workshop Meeting, we should have a Special second meeting just to hear the Ordinance.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know; you don't really want to get into school getting out. Do you think that maybe we should try to have our Executive Session at 7pm in Chambers in June, and then have this right at 7:30? Is that enough time?

Mr. Laezza: Yes. But I don't know if the Chamber fits seventy-seven people.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We should be able to get 110 (people). You know that some are not going to come, and some are going to bring two (people).

Mr. Triarsi: You might need a Special Meeting just to review this Ordinance with the property owners.

Councilman O'Connor: So is the high school an option?

Mr. Laezza: Just in case you want to make a change.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't think that you are going to get 110 people out there, there is standing room too.

Mr. Triarsi: Why not do what John suggests, Introduce it in May, and before the adoption meeting...

Mr. Laezza: Have a hearing on the Ordinance and if there are any changes we could make them.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Have a Special Meeting, that's fine.

Mr. Laezza: If we did have a meeting, I would probably rather have it in the cafeteria, set up some chairs.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't think we are going to have that many people. I don't see that John.

Councilwoman Albanese: I don't think so either.

Mr. Laezza: Okay, It's your town.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am just saying, you have the people on the committee that are coming, one person it going to come from A&P if you are lucky, Jack's Tavern you may get one person, the gas stations are bringing no one out.

Mr. Laezza: Sanguliano will have four.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, he will come out maybe with one of the sons. Quick Chek might not bring anyone out, and if they do it will just be one property owner, he is not bringing his wife and kids to it.

Councilman O'Connor: Is Bernie's part of it too?

Mr. Laezza: It stops at Bernie's.

Councilman O'Connor: So it is the gas station as well?

Mr. Laezza: We are not doing the other side of the street.

Mr. Triarsi: Sal, I don't think that you ought to fast track this, I think that you should put it on the regular course of business, introduce it at a Regular Meeting, arrange for the adoption at Regular Meeting. I think it would be a mistake to do it after two weeks, to introduce it two weeks and adopt it two weeks later. I think that you are likely to see more opposition than you think. It is up to you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am fine with that.

Mr. Triarsi: I don't know if there is an urgency here.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Joe, listen, it has been like this..... a week more, a month more is no difference to me. We would like to get construction going before I hear, "It's Christmas time and you guys our out here pouring sidewalks".

Mr. Triarsi: If you do it one month, and then the next month, John will find out right after it is introduced, or within a week or two after that, whether there is going to be any need for anything special to be done. Maybe to meet with some of these people, and if there is, then maybe in the interim you could put together an informal meeting of the property owners to review what has to be done. I don't know.

Mr. Laezza: Basically, it is not going to affect the property owners until 2017.

Mr. Triarsi: Yes.

Mr. Laezza: I need the Ordinance is in place to....

Mr. Triarsi: We are not going to break ground.

Mr. Laezza: We just adopted the Ordinance to break ground, the two-million-dollar Ordinance was to break ground.

Mr. Triarsi: That is the bond ordinance. You are not going to do that now are you?

Mr. Laezza: We are pretty close to it.

Councilman Smith: They are going to be see some work going on there.

Mr. Triarsi: Then you better decide if the people in the Special Improvement District are going to be contributing to the Ordinance as part of the Special Improvement District. That is what you have to find out.

Councilman O'Connor: Right. Otherwise it is ours, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: John, we would want to try and take advantage of the summer with less traffic right?

Mr. Laezza: I am trying to get this thing started by June 1st and finished by September.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So maybe we should try too....

Mr. Triarsi: What are you talking about? The Ordinance adoption or the "Improvement"?

Mr. Laezza: The "Improvement".

Mr. Triarsi: If that is what you are working for then you are going to need to move it on this thing for sure.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I mean if we introduce it on the 16th why don't we have an Executive Session at 7 o'clock the first Monday, and invite the property owners in that night, let's just assume that everything passes well, and we can adopt in June.

Councilman Mazzearella: That is a good plan, this way we find out.

Mayor Bonaccorso: If there are a lot of complaints we just hold the horses.

Councilman Mazzearella: That is a good plan this way we find out.

Councilman O'Connor: It will put you a month behind John. Is that still alright?

Councilwoman Albanese: That will be as fast as you can do it.

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Mr. Laezza: We still have to do the sidewalks down there. If they don't want to do it, we are not spending \$500,000.00 for lights.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are going to do the road and the sidewalks, the other stuff comes as they are contributing. It is really for the lanterns, and things of that nature, so we can still do that anyhow.

Councilman Smith: The other thing is that this will be out on the Tap tomorrow morning, so some of the owners are going to see it.

Mr. Laezza: I didn't want to mail anything out to the property owners until we discussed it here. I can send letters out to them tomorrow.

Mr. Triarsi: So let's decide how you are going to proceed John. What do you want to do here?

Mr. Triarsi: You are going to look to adopt the Ordinance when?

Mr. Laezza: June.

Mr. Triarsi: At the Regular June Meeting.

Mr. Laezza: June 20th.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I mean really it comes down to one thing, do you want to pay or not? No one is going to be upset over the concept. But I can do sidewalks, the lanterns, the flowers, things of that nature, so that is not the argument. The Downtown Committee are the people that we have been working with so that is supposed to be a limb of the people there. The only argument is; do I want to pay or not. The way I look at it is that I think it should be, pretty much a super majority. I really don't want 51% to 49%, I would like to see 70% of the people down there, 7 out of 10 say that they want this.

Councilman Smith: The worst case scenario is that they are going to get a paved road and new sidewalks.

Mr. Triarsi: So John, let's make sure that we have this.

Mr. Laezza: I got it.

Mr. Triarsi: Introduction May 16th, adoption is the Regular June Meeting, the third Monday of the month. Are you going to have a Special Meeting between the Introductory Meeting and the Adoption Meeting?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Mr. Triarsi: Okay, you are. For the property owners?

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Mr. Triarsi: That is going to be the Mayor and Council, or just you and the Mayor, or what?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Everybody. June 6th and June 20th adoption. We will have the Executive Session at 7 o'clock and the Regular Meeting at 7:30pm.

Mr. Triarsi: Okay.

Councilman O'Connor: I know that you guys put a lot of effort into putting this together, John and Sal, thank you very much.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Pat we try to do it but unfortunately everything cost money. John, I have to say, goes out of his brains to make it fair. You wouldn't want to strangle people either, although some of these areas are expensive, we agree with you, (Councilman O'Connor: Right) how bad do you want it?

Mr. Laezza: There are 77 properties, I could have just said to everyone to give us \$1,500.00 each but that is not fair to the smaller properties.

Councilman O'Connor: What about the residents?

Mr. Laezza: They are paying.

Councilman O'Connor: Like the homeowners that live on the street?

Mr. Triarsi: Whoever is in that district.

Mr. Laezza: The way that district is zoned, the homeowners, which we have not enforced, the homeowners that were selling their homes should only be selling them to a business.

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Mr. Laezza: We haven't enforced that. Now only businesses will be looking for those properties.

Councilman Mazzarella: As Sal said, in all likelihood, those property values will probably be higher.

RESOLUTIONS:

2. Award of contract to Schaefer Pyrotechnics, Inc. for the July 4th Fireworks display in the amount of \$15,000.00

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Smith Second: Albanese

3. Appointing Brian McCabe, Tyler Klutkowski and Fritzner Midy as members of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Barr Second: O'Connor

4. Authorizing the Business Administrator to enter into a contract with Inservco Insurance Services as the claims servicing organization for one year commencing for an annual fee of \$14,280.00

Discussion: None

Mr. Laezza: They have not increase their fees for the last three years.

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

5. Granting a waiver of permit fees for NJFMBA Local 99, a non-profit organization, to sell merchandise at the Ride to Rescue Motorcycle Run to be held on June 11th at Oak Ridge Park

Discussion:

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Barr

6. Authorizing Final Payment to S. Brothers Inc. for the 2015 Capital Roadway Improvement Project in the amount of \$36,904.31

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: I have a question for John on this. Is everything all done with this?

Mr. Laezza: It would not be sent to you unless it were all done.

Councilman Mazzarella: They don't have to come back to do any repairs or anything?

Mr. Laezza: Nope.

Councilman Mazzarella: Did you put anything on maintenance?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

7. Authorizing the Tax Collector to submit an application to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to participate in the electronic tax sale pilot program

Discussion: None

8. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2016 taxes in the amount of \$40,959.85

Discussion: None

9. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of \$5,378.88

Discussion: None

10. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$607.49

Discussion: None

11. Endorsing the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application and designating Jennifer Kobliska to ensure that the application is properly filed

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Albanese 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 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 Smith

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: As covered by the Clark Tap, I know that everybody knows by now that our unjustly accused police officer, who was accused of beating up on some old lady, was found to be completely false. As I said the day that it happened that he would be vindicated. This was a money grab by people with a very checkered past, of trying to sue people, and things of this nature. Unfortunately, it took a very long time, which used to inflame me because the Chief was getting called all the time about it. I had the guts, and with my discussion with the Chief to keep this employee working. If I was like other mayors, in other towns, I might have said to the Chief that we have to put him out on leave, or maybe put him out on leave with pay. That causes a heart ache for the department because we are paying for a guy who isn't there, or taking bread off of someone's table for something he was unjustly accused for. But as the Chief indicated to me that day, in all uncertain terms, he believed that it was a very, very clean, and good job. In knowing the officer, I had no reason not to believe him, or the Chiefs accounting of it, and we chose to do that. He was even promoted in the meantime. He did his job and I was very happy that the finding has come out. I just wish, as the Chief (inaudible due to cough) his press release on the Channel 7 News. I complement Susan and Liz from the TAP, because you ladies covered it very thoroughly. You heard me out at that time, and that is all that we could ask for, that is all that we could ask for is having a media outlet be right down the middle. They were completely one sided, and it could have been very embarrassing, and maybe if the race of the person was different we could have had more problems around here, who knows? Not that it should matter, a wrong doing, is a wrong doing, no matter who the person is. So that was all good.

We are doing our regular grass clean-up.

The third week in the month put out the branches and the fourth week we clean up, now we are getting that done.

Councilwoman Albanese: Question regarding tax assessment reevaluation.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You know what? Look, that is going to happen when it happens. We were supposed to be on a short list of 32 towns in New Jersey that the State is going to come in and mandate it to. I told John ten years ago, I will do mine the next day that the City of Newark starts theirs, because they haven't done one since May 1932. But, do you know what? As much as I hate to say it, it is responsible to do because we are losing an enormous amount of money in tax appeals every year and that hurts every tax payer in Clark. This year we had to come up with a half a million dollars for tax appeals.

Mr. Triarsi: And we did well this year.

Mayor Bonaccorso: And we did well. Like I said, do I want it? No. I talked to a fellow down at a nursery yesterday who has a very big home in the Township of Holmdel. They went in and reassess him and he went up \$8,000.00, he has a big home. The Assessor said to him that he could appeal it if you like but we are going to be reevaluating on a yearly basis. So you might get a break now but we will get you again next year. So he kind of just walked away. So as John has articulately explained this to us over 16 years, a third will go up, and a third might go down a little bit, and a third is going to stay the same. It is the third that goes up that you hear it from. But do we have a plan for that right now, today, the answer is no.

Councilwoman Albanese: A lot of people don't understand; it is still the same pie. 100% of the cost is the same amount.

Councilman Smith: It is redistribution.

Councilwoman Albanese: Yes. They think that it means that you are going to get lower taxes. It just doesn't make sense and it is hard to explain to people.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is. So that is that, basically with that. All else is good. The Commons is doing very well, that is really doing well.

Oh, Delia, the train. She really is giving me good press; I have to tell you, more people have come up to me and congratulated me for keeping my temper that night and not going through the roof. And wanting to know how one person can sustain that kind of rhetoric at a meeting. As of someone today, stopped speaking to her six months ago, I don't really care. The next morning, we were out there by 8:30, as promised. I talked to the gentleman who runs the engineering there for the train, and my first question is "If you are doing this in July, what are you doing here with the ties now?" He told me that he gets six hundred delivered to them at a time, and we are putting sixty thousand in along the rail spur. We are staging in the locations. They are in a pyramid, they are neat, they are not thrown around. We talked to him about the smell, he believes that there is not a problem with the smell. I called the County DEP, and we are waiting on them giving us a manifest of their material data.

Mr. Triarsi: Material data sheets.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Because there is some creosote that could be toxic. The gentleman from the train told the Chief and I, "Basically guys, you are going to smell them now, and you are going to

smell them when we put them into the ground, until they weather a little bit.” He offered to cover them. We went through the Township Ordinance book and there is really nothing that we could bother them with. If anything it might be petty at best, and we don’t want to be petty people. The rail has to be fixed to ensure that we don’t have a derailment back there, because that would be the next tragedy that goes on, they carry chemicals across those tracks, many of those trains. So I get why they are doing it. We are on it, as promised, and that is all that we can really do about it. There is not much more that we can do until I see that material data sheet to find out what is in there. If the County says that this is fine, then I am going to write everybody a letter saying that it is fine, sorry, and there is nothing that we could do.

Councilwoman Albanese: So did the rail say when they are getting that over to the County?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, but they are getting it over to me as soon as possible. I am going to have Jennifer call them again tomorrow because I don’t want it to fall between the cracks. This is something that I said, “We were on, we were on that night.” When you want to get up to talk just to hear yourself talk, that’s fine, but some of us are here all day long, and in and out all day long, and when we are answering the questions we would hope that you would hear what were are saying so we don’t have to answer the same questions over and over again. As I said to many of the citizens that have said to me in the street... a lot of complements on that meeting, I said but if I said, “You bought next to the tracks and I didn’t” then I would be a mean ogre, nasty man for saying that. So, like I said, you have one person stirring constantly up there, and it is what it is. We are going to try our best as we promised. I have a picture right on my phone of us out there at 8:30 the next morning. The Chief was in contact with (inaudible) in the meantime again. So that is it.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: It’s May, and at the end of the month we have our Memorial Day Parade. I do want to say thought that there are some participants that were in last year’s parade that have not answered my first or second request for this year’s parade. So if anyone is planning to participate you have to get to me fairly quickly. That is all I have to say.

Councilman Mazzarella: Chief, I got a text yesterday about our side of town, the west side being hit with a lot of car break-in’s. It was good that you guys put it out just to remind people to shut their doors.

Chief Matos: I got some criticism on the Facebook page about, “why aren’t you telling us what streets?” I purposely made it that way because I don’t want people to think, “well, it didn’t happen on my street, so I don’t have to worry about it”. Well, criminals aren’t going to come back to the same location, (Mr. Triarsi: That’s right), they are going to come back to your street. But I got criticized on Facebook as to why I wasn’t telling which street. I told TAP tonight which street, that is the reporting end, the Facebook post was to remind everyone not just the people on the street that were hit. Which is too late for them by the way, they got hit. We had fourteen cars that were entered, sometime between 4:30am and 6:00am.

Councilman Mazzarella: I mean Sal has been beaten in his head with this, we all have, shut your doors, lock your doors!

Chief Matos: It was obviously a group of people who were out all night doing this. We have some video, and some pictures that we are probably going to put up on our Facebook page. It is not

going to help because the criminals are not from around here. No one is going to be able to identify them because I am sure that they are not from around here.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You were criticized on that for, “What do you mean the west side of town?” Again, it is the same old. If you didn’t put it out it would be that the Chief was trying to hid the crime in Clark, and if he does put it out it is, “Why are you putting it out this way?” This is social media, get used to it. If you are sitting in traffic you are going to start on the media and if you weren’t you are not going to get home at five or six o’clock at night and go to your computer and start complaining about the traffic that you were stuck in at 8:00am (Councilman Mazzarella: Yes), and that is what it’s about. He went out, which I completely endorse, if we were getting hit with house burglaries, tell people, let them be more aware, so that they can help, like we had on Schuyler (Drive). So I endorse 100% what the Chief is doing, but you always get this kind of stuff.

Councilman Mazzarella: My comment was not a criticism; I think that it is good that you do this.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I just wish people would give us the opportunity to run the government, run the Police Department, we are trying to help. The man is trying to help you, pay attention to it. I don’t know why everything has to turn into a debate. Sometime people say that I should put it (information) out on this, put (information) out on that. For what? Do you think that I am going to sit at my desk all day and debate people? I mean, you know, I’m sorry guys I have other things to do too. Do you know Joe?

Mr. Triarsi: You are right, you are absolutely right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You put out stuff during the snow storms, and don’t get me wrong, I am not criticizing.... probably 95% of this town is fine, it is the 5% always. But I am putting out things during the snow storm, you are getting 30 inches, you are buried at 2 o’clock in the afternoon..... “Where is the plow down my street?”

“Well, where are you going? Why don’t we start with that? I mean you can’t get out of your street, so even if we plowed your street, you are not getting to Valley Road, or to Raritan Road, or wherever.

Chief Matos: Even if you made it out of town, you probably not going to make it back.

Mayor Bonaccorso: “Where’s the plow?” Those poor guys during the snow storm didn’t even take a dinner break.

Chief Matos: I was going to mention this in my comments but summer is coming and we always see this (break-ins), and last year was the exact same thing, in the summer months and mid-October that is when we saw it (break-ins) last year.

Councilman O'Connor: I just want the Council to know that the Mayor and the Chief went out the next day, and the Chief called me and kept me up to date on everything that was going on, and all of the conversations that he had with the railroad. I wanted you to know the commitment that he (the Chief) has to the Mayor, but again, he called me directly to let me know. I went over to Georgia Street and Delia happened to be outside and I gave Delia (inaudible).

Chief Matos: You mentioned the train issue again, and since the last time that we were out there, again, I sleep like a bear so I really don’t hear the noise, I really have no idea if they blow the horn, I really don’t know. Once I am asleep, I am asleep.

Councilwoman Albanese: Have the people called you John? Has anyone called?

Chief Matos: I have on one or two occasions, depending on which way the wind is blowing, have gotten that smell going right through my house, but it is what it is.

Councilman O'Connor: On a side note, the Jeep Wrangler that we have went through thirty inches of snow without a problem. So if you want to travel through the snow, get a Jeep.

Councilman Smith: I have not comments this evening.

Mr. Laezza: I assume that the Clerk sent you a notice and everyone did their MEL program.

If you want to look at the Street Scape Program, the map shows the value of each property.

The attorney is (inaudible) our COAH report. That has been filed with the court so we are waiting on their activity. Other than that we are up to date.

Chief Matos: Of course with what occurred this weekend, what we are going to start doing is, as the police department, we are going to increase patrols. I can't increase patrols in the entire town but we are going to try and anticipate which areas.... last year what we saw was that they jumped around from one area....

Mr. Triarsi: You can't tell them where you are going to increase the patrols, or when.

Chief Matos: What we are going to do is try to anticipate the next weekend that it is going to take place.

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, Mazzarella, O'Connor, Smith, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
June 6, 2016**

ROLL CALL:

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

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 Source and TAP into Clark 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. Accepting the LOSAP Point Allocation Policy for the First Aid Squad

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

Council as ABC Board:

2. Authorizing the annual renewal of the Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the 2016-2017 Term

Township Clerk: As these applications are approved, I will add them to the Resolution. So that by June 20th, hopefully, we have everyone renewing.

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

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

3. Authorizing the purchase of two 2017 Ford Police Utility Interceptors in the total amount of \$53,995.50 through the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System
4. Authorizing the purchase and installation of equipment for two Police Vehicles through State Contracts in the amount of \$32,359.92

5. Authorizing 100% disabled veteran property tax exemption as deemed by the US Department of Veterans Affairs for John J. Fagan
6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$161.15
7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments in the amount of \$21,762.53 as credit and \$475.00 additional charges
8. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2016 taxes in the amount of \$3,768.00

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

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.

Discussion regarding the Downtown Village and proposed Special Improvement District

Council President Hund: Before I open the meeting to the public, for public comments, I would like to see if the mayor has any opening comments for us.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, I do Mr. President. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen and thank you for coming out tonight. I'm going to give you just a quick brief history and then I am going to ask a very broad general question to all of you that are here. I was approached, I guess, a year ago or so, time runs so quick, who knows, to come to a meeting of property owners, and stakeholders on Westfield Avenue about doing a downtown improvement of a streetscape to try to enhance the area, especially for our businesses. And we went to the meeting and as usual there was more people from the town then there really was from the Avenue to see what went on.

So, what we did is we told a couple of stakeholders on Westfield Avenue to have a committee, talk to the people and let's see where this can go. And we would like to do something very significant down there to help the businesses out. First and foremost, bring a real downtown to the Township of Clark, which is the one thing that this town is really lacking to have a downtown business district. I have talked to a lot of business owners in the neighborhood down in your street and they have been all complaining, especially since A&P went out, it seems like the traffic down there has really diminished, and it's hard, it is hard for any little business today in New Jersey, in the United States to really compete when you have these big box stores taking money away from everybody. So, through a conversation we came up with a plan to do a Street Scape, to make a Special Improvement District, to have a committee work with Mayor and Council, hand in hand, to really do what you people feel should be done down there. The one thing that we were all talking about is that the road is going to get repaved. We were going to do new curbs and sidewalks, take away the grass between curb and sidewalk, a lot of you don't cut it anyway, and make it nice. We weren't

going to go with pavers because of the maintenance, we were going to go with a colored concrete, so it is not stamped. Sometimes stamped can become a little slippery and there is ongoing maintenance with it. So were going to color the concrete to make it look really nice. And that was what the township was going to pay for, which would have been a million two approximately. We were looking at putting 47 lanterns down there, pay for the lanterns, pay for the electric, the hookup, having brackets on the lanterns for flowers or hanging baskets. Having a DPW guy assigned to Westfield Avenue to do maintenance down there, to help keep it top notch. Unfortunately, and I am saying this very honestly some people do not take maintenance very seriously on their properties on Westfield Avenue. Every May and June we are sending out a lot of letters, not a lot, enough letters to tell the people to "can you pull your weeds, cut your grass, it is the center of town" and that's kind of upsetting. But knowing that some of you are very diligent and some are not, we need to have that worker assigned for down there. So, we came up with that. I asked the Administrator to find a way to fund this, which was going to be through the SID, your contribution. And he worked on several different ways and we tried to do it the cheapest way we knew how. And what I said at the time was when we are asking you to write a check, it's your voice. If you want it, we'll do it and if you don't, we won't. Folks it is that simple. As much as I am very excited to see something good happen down in the downtown area, and I am very thankful to some of you people who have just moved in there in the last couple of years, that have redone their buildings, and are going through some construction now, and the new restaurant down there. You know, I see a heartbeat starting to happen. I think we all do agree together that until Jack's Tavern and the old A&P lot does something, it is going to be tough to attract a lot of interest down there. We were hoping with the streetscape that that would also be a part of that remedy to help thrive the downtown area.

About ten or twelve years ago I guess it is by now, because one year runs into the other, we put a Downtown Village ordinance in. The homes that are on Westfield Avenue when they are sold are supposed to be sold to a business or to a professional group, doctor, lawyer, engineer, whatever you want to call it, and they are to be made into offices to look like buildings, this too will help enhance the area. And hopefully for the property owners there raise some extra value for money you can put into your pocket. To dovetail onto what we were talking about doing tonight, we are going to be talking about doing an ordinance, a zoning ordinance down on your street on Westfield Avenue. If you see what's happening at the new Clark Breakfast facility, the old Fish Market, they are putting two apartments on top. And we're going talk in the future, please do not ask a lot of questions tonight about it because we are not even in draft form yet, it is a conversation that we are having, we want to have the details struck before we go to the Council with it to allow the buildings that can to add apartments up on top which will help create additional revenue for the building owners. So, let's say one of the houses on Westfield Avenue wants to sell and Mr. Jones wants to come in and buy it and he is going to take the roof off and he is going to add two apartments on top and he is going to take the bottom floor and brick it, or stucco it, or whatever, and make it look like an office and he is going to rent it out to an accountant. And maybe he bought the place for three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and maybe he can get I don't know maybe three or four thousand dollars a month rent down there, now with adding the two apartments on top he is going to be about to pick up, let's say for the sake of argument another fifteen hundred dollars a floor in apartment rental, so if you say six and four that's ten thousand dollars, let's say you buy the house for three or three fifty and you put I don't know another a hundred fifty in, again I am just using hypothetical numbers, we can argue those all night. You could have a position

where you are having ten thousand dollars a month in cash flow come back to your business. That is going to raise property values down there, if and when we get to that point. That is a fact, and if you know real estate, you can understand that, if you know real estate you can understand that if you don't understand real estate, you will have no idea what I am talking about there.

I've been flooded from friends on Westfield Avenue with calls and with visits that this project has now lost its flavor, no one wants it, okay? Councilman Toal asked us at the last public meeting about it and basically folks we said that it is the rule of the people. If you want to have a private/public partnership we are ready to do that for you, if you don't no hard feelings, it's fine. It's not driven by our agenda, meaning the 8 of us, it is driven by "our" agenda the 8 of us and all of you in the room. Now we all know we cannot get 100% support on everything we do, we understand that, but we also don't want this to be a 51/49 vote, that's not good enough. We are not going to have half of the people walk out of here mad tonight. Unless this is an overwhelming majority that wants to do it, folks, we are going to stop, adjourn, go home and have a great time. And that's the way I would absolutely do this here tonight. The reason why you wouldn't want this is quite simple is that you don't want to pay for it, correct? You don't want the check, you don't want to write the check, that is fine, not a problem. Understanding that Clark Township could pay for your street and for your sidewalks but it wouldn't be fair for us to ask the homeowners that live on Lake Avenue and Victoria Drive and School Street and Carolina Street to pay for your lanterns, to help enhance your business, to help you make more money. We don't think that would be very fair because the people who live on those streets would say, "why am I paying for it?" "I am not getting anything out of it other than a place to shop and if I go there, I probably go there now anyway." So that's where the public/private partnership came in.

What we are going to do is if the room here tonight does not want this, we are going to take a pause on a portion of our project, we are going to pave the roads. Some of the things that I heard was until Jack's Tavern and the A&P become viable, the people really aren't sure if they want to put that kind of investment out to see what is going to happen and that's understandable. What I would do because you never know down the road in a year or two what could change, and we are certainly rooting for Jack's Tavern and the A&P to change and to do something, short of us taking an aggressive action of condemnation and naming the areas a blight to the community, which they really are, you know that and I know that, we all know it, but we are trying to be decent human beings about it to where we are going to start a lengthy, legal action that is going to cost the township money to try to do it. With the new zoning, it might be something that you could really take that A&P property and do something special with it, with stores and apartments on top, that could really, really be nice. I know if I owned the A&P, I got to say roughly I would have to think that that could be a hell of a lot more lucrative than just renting out that old building. There are always rumors about the A&P, some of them are made up and some of them are true. I heard everything from Trader Joes to everything in the world and a lot of it wasn't true. Quite frankly there were two things that the ownership came to us about, one was a Dollar General at one time and that kind of petered in the wind and the last thing that we heard was a Savers, which is a 60-year-old company throughout the U.S., which is a high-end Thrift Store. And I said basically after all of these months, "that what we are looking at is a thrift store?" I mean, "really?" We can't control that because it is zoned for retail, so we can't zone what goes in there that way. And you know I wasn't exactly thrilled to hear that. We haven't heard another word about it, so we don't know. Hopefully when we take up this new "zoning conversations" and it becomes viable and goes

to paper, which we would do in the next few months, then at that time I would be able to call back the owners of both properties and say, "okay what do you want to do now before we have to take legal action?" Because it has been there long enough it is a blight on our community, it is a disgrace to be quite frank with you. Now I know when everybody comes to a public meeting they like to get up and be heard but unfortunately if everyone is against it, I really don't need to know why, it is money, correct? Nodding heads, yes, money, okay. I just want to get back to the sidewalks. What I would like to do with them is pull that out now, we are not going to redo the sidewalks and I'm going to tell you why. Because it makes good business sense. Hopefully, Jack's and A&P does become viable to the folks down there. And if there's a nice heartbeat going on down there and you have a little action happening and everybody seems to get excited again, hopefully, maybe a year or two, I don't know, I mean at this point who knows, we could always go back at that time and put the sidewalks in and maybe you will change your mind and say, "hey now that this avenue is thriving, we want to go through with that streetscape."

In the meantime, folks, without any promise to you, we can always and continue to look, we did get some grant money down there, I think about \$80,000.00. So far, we have about \$80,000.00 in grant money which paid for a lot of the pulmonary work that brought us here tonight. You never know with the State, you never know with the Feds may put out in a year or two, we have no idea. But we could always continue to look because then that would be a nice thing to be able to come back to you and say, "hey, not only can we do this but we found some more money for you folks through this grant or that grant." So, you know we're all in to want to do this with you when you people are ready. By law we could have advertised this action in the newspaper and word could have got out or not got out, and we could have had a public meeting on this and passed it. And then you would have got your tax increase and said, "what happened?" But that's why we sent you all a personal letter because we want you to know when we are asking you to spend some money on something for you that you would have that opportunity to tell us if you want it or not.

Now what I would like to do because it is a nice summer night to get everybody home, unless I am missing something and we can talk, I was going to ask for those of you who are property owners on Westfield Avenue....and if you are not, I am not really that interested, I have got to be frank, because the person who writes the check is the person that I am going to listen too, okay? I am a business man if my customer writes me a check I listen to them, if they don't I won't. But the bottom line here is I would rather say to you if you own property stand up and if you don't want it raise your hand and if it is overwhelming let's adjourn and go home. I mean it is that simple folks. It is about writing the check, it is not our agenda, us (Mayor, Business Administrator and Council), it would be our agenda, all of us together. So, in the realm of this you know we would be glad to continue discussion with this project going forward, things change, we are back in the game for you. Again, I am sure not every person on the street is going to agree with this, 90% of you agree tonight, I am sure there would be 10% percent that didn't. We are going to try and do things by supermajority when it effects one neighborhood by itself. People who live throughout the town, I have got to be honest, I am really not interested in what you have to say. Because if you came to me and said that you want to put lanterns on your street and you would be willing to pay for them, hypothetical of course, I wouldn't care what the guy from a mile across town has to say, if you are willing to pay for it, we are willing to do it, that is the bottom line because it affects your neighborhood. So, this does affect your neighborhood. To those of you who might go home a little disappointed tonight, don't be, we can continue to work, we can continue to collaborate

together and see what happens. I mean there is a very valid point that you can say that until Jack's and the A&P start to thrive, we really don't know what we are going to get. On the other hand, there is an argument that you can say that maybe this can help the situation, people seeing things that are happening. Those of you who purchased property down there and are starting to make it look nice, thank you, we support you, keep it clean, keep it neat, good things can happen. As a life-long Clark resident I still don't believe that we are ever going to get to that top rung until we have a thriving Westfield Avenue. And it's something that I think we all want but it is something that we are all willing to write a check for right now, and we understand that. I am a small business owner, it is tough out here today, it is not easy. So, I get all of that stuff. Now, is that okay so far? At this point if you are an owner on Westfield Avenue whether it be business or a home could you please stand.

Who does not want this project? Does not want this project? (18 people)

(A few audience members stated that they own more than one property on Westfield Ave) You have to consider that they do represent different properties. I am trying to be fair to everybody here. Okay those of you who voted "no" who own property sit down, those who want it on Westfield stand up.

Dean Russo, Property Owner: Mayor, may I say something?

Mayor Bonaccorso: You may Dean, now wait, these are the people who do want it, okay it doesn't look good. But I will say that Dean (Russo) had the initiative to begin this project and I do thank him for that because his heart is completely in the right place here and he has bought a building and put money into it and has done a heck of a job with it. And we do appreciate his efforts in doing that along with Lenny and Dawn who are part of the committee, thank you guys.

Dean Russo: Thank you Mayor for those kind comments. You know we started this endeavor hoping that there would be a change on Westfield Avenue. And over the last couple of weeks, I have gotten a lot of negative feedback on just what you said. People do not want to dip into their pockets because they are finding that the value is not there for what they are getting for the .75%. So, I am asking the township if they could possibly be aggressive you know in their pursuit for the A&P and Jack's Tavern because those are the anchors. We have been talking about this for so many years and if those two are developed and what you are saying an ordinance put through to put a second or perhaps a third floor on that would be wonderful. Because I think that would draw businesses in, it would draw development in, it would show more interest and that is the direction that we need to go. But we need to do it aggressively and not keep waiting and then waiting for these property owners to do something and sit on it because obviously they don't care about the township. If they are sitting on these properties in that disarray, for this many years, they do not care about us. So, we need to do something as a township and push forward with this. And as far as the sidewalks, I am a little disappointed that we are waiting on those because I believe that if we do the sidewalks, it will show.... they are in disarray, I mean the blocks are coming up, there are dead trees, it looks awful (Mayor: Right) So if we do the sidewalks maybe people driving through will say, "I would like to invest, they are starting to do some progression" and not wait for the building owners to do it. It is almost like putting the cart before the horse.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, the only thing Dean about the sidewalks is if we pour the sidewalks and they are going to be a color and let's say in a year, or two, or three, you guys come back and say, "hey, wow! This is happening, that is happening, this is great, you know let's invest now in the lanterns and the flowers" and all the nice things a lot of the center of towns have. The only way for us to do that is we are going to have to start cutting those sidewalks, we are never going to match them, because they are going to fade. Like we picked out a nice beige type of color that we thought would be nice and we would have to then cut those to run the wiring, to place them in, and it is going to be a mish mash at that point. And we certainly can't say that we will rip them out and put new ones in (Dean Russo: Right) so that is the only reason that we are holding off. I mean technically, by ordinance, your sidewalks are your problem and not the town. We have replaced sidewalks in town when we did certain street paving jobs and we have been trying to do that, but now it's become another game of Russian Roulette for me because if you go on a block and a house has perfect sidewalks but their neighbors are getting new ones and they will say, "well why aren't I getting new ones, and I say "well your sidewalk is perfect" they are in my office screaming all day long, "well, he's getting them, why shouldn't I?" Well, his are cracked, his are uplifted with tree roots. So, we've been doing that for 16 years now, I don't know if that was the right thing to do, maybe I should have never did it from the start and I wouldn't have these kinds of conversations that I have been having. But on the last two years of road resurfacing and sidewalk replacement we have had nothing but nightmares. People don't care they just want it ripped out. That is the reason why Dean.

Dean Russo: I think any property owner in town, whether they are on Westfield Avenue or any of the side streets, or anywhere in town, I think that if we improve the sidewalks on Westfield Avenue and do some capital improvements through the township, I don't think that they are going to have any objection to that because it is the entrance to our town and it is a disgrace the way it stands right now. So, I think anyone, any resident in the town would agree with us that something needs to be done.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Respectfully, like the owners here on Westfield Avenue, we would probably like to see what is going on too now. I mean we were doing it now because of the sense of urgency to get those lanterns up. Although it would still have a very high priority, we could see what happens in a year, or so, or two and find out what is going on with those properties or not to make that investment and go on with it. So, your street is going to be getting paved for sure, that is not an issue, that is going to happen and we will just take a pause on the curbing and sidewalk to see what we are going to do. And let us see with the Jack's Tavern.... we agree Jack's Tavern and the A&P is a disgrace, we are embarrassed by it. But remember folks there is only so much as a government we could do unless we decide to take it a very aggressive action and begin a condemnation proceeding and that cost money. And we have to make sure that the end result is going to be frugal and most proper for the whole community.

Dean Russo: And I would like to say I would like to thank you and Mr. Laezza for always having an open-door policy with me and my committee and trying to come up with a solution. But unfortunately, this is not working out with the SID, however, I would love to keep the doors open and to explore other options.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Dean we are not...folks, closing the door on making your street on making your street a premiere street, we are not doing that, but like you, the township, we have constraints as far as budgets go and tax dollars go and we have to play that by ear. Let's see what could happen, we all want it to happen, eventually I think it can and will happen, but again, we want to have it not as an adversarial type of thing, it never started out to be that way. And it's the voice of the people and that is how we have been doing things. I mean, when I was going to change the zoning for the Clark Commons ever person in this town got a letter asking you what you would like there because we thought shopping would be excellent and it has turned out to be a premiere center that is really got statewide notoriety right now. And that's why when the results come back overwhelming that people wanted shopping, we moved along with it. Because I live here like you do, the Council people live here like you do, and if you don't like it, we probably not going to like it. We are certainly don't want to tell you that we know more than you do that has never been the case, we like to hear what you like to say on that kind of stuff and move on from there. I am somewhat disappointed because I want to see that street get better sooner rather than later but let the will of the people stand and we will just work with you on it, okay. And our door is open Dean anytime because you are a heck of a gentleman to deal with, believe me.

Dean Russo: Thank you Mayor.

Bill Caruso, 7 School Street: I have been listening to this interesting conversation about the A&P and Jack's Tavern. I am not only coming here as a resident but also as a Director of Commercial Real Estate in the area. You were talking about the A&P and Jack's Tavern. Several years ago, I sold Jack's Tavern to the present owner. At that time, if I recall, he came to Council and he was going to put several store and beautiful apartments on top. We thought that the window was only going to be about two years between getting everything changed. Everything looked like it was going fine and believe me he got a heck of a bargain when he bought that property, believe me. So, I am as disappointed as all of these people are that Jack's Tavern isn't moving forward but they were obsessed with moving the CVS up there, and with all of the drug stores in town it wasn't working. So, it is unfortunate but we really wish we could do more to push them to get something done with Jack's Tavern.

As far as the A&P goes, I have had so many conversations with the owner of that, I have brought in several other supermarkets that wanted to go in there but he always wanted more rent, triple net, it kept going. He was off the highway and in his market as a commercial entity in that supermarket, it is only worth about \$18.00 triple net, but he wanted \$22.00 and \$24.00 because of the A&P people gave it to them for a number of years. He figured that he could collect the lease and just sit on it. That is the unfortunate part of what is happening in town. Some of these people who have these properties are allowing them to get to the point where they are emptying. Now you have to ask yourself the question, why don't people go down to Westfield Avenue and shop. Well, what you are trying to do is exactly the answer. To create a program with working with the downtown businessmen of this town, I am sure they have all pride about Clark, I am sure that you are all thinking that the Township of Clark is a beautiful town and you want to cooperate with them. I think that it was a great idea and I don't know what it was going to cost these people but you know sometimes in business, I know that it is tough, but you have to invest in yourself in order to make it happen. I have tried to bring many tenants down there in that area you know to look at the situation but they don't see anything happening. And if there was a program put together with the

businessmen and the town, I think it would be a wonderful thing. A lot of people in town don't understand what it cost to provide services. I want to talk about that a little bit, okay? Services, it cost a lot. You need ratables and when stores are empty and things are not happening you don't get the ratables you need to sustain the budgets that you have to contend with. I am sure a lot of people out here don't realize that out of the actual tax dollar in this town, the town operates on 25 cents. The rest goes to the County Government and the Board of Education. People don't really realize that. So, we need to create ratables constantly, we have to upgrade. So, I personally came tonight to commend you guys for trying to do this. This would be a good idea. Working closely with the downtown businessmen perhaps you can come to a number, or program, or something that would benefit to bring people downtown to shop there. That's all that I came to say tonight. Do you know what I mean? It is up to you people. It is your town; you can make it great or you can save a dollar.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Bill, thank you.

Gerald Bertekap, O' Johnnie's and Vegala, 165 Westfield Ave.: Vegala is a new store that moved in, it is a decorator store, she had a store in Westfield and she is closing the store in Westfield and she is just going to have this one in Clark because she can hardly handle all of the business that she gets. She is a nice Irish lady and very, very good. I just want to show you that some businesses do good in the downtown area moving from Westfield. That really surprised me, I was surprised. I lost 30% of my business to Clark Commons and it was tough. I had to lay off some people and cut my staff. But I would still be willing to pay more taxes to try and bring in a downtown area but not with that eyesore A&P there. There is an ordinance called Chapter 108 in the town called "Buildings Unfit" and they could work on that one where you can go in a demolish the building and get that eyesore out of there. I am sure other people would come across to paying the increased assessment to have a downtown area. And then more cross walks to slow down the traffic and for people to walk from one side of the street to the other side of the street. And maybe use part of the A&P as a town parking lot for people to park and shop down there and ease up on the business requirements and business permits for new people coming into town. She had to bend over backwards to get all of her permits to come in there. And you know the town has excellent affairs in the town offices across the street, try and have something downtown, somehow, I don't know what but try and have some of that downtown, if possible, to bring more people walking down there. And it will be really good to have more apartments, which will bring more walking people in the town. And all property will be all that much more valuable for everybody on Westfield Avenue.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It will be Gerry. Thank you very much.

Tom Brown, 68 Westfield Avenue: At the last meeting that we attended and when you brought this up and you know talked about having us here, I do not remember hearing the sidewalks were being scrapped at that meeting.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, they weren't, because at this point Tom we believe from what the committee has told us that this was going forward. So that is why we were going to do both.

Tom Brown: But I thought that the streets and the sidewalks are getting done no matter what. It was the lanterns and the flowers and all that other stuff that was going to go in for that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right, here's what happened in the meantime.

Tom Brown: So that's what I really would like if I could get an explanation.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I will give it to you right now. What the bottom line is Tom is that what I have heard, and not so much out of here tonight, but people that I talked to all week long and who have called is really until the A&P and Jack's start showing something significant, as Gerry just said also, that that could bring a new vibe into that neighborhood, we would rather hold off and not do it until that time. So, if there is still interest down the road, which there may be, you know we would like to be optimistic, and if there is not, there's not, it is the voice of the people here. Then at that time we would say, "okay let's do the sidewalk", because if I put the sidewalks in you can't have the lanterns because we can't cut the sidewalks to do that. It is going to look like a hodge podge, you are never going to get the sidewalks to match anymore, we have to put underground lines in.

Tom Brown: Unless you just prewire for it and box them off.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Wait a minute, that cost money and if you are not willing to do it guys, either are we, we have to be fair tonight.

Tom Brown: Listen Sal, you know how much I put into my building (Mayor Bonaccorso: I know, I know) and you know that when I moved here twelve years ago what we wanted to do and I am not in one shot what to pay more at all, and I told you that. But it's not about paying more it is about fixing up what we have (Mayor Bonaccorso: Right) and I don't think that we took a vote to say that we are not doing the sidewalks.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No Tom that comes from me.

Tom Brown: Right, I understand that. But I don't think that any of us don't want sidewalks.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Because by ordinance Tom you are responsible for your own sidewalks. Is Northern Lights Hair Salon here? They just put a huge brand-new sidewalk less than a year ago out in front of their salon. That is technically the responsibility of the property owner, not the township. We were going to do that in conjunction too. With all respect Tommy, we are not going to wire for anything unless there is a commitment on the table from the property owners. It is not right.

Tom Brown: Ten years ago, I did my sidewalks according to pavers because that is what the ordinance called for. I was told that I can only do pavers and now the front of it is all salted up, all of the concrete is gone and I...

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is why we are not talking about pavers anymore.

Tom Brown: So, you know now I have to sit here and now I'm going to have to spend my money, which is fine, because I am sick of looking at it the way it is looking. But I didn't think that that is what I came out of with at the last meeting that we were scraping it. There are 77 people here that are on the street. They are not 77 votes or there's not 50 votes that are in this room right now. But I just think the sidewalks should go forward. I don't know how everybody else feels but maybe straight concrete. Make it straight concrete.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We want it to look nice. When we do it, we want it to look nice. Look in a year or so if this project isn't going anywhere, and nothing good is happening, no one says we can't come in and put sidewalks in for you folks. But we want to have the opportunity to do it right one time if we can. If this committee didn't come up you would be getting your road paved this year because the water company dug it up but we would not be touching your sidewalks, we wouldn't be touching your sidewalks, I am being very honest with you, my friend. If the water company didn't dig that street up and this committee never came to me nothing would be happening down there. So, I can't box out, and wire, and do all that stuff, which is the plan don't get me wrong, but when you are paying prevailing wage in a township number it is going to cost a heck of a lot of money. How about if it never pans out? What happens when a citizen comes here to me and says "wait a minute I don't know the number, let's just be hypothetical for the sake of argument, we are going to spend two hundred thousand dollars on doing that or a hundred thousand whatever the number is, it's irrelevant, and I get three citizens that come to the next month's meeting and ask why I am going that. The owners don't want a streetscape; they certainly don't want to pay for their side of it. (The mayor goes on to say that the citizens would want the money to fix another item, example: use that money to fix a playground) That is why we can't do that Tom.

Tom Brown: I am disappointed in that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am too.

Tom Brown: I am sick and tired of looking at my sidewalk.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I know buddy, I am disappointed too Tom, believe me. But let's see what happens, we will play it by ear.

Someone in audience: Sal, why can't the County pay for the sidewalks?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Good luck.

Someone in audience: It is a county road.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Good luck. Union County's policy is they deal from the face of the curb to the face of the other curb. They do not touch curbs; they do not touch sidewalks. You can't get them to do that if your life depended on it. They will not touch it at all.

Augie Tobia, Ace Hardware, 2630 Westfield Avenue: I just want to thank Dean. I know we talked about this going back a few months and Dean's heart is in the right spot and he wants to improve

the street. And I don't think, for the most part, anybody is here because we don't want to do something to improve it. God knows I do. And I spoke to Sal numerous times about you know I'm sitting next to the albatross and I have been sitting there for a long time. So, I've always wanted something done there to enhance my business and to enhance my property. Dean's heart is in the right spot; I think we all can agree with that. Not to be reiterating the same thing over and over again, until the albatross is taken care of, I personally can't put my money up there to invest into a project that I don't see no return from. Putting sidewalks, putting streetscape is not going to be bring people to Ace Hardware, it is just not going to do it. Taking care of what is next door to me, enhancing that entire street together, and I think together we can do this as one, but together means two pieces of property has to be put in place.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The plan is that when John and the Attorney has the Ordinance prepared to come to Council, for the apartments situation to change the zoning up there. At that time, when that is in place then I am going to ask for the 15th time a meeting with those property owners to clue them into what is going on and then basically just lay the hammer to say "now it is time to make a decision or we are going to need to take an action." It is a blight on the community, it is an embarrassment and you know it's something that none of us up on this dais are happy about what-so-ever. You know that we talk about it all the time when I come into your store. In the meantime, folk, we still say to "shop Westfield Avenue", promote our in-town businesses, help each other out.

We are also hoping with the new Commons that it is bringing people into town that when Westfield Avenue gets polished up a little bit it is going to have people work that whole little corridor in there for different stores and different shops and what they have to offer in the Commons. We are not giving up on you. We are willing to work and if there are any ideas contact us, call us. I don't want to walk away Tom thinking that this is it. You know, you would be surprised buddy, the one thing that I could tell you about local government is when you start the year thinking you have an agenda that you are going to accomplish, five other things pop up that you never figured would happen. So don't be surprised, let's see what is going on out there, we will continue for grant money and go on.

Augie Tobia: Fair, thank you.

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

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: No comments.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: No comments.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comments.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments.

Councilman Smith: No comments.

Councilman Toal: No comments.

Council President Hund: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
July 5, 2016
7:30 pm

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

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 and TAP into Clark 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. 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 2015 Annual Audit entitled General Comments and Recommendations

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

2. Approving the 2015 Annual Audit Corrective Action Plan and Authorizing the filing of said plan with the Division of Local Government Services

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

3. Appointing Jerry Scaturo Jr. as a member of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department

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

4. Award of contract for the Colonial Drive Roadway Improvements (Bid Opening 6/6/16)

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

5. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority for certain solid waste services with respect to bulky waste

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

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

6. Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the Union County Educational Services Commission for use of the gyms in the Municipal Building from September 2016 through June 2017
7. Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute an Agreement with Union County to Modify the Cooperative Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant program dated June 2014
8. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle tax appeals authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey to be issued as credit in the amount of \$103,687.28
9. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$1,915.00
10. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$1,516.20

Council President Hund 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 coming forward Councilman Toal made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have two things. On your Corrective Action Audit Resolution, for the record for the press, we have one infraction that all receipts must be deposited within 48 hours of collected by the department by statute. One of our outside departments did not put a check in within 48 hours, which is kind of like a mosquito bite on an elephant's butt, I mean to be honest with you. When I sat on Council there were 22 to 30 things, like you should do a general ledger, you should not rubber stamp \$600,000.00 checks, I mean things like that, that matter. So that's like I said, nothing at all.

The other thing is I would like to ask Council to adopt this and to put this on the Resolution for the meeting and as an EC (entire council) this is a bill from the Governor's Office. I have been in contact with my liaison in the Governor's Office. Have you read about Christie's Fair Funding Formula for school districts? Basically the way Jersey City and Camden and Newark and those people are getting \$16,000, \$18,000, \$21,000, \$22,000.00 per student and producing zero rev and being funded by all of us. Christie wants to make through State Constitution every pupil in every school district shall get the same amount of money. Right now it is over \$6,000.00 per pupil, which would be a 1200% tax increase in state aid...state aid increase I should say for taxes.

Mr. Laezza: To your Board of Education.

Mayor Bonaccorso: To our Board of Education. And it would be a tax cut of over like around \$2,300 or \$2,400 per home.

Councilman O'Connor: That excludes the special needs kids though right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Excludes Special Education funding. Which is severely underfunded anyway. So I could give this to Edie to give a copy to you guys to read but I would like to put this on. They have asked me to endorse it. I am going to. I think that the council should do this. It is going to be a really interesting cat fight over this because the voters are going to go out to do it and the inner city areas are going to come out in droves to try and keep the money. The fact remains if you look at Zuckerman what he gave to the city of Newark with Facebook.... what did he give?

Mr. Laezza: \$100 million.

Mayor Bonaccorso: \$100 million that time or something? And test scores went down. And you know what? Look, inner city school districts need help, we all understand that. This to me, this bill is not about any kind of mix of people or racial equality or whatever. The fact remains that the City of Newark waste more money than we could count each and every day. All of these big cities do, we all know that across New Jersey. Why are we the homeowners of Clark getting less funding, less per pupil, we have to go out and budget every little thing and these schools have stadiums built for them. You know I went to East Orange one day for a basketball tournament and amongst this ghetto was this beautiful school that blows every school in Clark away. And we went into the gym and they asked if we would like to go into their locker rooms, it was better than Johnson, and this was a middle school. You know what is fair is fair, what is fair is fair. I have always said that the one thing this State allows us to have is a free public education. So I don't care if you are from Clark, or Newark, or Camden, or Roselle Park if you want to learn you are going to go to school and learn. There have been people that have come out of those schools that have learned and have done very well for themselves. But to just constantly throw money at the problem is wrong. And I have a lot of other complaints about school funding. Even with every time the school district want to go out for repair they have to go out on a bond referendum. Why should that happen when we bond money every year? Now they wait, they wait and they wait until the problems get bigger, and bigger, and bigger and instead of saying that they need a million dollars to fix this this year they wait until the problem gets bigger and other thing come on and then a million-dollar problem is a two-million-dollar problem and we have ten other problems with it and now they are going out for a bond for nineteen or twenty million dollars' verses chipping away like we do. Now the down side to that, and I have of course a solution to the problem, the down side to that is that most Boards of Education spend money like it is water, which is true, okay? "Oh it is for the kids...he has got to have it" Not exactly true and I have children like most of you do. What they should do is if they

want to put a bond referendum out it should go before the Mayor and Council for approval. The Mayor and Council decides because there are political wars between the two sides of the street, which we have seen in the past, that it is not worthy. The Mayor should have to go down to the Local Finance Board in Trenton with the Commissioner of Education and fight it out and tell them why it is done necessarily. Then you will get these people bonding football helmets and basketballs vs. paying for it out of their everyday budget which isn't fair either. Kind of what we did here before us, we used to bond everything. If we could bond pencils, we would bond them here. So now you are paying double a box of pencils but that is how it was done. So anyway, is Council in the mood for this?

All of Council: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Slide it through to Edie and she will give you a copy of it.

Township Clerk: Actually I could scan it and give it to you tonight if you want.

Mayor Bonaccorso: See that Edie is right on the ball. The fireworks are tonight. You all saw what had happened last night, it was raining, it was bad. We did not want to spend the money and waste the show, we wanted the people to have enjoyment. Other than that everything is good.

Councilwoman Albanese: I am just glad that the Mayor brought that up about the schools. I think that some of the money that was spent was spent in the wrong areas, like he said, all Capital and architectural fees, etc. etc. And in all of the examples that were given the smaller schools did a lot better in those areas in the Abbot District areas, or whatever the new name is for Abbot. That's all I have.

Councilman Barr: No report.

Councilman Mazzarella: I have a question for Sal and maybe he can clarify this or maybe he knows about this... with Christie the gas tax was defeated but then he was saying that he was going to eliminate funds for transportation as far as roads and bridges. Does that have any effect on what we get from the State?

Mr. Laezza: It could. It could stop our job on Terminal Avenue, it could stop the job on Lexington Boulevard this year.

Councilman Mazzarella: And who make that decision, he does or what our needs are?

Mr. Laezza: He make the decision whether he is going to give us the \$480,000.00 that we have coming to us. We could do it with our own money.

Councilman Mazzarella: Oh I see.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Guys, you have to understand one thing it is a game of cat and mouse down there. Christie wanted the gas tax with some other things in common, and you know some tradeoffs and the minute that he didn't get it he said that he was going to stop road construction. I read a really good comment that someone wrote on NJ.com and they said, "well why did you go out for contract on those jobs if you didn't have the money?" When I worked in government it was that you had to have the funding in place before you can sign a contract and go out (for bid). Am I correct John?

Mayor Bonaccorso: You probably wrote that law in Trenton. So the State probably has to do the same thing correct?

Councilwoman Albanese: No not necessarily.

Mayor Bonaccorso: See we can't enter into a contract without the funding in place.

Mr. Laezza: But we entered into a contract because they told us that the money was set aside for us.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right. No, no, no we are fine, I am talking about Christie.

Mr. Laezza: Now they are telling us that even though they set it aside for us, they will not give it to us.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is not our fault, we followed the law in what we did.

Mr. Laezza: Well unless we prove that life and death will happen if we don't finish those roads.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Folks, it is going to be taken care of.

Mr. Laezza: It is going to be taken care of shortly I am sure.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Trust me. It is who has the bigger mussels to go after...who is going to fold first. Now Mr. Laezza had a very good opinion the other day because I have told you in the past that John and I sit around a lot of the times and we solve the problems in the State and in the Country with our conversations, but here is a great example, and he is right and I never thought of it, it hit me like a ton of bricks. Christie wants the sales tax to go up from 7% to 6%.

Councilman O'Connor: In half increments, .5 and .5.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Okay. So why don't we take the first .5 and dedicate it to the transportation fund.

Mr. Laezza: Eight hundred million dollars and you don't get covered.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes. Then you can take the 23 cent gas tax and maybe make it a nickel or seven cents or ten cents a gallon. And all of the sudden the State Budget doesn't need that extra one percent where we can't pay our pension funds. I mean come on guys. I would like to see a 6% sales tax too but it is contradictive. If you could cut it then why don't we say, "whoa, whoa, whoa". Now when they say it is a user tax that is the biggest bunch of bologna that I ever heard in my life. Because I'll bet you diamonds to donuts right now, I will take any money that you want to bet, I will be the house Las Vegas bookmaker, they pass a significant gas tax, go into ShopRite tomorrow or the next day and look at price of milk, eggs, soup, potato chips, everything, going right though.

Councilman Mazzarella: You are right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So that's bull when they say, "well the truckers who drive through New Jersey....." Yeah that is true, that is true but what about the trucks that are carrying the food. Who is paying for it? We are. So why don't you take this 1% sales tax and put it into the fund then? It is all a game both parties should be impeached, they should be ashamed of themselves in Trenton. It is all save districts not term limits, term limits are on every one of us. Every four years the voter decides whether you are allowed to go for another term. When you have a safe district that would be like saying, "okay the majority of the vote in Clark is going to be carried out of the 1st and 4th ward, which are the two most Republican wards in Clark. So you can do anything you want, you are never going to lose right if you are Republican, it is the same thing with these districts. They are in safe districts and they can't get beat, that is why it is the way it is on both sides of the aisle. I am an equal opportunity hater when it comes to State government.

Elizabeth Clee: The next story is "Mr. Laezza goes to Washington and Trenton".

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well let me tell you something, Mr. Laezza was in Trenton may years ago and the fact is and you know what I will always say it, we joke and we tease him a lot of time, but maybe if people in Trenton had the kind of mind site he has about squandering people's money...but the problem is, like I try to tell Councilman Barr, my colleague who happens to be a Union guy, when you have prevailing wage which is ruining New Jersey, okay. Where the Senate President is a business leader in his Union and we sat down with the Clark Soccer League and they showed us a plan for Bartell Park that was about \$658,000.00, and we said well if Clark Township partners with you it's now a million-dollar project because of the word "prevailing wage". And that happens on every job in school, state and local and even in county government. So you can see that that's already was raised the price of that job 40%. I feel bad for some of the Union local people because they get brained washed because they think that people are against them, it is no true. In the meantime, the poor union guy retires, they cut his benefits, the business manager is screwing things up, robbing money and the poor guy is standing there defending his Union.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments.

Councilman Toal: No report.

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Chief Matos: No report.

Township Clerk: No comment, thank you.

Council President Hund: And I will hold my comments until the Public Meeting.

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

ADJOURNMENT

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
315 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
August 15, 2016
7:15 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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 Meeting Act (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark, by posting such Annual Meeting Schedule on the bulletin board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the proper filing of said Notice.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Award of Contract to Riversedge Contracting, LLC for the Collection and Disposal of Leaves at a rate of \$3.40 per cubic yard

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: It is the same contractor that we had last year.

Mr. Laezza: This year it is cheaper.

Township Clerk: Yes, a little less expensive.

Councilman Toal: Everything was good with them?

Mr. Laezza: Very good.

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

Mover: Mazzaella Second: Smith

2. Affirming the renewal agreement with Liberty Power, supplier of electricity, for a 12-month period at a rate of 0.09680/kWh

Discussion: None

Mr. Laezza: Basically, for eighteen or twenty-four months we renew this third party contractor (tape inaudible).

Township Clerk: This contract is also less money than last year.

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

Mover: Barr Second: Mazzarella

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

3. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of taxes in the amount of \$24,573.50

Discussion: None

4. Authorizing the proper Township Officials to enter into Facsimile Signature Agreements with Investors Bank on behalf of the Township of Clark

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Toal Second: Smith

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: Smith Second: Albanese

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: No comment.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment

Councilman Barr: No comment

Councilman Mazzarella: No comment

Councilman O'Connor: No comment

Councilman Smith: No comment

Councilman Toal: No comment

Council President Hund: No comment.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
September 6, 2016
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor; 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 (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the proper filing of said notice.

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 \$34,645.89 for the Clean Communities Grant

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Albanese

2. Confirming the appointment of Karen DeMarco to the Library Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of Maria Moricz

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Albanese Second: Smith

3. Encouraging Governor Christie and the State Legislature to fund the Transportation Trust Fund

Discussion: None

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

Councilman Mazzarella: I would like to request that this be moved and seconded by the Entire Council.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this vote.

Mover: Entire Council Second: Entire Council

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Accepting Lorraine Disko's letter of retirement from the position of Court Administrator effective October 1, 2016.

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: How long was she in that position?

Council President Hund: 26 years.

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$3,503.92
6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Taxes in the amount of \$3,889.21
7. Authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the County of Union for Leaf Composting

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on the 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 Hund opens the meeting to the public

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

Motion: Smith Second: Albanese

Roll Call: All ayes

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Add to the agenda, Mr. Attorney, I talked to Mr. Triarsi, Councilman O'Connor, myself and Chief Matos met with the Schuyler, Cutler and Garside residents. That is going to become...because of the overflow parking from the nursing home which is clogging up the street down there, it is going to become "Resident Only" parking from 7 am to 8 pm. Residents are going to get stickers for as many cars that they have in their family, through my office. Each home will get six guest passes. There will be a provision put in for 1 day parties that when they have a lot more people they can get a pass through the Chief of Police office on that. And basically it is going to be 24/7, 365 (days) on this residents parking.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right.

Chief Matos: That also includes Bullman Court, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Bullman Court, Schuyler Drive, Cutler Place and Garside Place. I spoke to Joe about it and that is the jest of it but I am sure that he will call and say, “well, what do you want to do with that?” Okay so that was a piece of business that we did last week and that worked out good. The over flow is killing that place up there with traffic, and people are having trouble turning into their driveways, backing out of their driveways, so they came to us and asked us. We basically are making this very loose for the residents without a lot of restrictions because we do not want to have them foul up their neighborhood. So basically they are going to get a sticker for their car, they are going to put it on the window and they will get guest passes. We will notify the nursing home that it is going to cease once the ordinance is law and we will go from there with it. Hopefully it will work out fine.

Township Clerk: You want this introduced this September then at October second meeting, or do you want a Special Meeting the first week? How fast do you need this?

Mayor Bonaccorso: It can go on the October meeting.

Councilman O'Connor: We told them it would be in effect November 1st.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, twenty days after the paper, right?

Township Clerk: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Sunday is the 9/11 Ceremony at Nelson Park on Broadway and Grand, 8:45am sharp, be there please. We have the wreath coming from us, Matt Kane is going to be singing, Ed Ruth is going to be talking. It is always quick but it is something that we all need to do.

The Senior Picnic is the 14th at the Deutscher Club, and the Senior Breakfast is in October. Jennifer will be sending you out information for that.

Councilwoman Albanese: She did.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We didn't get hit with the storm but we were prepared, thank God, I mean who needed that one. Everything else it good. You saw the generator down by the gym that is all ready to go, it is hooked up now. That would have been our cooling and warming center to light up that end of the gym, so that is a good thing. I think that is it, everything else should be good, any questions?

Howard Lesnik: Mayor, go back, can you tell Mr. Triarsi how much the fine would be?

Mayor Bonaccorso: What is the parking fine? It would be a parking ticket right?

Chief Matos: We probably should look at the Dawn Drive Ordinance, whatever that Ordinance says.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, whatever it is. I am not going to start levying these fines guys because it's just parking. And they are eligible to be towed also, if you put a thing on their car and they are there all day and they come back again, eventually the police officer can tow it.

Councilman O'Connor: Can you get those boots?

Chief Matos: Not for a simple parking violation. The person would have to be blocking the driveway, or the hydrant, or if they are parking too close to the "Stop" sign, or they might be blocking the "Stop" sign.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Guys, do you know what it is, look, councils, and I don't mean you people because you are pretty level headed, sit around and they want to make these fines. For example: if you have a grease trap fine at \$1000.00 and if you hit a small business for \$1000.00 you hurt them. If you hit somebody with a \$250.00 parking ticket you hurt them. So on Dawn Drive if there is a difference and I don't know what that would be, but I would think that it was just a regular parking ticket.

Chief Matos: I don't think that a parking ticket is \$250.00.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, it is like \$50.00 or something, right?

Chief Matos: I don't know what the town ordinance fines are for a parking violation under a town ordinance but I know under title 39 the state ordinances it is nowhere near \$250.00.

Township Clerk: The state supersedes what we do here anyway right?

Chief Matos: Not in that respect where you are limiting who can park....

Township Clerk: No I mean as far as what the ticket would be. Don't we have to go by what the state says over what we do?

Chief Matos: That's a different violation for you to set. I don't know how you would set the fine for that.

Councilwoman Albanese: We need signs for there.

Council President Hund: We will just do whatever Dawn Drive is.

Township Clerk: I will look at them.

Chief Matos: The parking violations for the state are "parking near a hydrant", "parking too close to an emergency fire squad", "blocking a driveway", "parking too far away from the curb" it does not cover "not parking in this area during a specific time period" those are town ordinances.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Now the other thing that we are going to do... the Chief, Pat already went up there, I don't know if you noticed but the curbs are painted and the signs are up. And we are going to allow the people that live on the corners Schuyler and Raritan, Westfield and Old Raritan Road to park on the side streets because they are considered the side of their home.

Councilman O'Connor: The same thing with Raritan Road too.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right. So that's about it that went pretty good. And we will work with the people up there.

Councilman O'Connor: I spoke to the gentleman from Bullman Court today, that sent us the letter, and he was pleased with what we came up with.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah I know. One guy sent me an email and I ask him to please call me and he never did. It is hard to get stuff over email; you want to talk to them on the phone. (Councilman O'Connor: I spoke to him today) That is it for me, I will see you on Sunday.

Councilwoman Albanese: I want to thank everyone for supporting Karen DeMarco the new trustee to the Library. She is also the President of the Friends of the Library and she will be an excellent addition to the Board of Trustees, thank you.

Councilman Barr: I think that our Mayor should be prepared because once this goes up the people that run the nursing home are going to be calling and asking where we expect them to park.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, I expected when Ellenport was the Mayor to govern the right way and not just do something on one of his friend's piece of property with not enough parking. That is not my problem that the other administrations were corrupt, and did things not right, and neighbors who pay taxes have to suffer. So that is what they will get told, very simply. Plain and simple. We are not going to destroy somebody's quality of life because you want to put something that doesn't belong in that corner. That was the argument that time about parking, I was not in government then but I do remember something about it. You might have been around Brian on that. Not that I am saying that it does anything bad there, there is a need there for it, it has not bothered me and I live down the street from it, but it is not my problem that you don't have ample parking.

Councilman O'Connor: Al, they were supposed to park in Manny's (Diner) parking lot.

Mayor Bonaccorso: And they are also parking now in front of my house on that little dirt road that goes to the Deutscher Club. I have no problem with that, they can park there, it does not bother me in the least. So they are going to have to go and cut a deal with Manny or something like that but it is not our problem.

Councilwoman Albanese: I don't know what you meant. That was the original deal or....

Councilman O'Connor: The original deal from what the neighborhood told me was that they were supposed to park in that overflow parking in Manny's parking lot which is between the TD Bank.

Councilwoman Albanese: That was agreed to by the property owner?

Councilman O'Connor: That is what I was told. And you'll see people walking sometimes along the road.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That was the Winsor Diner not I don't know now that Manny owns it if he is charging them or not charging them. There is a liability with that happening out there. There should be a holds harmless agreement that if they fall into the ice that they are not going to sue Manny.

Councilman O'Connor: Right.

Chief Matos: You can't get a parking space out there at lunch time anyway.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right.

Councilman Smith: They could use the Jehovah Witness parking lot during the day.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to mention one thing; the Mayor would want to know about this if Scott didn't tell you already. I called Scott about Starlite Drive there was a caretaker for the Church, this is the second time that whole street was inundated with furniture, couches and chairs and everything. I told Scott, I said that we talked about this last month and they did the same thing previous to this and it kind of filled the whole truck up. So Scott went to the house and talked to them and said that it was odd that they have that much stuff to put out. Well probably the parishioners are taking it in there after hours and just dumping it in the front there. And they have people that are garbage pickers parked in the middle of the night there picking up stuff. So I told the residents around the area that if they see that they should call headquarters.

Chief Matos: Do you know what it is. They are probably taking donations that they give out to needy families. Then when they go through it and they find stuff that they can't use, stuff that is not usable...

Councilman Mazzarella: Well a couple of the residents said that they saw vans pull in at night, into their parking lot, take stuff out of their vans and put it in front of the house there. So I told them that if they see that to call headquarters.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Remind John and let John send them a letter telling them if they are caught doing that they are going to get hit with a fine because that is not the deal. Bulky clean-up is for what you have in your own home, we can't be taking stuff from all over. Everybody has to beat the system.

Councilman Mazzarella: That's right.

Councilman O'Connor: I just want to thank the Chief and the Mayor for listening to the residents in the Schuyler Drive area. Also, I appreciate the TAP always being here.

Councilman Smith: The UNICO Feast is October 7th to the 9th, Ralph is looking for volunteers so if any of you fine council people are available, please sign up.

Councilman Toal: I hope everyone had a nice Labor Day. The Mayor mentioned very briefly off of the cuff..... Madison Hill Road that is the only question that I am getting hit with. We still have the speeder issue. Thank you for whoever we asked about patching where the pavement was uneven that was done and that is great. We are still getting speeding, is there any way that we could do a Resolution that can move them to finish the project?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Do you know what Brian? It is not them; it is not the County; it's Trenton. The thing is, the first thing that you are taught as a Councilman is that you cannot sign a contract without having the appropriation of money in place to do the job. So if we want to do the job on the street we appropriate, in our bonds, a hundred thousand dollars to do the road. I can't go to bid, or sign a contract until that money is in place, that is why we always do that first, right? Okay. So if that is the law for us then why isn't it the law for the state? What I think happened and I am not 100% sure on this, is that I think he was stomping his feet, mad, that there wasn't anything passed, and shut down all of those being paved to bust everybody's chops. My question is, why do you need that gas tax money when you had that money already appropriated? And if you didn't then

how do you go out for bid and sign a contract on it? So that is the question that I have. So it is more Trenton names then what is going down there, it is a disgrace, we have no body that can straighten that place out, it is really wrong. So then the County is getting very, very mad, the County is getting mad. Now we have some State DOT money on Lexington for that project and we are going to check.... if we have our own...I don't know if they sent it yet or not, I have to check with John, but as long as we have the money to cover the project then we might just go ahead and do it. Then when they get the money just reimburse us because we have to get these projects done before the frost comes and it starts getting cold. So they are down there worrying about taxing everyone when you can have plenty of money in your coffers and it could be solved like a snap of a finger, if you get rid of prevailing wage. But I need to pay a guy with a rake, breaking black top, \$85.00 an hour when I could get a guy to do it for \$30.00 an hour. So that is where millions of dollars...we pay a million dollars a mile in New Jersey and that is what's wrong. They will never mention the word prevailing wage. It is 40-45% more than any job that you have. So if you have a job for \$60,000.00 the job is coming in a \$100,000.00 with prevailing wage, about 40% more. That's the problem. They want us to pay more gas tax, it won't affect anything, if you put a gas tax in tonight, your bread, milk and eggs, everything will go up tomorrow morning, you will see surcharges on everything. The problem is if there is one place that needs turmoil it is in Trenton, or get rid of those districts that just put everybody's butts in a cushy position that can't govern the right way down there. Because it is a boy's club and a girl's club down there and everybody is safe except for the guys that they don't like then they put those 10 people out into you know in a tough district where they have to fight for re-election. Do you think that Kane and Bramnick have a problem in election? Zero, zero. They are two leaders of the State Assembly and Senate what are they saying about them? What they are they saying about our Republican Presidential Candidate that is running? Nothing. So whatever.

Councilman Toal: Again, I appreciate.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is what it is about Brian.

Councilman Toal: I understand. Again, what I saw this morning was I was coming down and you have a school bus coming back, and there were no kids on the bus yet because they were going to pick up the kids.... basically, it is two lanes that are smashed into one lane (Mayor Bonaccorso: right) and you have a bus that is taking up the space and someone in a truck is trying to beat the bus, God forbid if there were kids on that bus. It could have been hypothetical but it's stuff that I know our police department sees them in the bluff and they are in the cemetery and they can't be everywhere.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It happens.

Councilman Smith: Speaking of roadways, how about the water company finishing up over on Gertrude, Bartell, Richard Street? (Mayor Bonaccorso: What do they have to do?) Are they going to pave those roads that was part of the Resolution we passed a while back? It stopped at Kathryn and Gertrude. All of the roads have all of the patches all paved but they are starting to sink now. They just finished the curbs but the roads.....

Mayor Bonaccorso: When?

Councilman Smith: About a month ago they finished the curbs.

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Mayor Bonaccorso: They were supposed to pave the roads that had their line down. Those are the service patches. I don't know if that was included in that but they were going to come and repave the patch. Do me a favor make a note for that for Mr. Laezza (speaking to the Clerk).

Councilman Toal: That is how Prescott Turn got brought into that whole conversation.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, Prescott Turn got brought into it because Rich O'Connor had to pave three feet of Prescott Turn and decided to send a letter to everyone saying that they were getting their street paved.

Councilman Toal: Yes, he did.

Councilman Smith: If you make a right off of Westfield and you go up Bartell every ten feet has a patch in it. So you know when winter time comes it is going to be a disaster. I want to go on record that I want Charles Street on the list of streets paved next year.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Can't.

Chief Matos: If you don't know Lieutenant Pollock is retired.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Mike has got a job in the high school as a monitor. They went to block scheduling this year. And kids, I think juniors and seniors are going to have like 80 or 90 minutes for free period where they can roam the building, and do different things, they could go study, lift weights, they could do what they want, so they needed to put people in to watch it, and Mike got the job. And if the Chief doesn't mind me cutting in for a second, I will say that Lieutenant Pollock is a very big loss to our department, he worked for John and I on a daily basis with traffic and he was tremendous with that and the one thing that I will always say about Mike is when he got promoted he didn't do less, he did more. And he would not only take care of his administrative stuff in the office, he would always find time to sit out on the road and do some traffic enforcement. He was never a guy that was going to sit around and become lazy. Again, a nice guy, a friend and I am going to miss him on the department.

Chief Matos: We also had another officer resign. One of the new officers resigned, he took a position with the Elizabeth Fire Department.

Councilman O'Connor: Really?

Councilman Mazzearella: How long was that officer on?

Chief Matos: Just under a year.

Councilman O'Connor: I guess during the interview process he didn't bring it up that he really wanted to be a fireman.

Councilwoman Albanese: You don't know when it is going to come up though, you are on a list.

Councilman O'Connor: Listen, I look at it this way, if he doesn't want to be here then good luck to him at least we don't have him because he didn't want to be here.

Chief Matos: We hired two officers and on September 1st they will be getting sworn in.

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Councilman O'Connor: Could you say the officers name that went to Elizabeth?

Chief Matos: Matthew Mulroy. He was a good guy.

Councilman Barr: Mike was my main man police officer on the Memorial Day Parade, I am going to need someone else.

Mayor Bonaccorso: At the next meeting we will be swearing two in and promoting Manata that night.

Township Clerk: No comments.

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, Mazarella, O'Connor, Smith, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
October 3, 2016
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Barr

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 (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the proper filing of said notice.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

1. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 195 ARTICLE XXIII OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED "DISTRICT REGULATIONS"

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: Basically Mayor, Council President and Members of Council, someone came in and wanted to look at our Downtown Village Zoning Ordinance and our Neighborhood Zoning Ordinance and we noticed that it said minimum in there and it really needs (to read) maximum. So we thanked them. We would like to amend the Ordinance from minimum to maximum. It is a simple change.

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

Mover: Smith Second: O'Connor

RESOLUTIONS:

2. Public Hearing:

Authorizing the submission of an application for funding for the Year 43 Community Development Block Grant Program

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Albanese Second: Smith

3. Award of contract for Grass Collection for the 2017 and 2018 seasons
 Bid opening 10/12/16

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

4. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for
 insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$27,281.74 for the Recycling
 Tonnage Grant

Discussion: None

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Albanese

5. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute an Interlocal Services
 Agreement with the Clark Board of Education for Solid Waste Collection

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

6. 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 \$16,540.04

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Taxes in the amount of
 \$537.93

Discussion: None

8. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the
 amount of \$125.29

Discussion: None

Council President Hund 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 coming forward Councilwoman Albanese made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Smith

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: On the 13th of October I will be going to the Freeholder Meeting, we are receiving a grant for the Union County Kids Recreation Fund. I don't know how much it is because they don't tell you until you get there.

Scott McCabe is working on painting a blue line down Westfield Avenue here for Blue Lives Matter.

Councilman O'Connor: Nice.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We got one estimate but I think that Scott is going to do it himself with a sprayer. It is basically spray paint. We are going to borrow the Board of Education's line thing that they have.

The next thing is with that is the police incident on Lake Avenue about a week or two ago I guess. The three gentlemen that came to the rescue of that elderly lady will be coming here to receive an accommodation from me for their efforts on what they did. That is really a great thing.

For Susan (from Tap into Clark), because you are the only one that can help me with this. Prior to the meeting Councilman Smith grabbed me about these scary clowns. There is some report that they were seen in Clark last night. When I walking out of the meeting, Captain Concina called me back and he said that there has not been a real life sighting here yet. There is some social media stuff going around. Also that some of the clowns that they looked at are the same clowns that are showing up in Linden and other towns on social media. So at this point we don't know if it is just a social media hoax or if people are going around. To our knowledge there has not been one viable sighting in Clark as of yet. I am going to tell everyone that if there is to call the Clark Police Department immediately and for children to stay away. If they are in Clark hopefully they are handing out balloons and not trying to cause any trouble. If you could just put that out there for us (to Tap into Clark)

Susan Bonnell: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Tell them (people) to stay away and call the police immediately.

Councilman O'Connor: I am sorry to interrupt you but when you say (call) police are you saying 911 or (732-388) 3434?

Mayor Bonaccorso: 911.

Councilman O'Connor: 911.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Again, one of the biggest problems that we have folks.... folks let me just explain, I want to get back to the police thing and I want to do it too at the meeting, one of the biggest problems that we have today, as great as it is, and I enjoy Facebook, and it does help us communicate with residents during storms and all of that, it is that this thing goes nuts and there's always a problem. The night of the police incident on Lake Avenue, I mean my cell phone was blowing up immediately, I did go on Facebook as quickly as we could to try and tell the people that there was an incident, and it is okay, and that the Clark Police handled it, and to go and enjoy their evening. But we get "why didn't we know" and "why didn't we know" Does anyone have an idea about what goes on at a scene like that? Does anyone have an idea? I mean....

Councilman O'Connor: It has to be chaos.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Not only that it could have been a very serious thing. We had one criminal scene there which was the perpetrator with the knife, we could have had two if the police officer didn't use his weapon properly. Do you think that the Clark Police are really interested on going on Nixel and Facebook, for all of the curiosity seekers out there, that this is what happened? I mean guys, they are taping streets off, they are securing evidence, they are taking statements, grabbing witnesses, I mean I was there and for the hour it was chaotic what was going on there. They did a great job our guys. Scotch Plains came down to help, the Prosecutors Office, the Sheriff Id Department was there. I understand that when people hear this they get nervous and they want to know, I get all of that. But if the Township Officials and the Police Department aren't telling you it is because they are probably still in the middle of it. I will always be the first one to always get out there to you if I can, humanly possible, and then the police will also. You have to watch by law what you put out there and what you don't put out there. So I had to have that discussion with the Chief. I mean I had a pretty good idea but you always want to make sure that you are on the same page. They were saying that it was a domestic with his girlfriend.... wrong.... that wasn't even close too true. The other thing is and I am going to talk about this at our school breakfast with the administrators, buildings went into lockdown, we didn't tell you to go into lockdown. Now if a guy is walking into a school with an AK49, I think that you better lock down, we would tell you that..... but for one gun shot and the entire incident was five minutes long on Lake Avenue. My wife calls me and says that she got a call from someone saying that they were locked down and no one was telling them to unlock. I said, "who told them to lock?" Sure enough they did, we had to send an officer out to tell them to do that... and you traumatize people doing this too. So you know, you are damned if you do, and damned if you don't. You have to be really careful about this kind of stuff. Social media is really on the forefront of all of this. 25 years ago the people....and I am

not saying that the people should know, please for the record understand that, but 25 years ago, that little block there on Lake Avenue would have heard about it and the rest would have read about it in the Star Ledger in the morning. Now is it like “What’s happening!!” “Oh my God, I heard this, I heard there’s that!!!” Well, who did you hear it from? I try to reach out to Council as soon as I could, some of you guys were reaching out to me. Well you know guys, it is chaotic at that point and if I am not answering that means that I can’t. That is the gist of all of that, I just wanted to reach out because I know that Susan is here tonight with the Tap and she could get this out quicker than licitly split for us. I am sure we are going to hear of it, if they are out there we want to know about it.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Mazzarella: Nothing.

Councilman O'Connor: My comments will be saved for the next meeting.

Councilman Smith: The UNICO Festival is this coming Thursday, Friday and Saturday, in the parking lot over here.

Councilman O'Connor: Rain or shine?

Councilman Smith: Yes, it is always rain or shine.

Township Clerk: Isn’t it always Friday, Saturday and Sunday?

Councilman Smith: Yes, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. Rain kills the feast obviously. I just watched the weather forecast and the hurricane will be off the coast of Florida, South Carolina Saturday around 2:00 pm, so hopefully we will get all day Friday and Saturday in, and most if not all of Sunday. Hopefully it goes out to sea and we don’t have to worry about cleaning up the town. If anyone is available to volunteer, I know that Ralph is looking for volunteers still. That is all that I have, thank you.

Councilman Toal: First of all, Mayor, thank you. Sal, in five years we went through two homicides, and in the Township of Clark we don’t have homicides. And now we have a crazy guy on Lake avenue with a machete, thank you for everything that you have done in keeping us safe.

As you know tomorrow or the next couple of days we are getting an increase in gas, hopefully Madison Hill Road will get completed and I am talking about the bridge, the bridge project that I talk about every month, that is all that I have to say, have a good night.

Mr. Laezza: I am working the (inaudible) game with regard to traffic lights and darkness along Raritan Road, I am working with PSE&G to get that accomplished as soon as possible. I don’t know about blocking the box from the County, I will be getting a return phone call.

Township Clerk: Nothing, thank you.

Councilman O'Connor: Mr. Laezza and Sal, thank you very much. I know it was trying working with Public Service, Electric and Gas and Verizon to get the stop light at the corner of Terminal and Westfield Avenue functional. I know that you had to deal with the strike, you had to deal with PSE&G giving you different deadlines that they keep missing, and I want to thank you for keeping on top of it. The residents of Woodcrest thank you as well.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Susan, would you like to make a little comment in the newspaper? (Susan Bonnell: Sure) Some of the seniors at Terminal Avenue said that the left turn light is not working. The left turn light is working they just can't go over the stop line, they trip the meter and it does not turn left anymore. So they have to stop before the white line if they want to turn left.

Susan Bonnell: Going out of their (development).....

Mr. Laezza: No, going into it.

Susan Bonnell: Oh, making the left into Woodcrest.

Mr. Laezza: Yes. They can't go over the stop line.

Councilman O'Connor: It passes the sensor right?

Councilwoman Albanese: Yes. It is true even on Raritan Road, if you pass that sensor the left turn light will not work when you are going towards TD Bank.

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Council President Hund: I will hold my comments.

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

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

Any Opposed: Nay

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION 16-113

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:

Pending Litigation COAH

Personnel Matters

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting at 7:54 pm and invited back to resume the regular order of business at 8:15 pm; and

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 Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

Time: 7:54 pm Workshop Resumed 8:15 pm

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

Council President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman O'Connor

Council President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

Council President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
November 9, 2016
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - MOMENT OF SILENCE

(Dispensed)

This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the proper filing of said notice.

Township Clerk: At our next meeting the Regular Order of Business will be suspended for the appointment of a police officer, as well as, our annual Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Proclamation.

1. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 284 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED "SEWER USER FEES"

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: Basically the last time we did this user fee was in 2006, the sewer utility 2006 rates now do not generate sufficient revenues to accommodate the cost of maintaining our sewer program. So we have made the minimum \$280, plus 2 ½ cents over 100,000,00 gallons of water. This should set us apart for substantial years.

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

Mover: Barr Second: Smith

2. CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT TO CLARK SWIM POOL FACILITIES, INCLUDING COMPUTERS FOR PUMP ROOM AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$8,900.00 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK SWIM POOL UTILITY

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: Basically we have capital outlay in the 2016 budget and in order to properly expend that in 2017 you have to prepare an ordinance to apply it to the capital outlay that we have there. We have spent some money against that original capital outlay in the budget but this is remaining and we want to make sure it is set aside to allow the pool to keep up to date on its infrastructure.

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

Mover: Smith Second: Albanese

RESOLUTIONS:

3. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to enter into a five (5) year contract from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021 for Animal Control Services with Associated Humane Societies, Inc. (NJSA 40:48-5.1)

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: This is a little different concept gentleman, before we have been going out for bids.... The State passed a statute that indicated that if there is a human resource control within the County or within an adjoining County that you can enter into a contract with that association. We have been working with Newark Animal Control Associated Humane Society, Our Health Officer believes that they have been very accommodating in handling their program, so we are going to enter into a five-year agreement with that group. That is what this contract is.

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

Mover: Smith Second: Albanese

4. Authorizing the Health Officer to enter into an Agreement with the Visiting Nurse and Health Service for 2017

Discussion:

Councilwoman Albanese: Did they raise their fees?

Mr. Laezza: No.

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

Mover: Toal Second: Mazzarella

5. Authorizing Verizon Wireless to use poles erected by parties that have the lawful right to maintain poles within the public right-of-way of the township

Discussion:

Councilman Toal: That needs an explanation.

Mr. Laezza: Basically the BPU has authorized Verizon to jump on the PSE&G poles and they need our approval to do it, PSE&G has the franchise for our poles.

Mr. Laezza: No you don't.

Councilman Mazzarella: What is it?

Councilwoman Albanese: How big is it?

Township Clerk: I have a picture. It is a brown box.

Mr. Triarsi: It is in our right of way, that is why we have to act on it.

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

Mover: Barr Second: Smith

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$338.63

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$5,881.48

Discussion: None

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

Discussion: None

9. Approving the Council Meeting Calendar for 2017

Discussion: None

10. Approving the 2017 Holiday Schedule

Discussion: None

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

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia Street: Good evening. I am coming up about Resolution #3, authorizing the use of Associated Humane for five years. Some of the questions that I have are that if Associated Humane is brought under charges by the Department of Health, or the New Jersey SPCA, can Clark get out of that contract?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Delia Collins: Is there any cost savings by signing up for five years?

Mr. Laezza: We are getting the same price that we have now, so the price is good for five years, there are no increases in price.

Township Clerk: There is no cost because we are not bidding. Bidding actually cost money.

Delia Collins: Oh it does? Okay. Can I get a copy of the contract?

Township Clerk: As soon as we sign it.

Mr. Triarsi: Once it is signed it becomes a matter of public record.

Delia Collins: Also, if there is dissatisfaction by the Township with the services provided by Associated Humane can we get out of the contract at that point.

Mr. Triarsi: We will have to take a look at the contract to see how it is drawn.

Delia Collins: Because Associated Humane is not the best.

Mr. Triarsi: Well, I will make sure there is a provision there for some type of cancellation.

Delia Collins: Because there are a lot of things that are said and I don't want to say it because it would be public. I would rather not say anything that might bring a law suit against me or something.

Mr. Triarsi: Good thing that you mentioned that, it is something to look at.

Delia Collins: There have been issues and they have killed animals. They are not the best and they could be the worst and I hope you never have an animal taken there. Does this include wildlife or just domesticated animals?

Mr. Laezza: I don't think that it includes deer.

Delia Collins: Who does that in our town?

Mr. Laezza: The State does that and the County does that. You would have to call either the County or the State.

Mr. Triarsi: According to their brochure, nuisance wildlife is part of their effort to work with the area residents, they take proactive stances to ensure the safety of the wildlife, they save hundreds of dollars instead of sending the wildlife to a pest control.

Delia Collins: They had two incidences last night in Watchung. Two bucks had their legs broken and they just laid on the side of the road. I am just asking for the humane part of it all. I mean I am only one person but there are other groups out there. Edie was kind enough to send me the law, the State Statute about the five-year commitment. Thank you. If I hear anything I will let you know, you know that.

Mr. Triarsi: Let me just answer one of her questions Mr. President.

Council President Hund: Sure.

Mr. Triarsi: Paragraph 17 of this contract says that, “except for nonpayment the agreement may be terminated during the term by either party upon 30 days’ notice”.

Delia Collins: Okay, thank you.

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

Aye: Albanese, Barr, Mazzarella, Smith, Toal, Hund

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I see with just wrapping up with the election last night, and going through the literature, and the Candidates Night, and questions come up every other September and October about where tax dollars’ go, and what it takes to run a town, even a moderate town like we have here in Clark. You look at the tax appeals tonight and the answer is why. You look out here (in the room) and there are really no potential candidates, that I would know of, in the future. It is very helpful to people that want to seek public office to continue to be vigilant and understand what is going on in these walls so that when it comes time for election, they “get it” verses talking about inconsequential things that really don’t matter. If you look at the Hyatt Hills, this predates my administration, and I was on the Council then and I remember going through these tax appeals because everything was peaked at the highest point when they went to build it verses looking at it logically and saying to get rich quick today and you will be giving most of it back in three to five years. Sure enough that always happens. There is another strain on your tax dollars, giving credits and paying this stuff back. To keep it as a golf course, you are taking measures tonight with our Fair Share Housing Plan that Mr. Triarsi said isn’t just against Clark, it is many towns and many counties throughout New Jersey that are going through this. Most all, right Joe?

Mr. Triarsi: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: This here creates legal fees, and planners work, and engineering work that all cost money, because the liberal lefts beliefs in the State of New Jersey just wants to worry about constantly the entitlements to those up there. It is a shame. They want to come and want to run for office and they have all the answers with taxes, what if they were here? I could go back to a candidate that lost on a Tuesday and was at a meeting on a Wednesday, that was Pete Nevargic, because his desire to serve kept going and returning. That is my own little personal pet peeve, it does not make anybody good or bad, it just makes it that people should understand government when they are sending out mail and talking at debates on where this goes, and where that goes. That is all that I have for tonight.

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Township Clerk: Mayor, Jennifer said that you were going to talk about this (the Report to the People).

Mayor Bonaccorso: Come down to my office after this I have the calendars. Jennifer made up a sample for you and I want you guys to go through it and read it to make sure everything is in order before she goes to print with it. I had to give that to you before but I forgot.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just want to mention that next Friday evening the Library is having, on the 18th of November, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, a wine and cheese fundraiser to celebrate their 50th Anniversary of the building of the Library. Originally it was in a store front and then the building was built by the efforts of the Friends of the Library, and they want to celebrate that. There will be different music played from 1966, they will feature movies, they will have other different interesting facts and mementos around during the event to celebrate that time in history. I am hoping that we have a little soap box of the senior talking about what it was like to live in Clark that year, or what they were doing that year, or what they remember about 1966. The next day they are having a vendor event, if anyone is interested in that, that will be all day. Also, next weekend on Friday and Saturday is the play at ALJ, if anyone is interested in that, that is Dracula. So that is always a fun event to go to. It could be better attended.

Councilman Smith: It is only five dollars a ticket.

Councilwoman Albanese: It is five dollars a ticket, definitely a bargain. I have to say that over the years the performances have really improved.

I do have a question about Veteran's Day. What is the celebration time?

Mayor Bonaccorso: I am going to teach you how to remember the way I remember, 11,11,11, the 11th day, the 11th month at the 11th hour.

Councilman Mazzearella: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is how I learned it when I was on council.

Councilwoman Albanese: It is always held at the high school because that is where the monument is.

Councilman Barr: I hope people realize, I know that they don't come to meetings, but decisions that we had to make tonight, we don't take anything lightly and every decision we make is always, absolutely, in the best interest of the township. I hope people realize that.

Councilman Mazzearella: That event that is going to be at the library for the 1960's right?

Councilwoman Albanese: Right. The library was built in 66, that was 50 years ago.

Councilman Mazzearella: One other comment, congratulations Sal.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you.

Councilman Mazzearella: Congratulations Angel, Al and Bill. Clark has spoken and the country has spoken. We are into a new direction.

Workshop Council Meeting November 9, 2016..... 7

Councilman Smith: I just have one thing. Ralph wanted me to bring up November 20th. There is going to be a skate night. Unfortunately, we don't have a Public Meeting to share this. It is going to be at Woodbridge Roller Skating, 6pm to 8pm.

Councilwoman Albanese: This is the first one. This is a new event.

Councilman Smith: November 20th, on a Sunday night.

Councilman Toal: Congratulations to the Mayor, Councilwoman Albanese, Councilman Barr and Councilman Smith. It was an historical night again in the Township of Clark.

Two side issues, again, I was standing at the polls all day with Councilman Smith, which was an honor, and I got the residents hitting me with different issues. Mrs. Falzone at the end of Rolling Hill Way, we addressed a letter from a letter of the DOT for the fencing along the Parkway and I just need to get another letter out to the DOT on that. The fencing has not become a safety issue with the deer coming though from the Parkway property onto ours and causing damage.

Councilwoman Albanese: Which street was that on?

Councilman Toal: Rolling Hill Way.

I was talking to the Clerk yesterday about this, there was a resident that came up and needed the Clerk when I was in front of Kumpf and I couldn't get a hold of the Clerk.... I didn't call your cell....

Township Clerk: That is true, you did not call my cell.

Councilman Toal: I did not have her cell phone number and I asked one of the cops. The officer came by and I asked the officer to call headquarters (to contact the Clerk) and then headquarters comes back to us and says that (the Clerk's Office) was closed. Okay, technically they are but we just needed better communication.

Councilwoman Albanese: They were not closed.

Township Clerk: We were open from 5 am till 9:30 pm.

Councilman Toal: When you have the dispatcher at the front desk telling the officer that was helping me out that they (the Clerk's Office) were closed. We were just trying to help a resident out in need.

Councilman Mazzarella: Well they were closed for normal business.

Councilman Toal: That was a communicational issue. What I am just trying to say for the next cycle is that there should be a walkie talkie for her.

Mr. Laezza: The dispatcher should have known better.

Councilman Smith: Just call her cell phone number.

Councilwoman Albanese: Just call the building, that is what I did.

Workshop Council Meeting November 9, 2016..... 8
Councilman Toal: They could have done a lot of things but no one was answering.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay, I called the Clerk several times and they answered every time.

Councilman Mazzearella: In all due respect technically the Clerk's Office was closed to normal business hours, they were functioning as a sole support of the election.

Township Clerk: But we did office stuff.

Councilman Mazzearella: I understand that, but you have to understand and you have to relate that to the people of Clark.

Councilman Toal: We have to have a little bit better communication next time.

One last thing, on the Madison Hill Road bridge, is there an update because it is getting dangerous?

Mayor Bonaccorso: What is wrong with that?

Councilman Toal: It is dangerous it is getting more....

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is a County project.

Councilman Toal: Can we just get an update from them?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, I will try to find out for you. What I am thinking is when the Governor decided to pull funding that he had that they probably started another job and didn't finish it or they are in the middle of it. I will try to find out.

Councilman Toal: For the public Sal, that was the number one question all day yesterday.

Mr. Laezza: I have a letter that I am reading for Delia. I have an email dated November 1, 2016, "Hi John, I have not forgotten about you I have been out to the location two times now, once in the day and once at night to see what we should do here. I am in the process of working up the agreement to add few new (inaudible) on this road as well as working with Cranford to upgrade, add a few new lights, since the light on the corner of Walnut and Raritan is a Cranford light. I am also suggesting to Cranford to add additional lights in front of Dunkin Donuts on Raritan Road since that intersection is very dark. I hope to have some paperwork to sign off by the end of the week, Thanks, Bob, Use Public Service, Electric and Gas."

Delia Collins: Thank you.

Mr. Laezza: Your welcome.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You guys are aware that the Planning Board passed, the other night, on the corner or Terminal and Central a Dunkin Donuts with a drive thru. How many stores?

Mr. Laezza: Seven stores.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Seven stores, the bank that is there now is going to take one. It looks like to be a nice project.

Council President Hund: I will just finish up by saying congratulations to the Mayor, Councilwoman Albanese, Councilman Barr and Councilman Smith. The people came out and showed that they completely agreed with the way the town is run. Congratulations to all of you.

Township Clerk: Ditto on the congratulations.

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, Mazzearella, Smith, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT

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COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
December 5, 2016
7:30 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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 (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark by posting such annual meeting schedule on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements and the proper filing of said notice.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement with Amalgamated General Agencies for 2017

Discussion: None

Council President asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Motion: Mazzarella Second: Smith

2. Award of Professional Services contracts through a fair and open process for 2017:
RFP opening December 7th

- A. Auditor
- B. Engineering Services
- C. Professional Planner
- D. Labor Attorney
- E. Bond Counsel
- F. Special Counsel and Director of Law

Discussion: None

Council President asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Motion: Barr Second: Albanese

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

3. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle tax appeals authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey with refunds in the amount of \$840,459.89 and credit to be issued in the amount of \$91,562.31 as detailed in the filed schedule

Discussion: None

4. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Taxes in the amount of \$36,432.48

Discussion: None

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of Sewer Fees in the amount of \$112.50

Discussion: None

6. Appointing Special Police Officers effective January 1, 2017

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Police Chief to issue Clothing Bin Permits for the year 2017

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzearella: I have a question for the Chief on number 7, there any additional clothing bin permit other than what we have?

Township Clerk: I didn't compare it honestly from last year. One is the same company but it has one extra bin.

Councilman Mazzearella: Now the one on Valley Road is a new one?

Chief Matos: 111 Valley Road.

Mr. Laezza: That is the new one.

Councilman Mazzearella: Where is 111 (Valley Road)?

Chief Matos: It is by Mother Seton by Brant Avenue.

Councilman Mazzearella: I am saying because that is pretty residential and where is it going to be?

Chief Matos: I believe that it is the Temple.

Mr. Laezza: It probably is the Temple.

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

Motion: 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 opens the meeting to the public

Delia Collins, 72 Georgia St: Good evening. Am I permitted to ask the Mayor a question about his remarks from a prior meeting tonight.

Mayor Bonaccorso: About what? Sure.

Delia Collins: Regarding I might have been zoned out but at the time you had mentioned the County does not pay us any taxes for any of the land that they own.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Correct.

Delia Collins: Okay. Because I was doing a project for someone and the property next to St. Agnes, the white house that was (Mayor Bonaccorso: Right) on the "TAX", when you go onto the Our Clark site and you look at the taxes, it is listed as a cemetery, when you go on to pay your taxes and you put in the address, but it says that it is owned by Union County.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Delia, I would have to look.

Delia Collins: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: At one-time St. Agnes tried to sell that for a cemetery so who knows if they put that house under some name. I am only guessing, I don't know. But we would have to find that out. That is all Union County property. They paid St. Agnes 11 million that time.

Councilman Toal: The house next door is a private lot that was sold. It was a private lot that the County then incorporated into the bigger parcel which the Mayor is talking about.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So you are saying that it was probably owned by a cemetery company?

Councilman Toal: Never a cemetery company.

Delia Collins: I think the Archdiocese of Newark.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is right, I remember that. That is probably why. But the County is not paying us taxes on that, the County owns it.

Delia Collins: No, it says zero.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Just like the City of Trenton where we get stuck (tape inaudible) the State House and all of those State Buildings down there, they don't pick up any money from the State Government.

Delia Collins: A question regarding Hyatt Hills (Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.) If that is ever taken over by the County that would have to be an agreement between Cranford and Clark?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Mr. Laezza: Correct.

Delia Collins: Because I do worry about if there is ever going to be development there. Because once the County takes over they could build a structure.

Mr. Laezza: No they cannot.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They can't.

Delia Collins: Even though they are doing it in Oak Ridge Park?

Mayor Bonaccorso: It would have to be within "Recreation". Delia is correct, you are correct, but it would have to be within the recreation structure of the property. Now let me say one thing to you to be honest with you, with everybody, the County wants to really take it as a golf course because they feel it would be a good payback.... not to speak for the County, but with the conversations I've had, a good payback for the senior citizens who got upset when Oak Ridge closed. But let's say in 25 years from now, a hundred years from now, the County wanted to level the golf course and make it into soccer fields and an indoor soccer building, they could do that because it is recreation, they own the project, which it would still be Delia, like micro plasm compared to what they wanted to put up there when they tried to sell the property, Racer Trust. I mean, you guys saw it, I showed it to you, every square inch of the property was covered with a building. You would not be happy living on Georgia Street. None of us would have been happy living in Clark quite honestly. So I mean my thing and I the only thing that I want to do is to make sure that property gets into County hands so it will forever say "open space/recreation"

Delia Collins: And they can't change that?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No they can't because we pay money out of our tax bill towards the Recreation/Open Space Trust and they can never ever reverse that.

Delia Collins: Okay.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So that is a good thing.

Delia Collins: Yes. I mean you don't want to have high-rises.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No. Delia, if I would have showed you the plan you would have just been like, "wow".

Delia Collins: Okay thank you.

Council President asked for a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

Motion: Albanese Second: O'Connor

Council President Hund directed roll call:

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: I just wanted to say that the tree and menorah lighting went really great, it was really nice. Ralph and his gang did a great job. The Breakfast with Santa, which all of you attended was really great, there were a lot of happy people that day. If anybody saw the editorial in the Local Source it was very disappointing to me that when we lit up the tree and decorations we lit the Menorah with it and you know after that it was shut down, Councilman Barr always takes care of the candles each night. He has always done that for the 16 years that we have had it out there, we have had the Rabbi out there, the Canter out there, we have always done everything to respect everyone's religious rights in Clark. And they wrote an article, if you haven't seen it yet, an editorial about how it was a nice intent but we committed a bad thing by lighting that up. I read it again today and it is like, "no good deed goes unpunished", if we didn't light it maybe there would be Jewish people out here saying..... It was a celebratory gesture, that is all that it was it was not to offend anybody's holiday religious rights. Al and I have been friends for a lot of years before politics we knew each other. Believe me if there was something that we were doing wrong he would have come to me as a friend and said, "Sal, you can't do that" and we wouldn't have, right?

Councilman Barr: Absolutely.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is why I always have a lot of respect for you folks and we appreciate that. I wanted to say something and then I say you know what it's not really worth me starting over because I am going to get aggravated and then I am going to be at war with the Local Source and how many wars can you fight at one time?

I am laying around on Sunday morning and this dear friend of mine send me this messenger that kind of lit my fire up yesterday. It is a Westfield Facebook Page and this guy says, "Panera is moving their sales and manufacturing jobs to Springfield and even Clark, let's face it we can't send our kids there because of all the bad hombres" I ordered a hundred of these hats to start the campaign, message me if you are willing to wear one around town" So then, just bear with me a minute more, the other posting says, "Build a wall and move to Clark and make Clark pay for it" Yeah, like we are as stupid as Westfield. "Oh my God, is this real life? Good idea Laura" I would

probably have to thank my wife who basically jumped on top of me and say, "Please, please, please don't answer them" So I am going to let it lie for now until I have to answer them and then when I do it will be like a Trump and Rubio hit, believe me. First of all, they should understand that Panera is doing great in Clark that is why they are closing Westfield and secondly, Whole Food chose Clark over Westfield, so I guess they are a little sour about those kinds of things.

The holiday weekend went really well, we are winding down the year and everybody is getting ready for next year. We are going to start running out of the blocks guys because me and Al and Angel and Bill got a big hit here with the election and you know I feel the vibe that we have to keep driving and keep doing better and keep doing more.

The DPW, I'm going to tell you something guys, they were a rag tag outfit 16 years ago and I rode them like a horse for two years. And they are unbelievable, the job that they are doing right now. We have 9000 yards of leave collected, probably going to 12,000 yards we are thinking that they should have about his year. That is a guess-imation. But I'll tell you what, we have been through the town eight times.

Councilman O'Connor: And December 18th is the last day, right?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well we always tell everyone December 10th.

Councilman O'Connor: That is what came out on Facebook.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are going to go until Christmas and I will tell you what, if it is after Christmas they are going to get put back on people's lawn because enough is enough. But we always like to have people out earlier then later and they are just doing a tremendous job. You ride through the streets of this town and there are just little piles laying around. So I gave them a lot of thanks today when I spoke to Scott McCabe, they are doing very well. So that's my comments, thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: I don't want to repeat what the Mayor said, it was just wonderful, the weather cooperated, it was a great time for the holiday celebration.

Councilman Barr: I would just like to say a little bit more about that article that was in the Local Source. I have been there since that menorah was put up, it was donated actually by a temple member. And it was there before Rabbi Zell, Rabbi Zell was there and Canter Stern. We have been there all the time. It is a holiday money, so I am saying to the people publicly who were complaining about it, stop. It's a good thing, it's been a good thing and it is going to continue.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Do you think that anybody complained about it or do you think that they were just here?

Councilman Barr: Actually I was starting to think that maybe it was some Anti-Semitic people who may have said that and are trying to cause trouble.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know.

Councilman Barr: But it's a fine thing and it has been there for 16 years and we have done the same thing each time. It is lit up the first night to show a holiday, it is a holiday month and then it turned off and I will take care of it when Chanukah comes, which by the way, the first time in 50 years that it falls on the same day as Christmas. And that's my final say on this.

Councilman Mazzearella: Again, with this menorah issue. It's much to say about nothing. There are malcontents out there whether they be in the media or whether they be residents. They are always out there ready to shoot from the hip to point fingers and all of that. Why? I don't know. I mean maybe they are unhappy with their lives but that all I have to say about that.

Councilman O'Connor: I will expand on this at the public meeting but I was fortunate enough to be invited by the Emergency Squad for their installation dinner and awards luncheon yesterday, where I saw the installation of the new officers and I got to interact with the members and I will expand of that at the meeting. I just wanted to say I appreciate their invitation.

Councilman Smith: If anyone is interested 5:30 on Sunday if you want to see a streak come to an end when I officiate the game, please come out. That's all I have to say.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. President as we finish out your last executive meeting, we will see you at the public meeting. I was on Prescott Turn yesterday, residents are okay, we had a little bit of a dust ball on the one side, I was going to bring it to your attention because the contractor put down something for the dust. One side of the street, of course.....

Mr. Laezza: It rained. The dust went down immediately.

Councilman Toal: I had this long conversation with Councilman O'Connor's mother.

Councilman O'Connor: She is not complaining, she is happy.

Councilman Toal: She was happy and she went on about a lot of different issues. I had a great conversation. Good people, people are happy, that is my point being. Besides the dust on the one side that the people brought to my attention I told them that we will send someone over to take care of the dust.

Mr. Laezza: Today we had an installation of a piece of equipment on our TV 36 Studio. Starting January 1st, every meeting will be streamed so that it will be a continuance so that if anybody wants to see what is going on they don't have to go through an OPRA Request. We will notify the citizens of this goings on so that they will be about to get it by January 1st. I will probably have our TV people put all the tapes that are had in 2016 onto the TV, onto the streaming so that people can go back and look at every meeting in 2016. I am planning from 2017 on to have both our Planning Board Meeting taped, not live, but taped so that they could be streamed. And our Zoning Board Meetings taped so that they could be streamed. And then basically that any attorney or citizen that wants to look at Planning Board meetings and Zoning Boards meetings could be provide at their pleasure. So we are trying to get more transparency that we have ever been.

Mayor Bonaccorso: When you watch the Planning Board meeting they are so boring. When you go to a meeting and everyone in the place is agreeing and you have to listen to every boring engineer in the room and they are so boring, one sounds like the other, it is brutal.

One other thing I want to mention and I hope you guys know. Meg Kolaya, our old librarian passed away at 69 years old with brain cancer. Meg was an excellent librarian when she was here, right or wrong John?

Mr. Laezza: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We loved her. She quit here the time the Democrats voted down the library addition. She said that Clark was not progressive enough and if this is how they feel about their library and I begged her to stay and told her that we would win and take it back and build the addition. She said, "Mayor, I would love to believe you and I really want to believe you but I am not waiting around to see" And she went over to Scotch Plains. We lost a really good lady. And then another one came in and now we have Dawn, who is terrific also, thank God. But that was a big loss to the library (Councilwoman Albanese: Yes) I hope that she rests in peace, she was a very nice lady, it's a shame. I was so upset to see that Susan when you posted it.

Township Clerk: No comment.

Chief Matos: If you are not aware we had our first residential burglary occurred on November 29th. We have increased patrols in that area. The pattern kind of matches the mo of certain burglaries that occurred last year so we think that it might be the same person. But we have increased patrols in the area, we have tried to alert the surrounding neighborhoods to be on the lookout for anything suspicious in their neighborhood. And that investigation is ongoing.

Last night we had about 8 unlocked motor vehicles get entered into also in that same general area on the other side of Valley Road, closer to Ross Street. That investigation has progressed fairly quickly, today we already have pictures of the two individuals we believe that are connected to the burglaries. We posted them on Facebook and we also alerted obviously the residents to lock their car doors. We are going into the Christmas season, don't leave valuables in your car, lock your car doors.

Councilman O'Connor: We had the breaks in's earlier in the year, you said it, "lock your doors" it is not hard.

Chief Matos: It is still a lot better than it was last year. We have only had two instances this year when we had the rash of large number of car burglaries. One which was the first week of the year in January and we made an arrest on those, and now this one. So for residential burglaries this is our first. It is a lot better.

Councilwoman Albanese: Isn't it happening in surrounding towns as well? Similar activity right?

Chief Matos: A lot, a lot. We are actually very, very low compared to the surrounding communities. I think that it is because we are being proactive, we are putting it out there, letting

people know that this is happening and making sure that we have the information that they need to protect themselves. I hope to think that it is a big part of it.

Councilman Barr: Chief, I have a question that I would like to ask with the houses, I know I, when we are not in the house, the house is never dark. We always have some lights and I just wondered if that would persuade some people to think twice.

Chief Matos: Absolutely. I always say to try and make it look like your house is lived in and that someone is there. That might not always be possible but in this specific instance the house was alarmed and as soon as they went in, as soon as they made entry, forced entry they got scared off by the alarm. They only took two pieces of jewelry.

Councilman O'Connor: So can I say one thing? So from what I have heard and correct me if I am wrong, burglars go right to the bedroom because that is where everyone keeps their jewelry. Don't keep your jewelry in the bedrooms because that is where they go first.

Chief Matos: I remember growing up there was always that story of when you get home and everything is gone, not even the tv is there. That doesn't happen most burglaries are small items that have some value, mainly jewelry, maybe a PlayStation, something that whoever takes it is going to be able to turn around, sell it, and unfortunately it is almost always related to drugs use.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT

