

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**February 3, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as Adequate Notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the annual schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, 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 sale of \$500,000 Special Emergency Notes of the Township of Clark, in the County of Union, New Jersey and providing for other matters in connection therewith

**Discussion:**

John Laezza: The state is going to be good to local governments when they mandate any such of this nature. They allow you to put it in your regular budget and then you only have to pay return at one fifth a year for five years. So, you have five years to generate the cash (tape inaudible) in the budget or this gives us two authorizations, we can either go to the bank or use our own money.

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Albanese

2. Award of Contract to Appraisal Systems, Inc. for the Revaluation of all Real Property within the Township

**Discussion:**

John Laezza: We have gone out for proposals from every evaluation company throughout the State of New Jersey. We've received two proposals, one from Appraisals Systems and one from Realty Appraisals. It was a substantial differential between the prices and quality of work for each of the firms. We will be awarding the contract to Appraisals, they will prepare the contract, once we get the contract it has to go to the State Division of Taxation for their approval before we can award.

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

Mover: Smith Second: Hund

3. Appointing Albert C. Bauer, III as a Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer

**Discussion:** none

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

Mover: Hund                      Second: Barr

4. Authorizing the Director of the Clark Public Library to submit a grant application for the project entitled the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act

Discussion:

John Laezza: The bond issuance was passed in 2017, the State just got around to generating the rules. The library needs a replacement in the entirety of a HVAC and basically (tape inaudible) and the library will be part of this project and a few other miscellaneous items that the director and I have been working on. Once we get the grant application, we will be waiting for State approval or whatever the application is we have to match half of it. So, we're working on that.

Councilwoman Albanese: We'll get fifty cents on the dollar. Many people will be applying but we should definitely be in for it.

John Laezza: The maximum you can apply for is twelve million five hundred thousand dollars, but we're not even going to get that.

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

Mover: Entire Council                      Second: Entire Council

5. Establishing Goals for Contracting with Veteran owned Businesses, Hiring Veterans in the Municipal Workforce and Recognizing the Military Service of Residents in the Civic Affairs of the Township of Clark

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Entire Council                      Second: Entire Council

**COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS THE MUNICIPAL POOL UTILITY:**

6. Award of Contract for Pool Maintenance for the 2020 and 2021 seasons (Bid opening Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>)

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

Mover: Smith                      Second: Hund

7. Award of Contract for the Operation of the Pool Concession Stand (Bid opening Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>)

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

Mover: Smith                      Second: Albanese

8. Authorizing and Directing the Council President to enter into Pool Employment Contracts

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

Mover: Smith                      Second: Hund

**9.        Authorizing the Pool Rates and Fees to be charged for the 2020 Season**

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

Mover: Smith                      Second: Hund

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**10.        Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the amount of \$140.00**

**11.        Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$20,212.90**

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

Mover: Toal                      Second: Albanese

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Council President O'Connor opened the public portion of the meeting

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, thank you Mr. President. In your packets you have a nice write up, obviously you saw it already, but I'm just reminded you to take that out and put it aside about the appraisal and revel, because if the citizens call you, you can scan it and email it to them, it's pretty self-explanatory. As you see in the resolution, we were for the record mandated by the Union County Board of Taxation to go ahead with the revel. We pushed this off for many years. Clark's last revel was in the 80's, so we are well, well overdo. You know it seems like it's a (tape inaudible) where a third of a house is maybe adjusted downward, a third maybe the property stays the same and it could be a third that go upward. Council we can't help that, this is the law we live in, we are elected to follow laws, that's our duty, that's our job and we have to do what we need to do. We have pushed this off for quite a bit. John talked about this back in 2000 when we won and we first started and then we had the Rahway Valley Sewerage debacle in 2006, and we said how much more can we do, you know it just keeps getting pushed along the way. So, finally they came in and mandated it and we are going to follow the law and do what they need to do.

The thing is John is going to be on this and we had a long conversation, the end result is if you don't like the assess that you have, there will be a meeting date where you can go either here or to the courthouse depending where we set that venue at and they can argue their case.

Other than that, we've had a blessed winter without any snow and ice and problems. We had two salting events this year so far, no big deal, it didn't hurt anything. Everything is just moving along fine. John has the budget almost done which we'll be giving it to you soon. The police station... the real work should begin very shortly, so we're waiting for that. I'm sure the day we dig the foundation we'll have snow and ice, so we'll see what happens, but everything is moving along good. Any questions?

Councilwoman Albanese: Just on the revaluation. So, what's the time frame, like when do you start, how does it work?

John Laezza: Well, we start as soon as the Division of Taxation approves our contract. So, I would say if we award the contract in March and if we send it down to them in March, we'll probably get a response back by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The company will start April 1<sup>st</sup>, it's usually a 9 to 10-month operation.

Councilwoman Albanese: So, we'll go in when the taxes change (tape inaudible).

John Laezza: No.

Council President O'Connor: But they anticipate in (tape inaudible) appeals.

John Laezza: No, the contract that we have (tape inaudible) finish the projects, the citizens complain to us, we set up appointments for all of the citizens, they listen to them and they make their adjustments if they agree or disagree and then they certify to the Division of Taxation when completed. If it's not complete by January 6, 2021, it can be in the 2021 budget, the assessment should be completed by October 1 of each year of the prior year. So, we'll get these done sometime in 2021. The contract with the Appraisal Systems is they have if there are appeals subsequent to us striking the rate. We have two years to use their assessors to be our support against the Division of Taxation upon their appeals. There ratings over the years on their own contracts that they have say that there right eighty-six percent of the time on any new appeals. So, it's a pretty good track record. And so, it should help our subsequent appeals other than what we are getting now a days.

Councilwoman Albanese: In the Division of Taxation why do they have to review the contract, is it the amount?

John Laezza: They want to make sure that the contractor is giving us the right work. We had to make sure that...they are the oversighting agency for everything. And that's why this is taking so long because we had to renew our tax maps to be digital tax maps, they put in a lot of new work so it costs us probably over the last...we've been doing this out of our budget for the last three years and it's costs us close to three hundred thousand dollars.

Councilwoman Albanese: and the other bidder, how much was it?

John Laezza: The other bidder was five hundred and thirty-seven thousand.

Councilwoman Albanese: Just thanking the council for supporting resolution for the library to get that funding. Unfortunately, it had taken many years for the State to even get the forms out and I don't know how long it will take to get them back.

Councilman Barr: Thanked the council for authorizing the firefighter.

Councilman Hund: no comments.

Councilman Mazzarella: no comments.

Councilman Smith: The Clark Travel Basketball Tournament starts February 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, Presidents' weekend. So, they will take over the building that weekend. I just want to thank the council and the administration and the town for allowing them to do that for the kids.

Mayor Bonaccorso: 221 teams.

Council President O'Connor: I'm sure that that does a lot for Clark economy with regard to local businesses.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, you know it does, even though we have a concession stand down there with great food, you do see people going to Manny's, going to some of the burger places and stuff like that. So yes, it does, it definitely helps the economy around local businesses. And you know it also says a lot about our facility. Bill and I and Steve coached basketball for many years and if the facility stinks you are not going back first of all, but people like our facilities here and they really get into it, so it's fun.

Councilman Smith: We actually use the two gyms here, the two gyms at the high school and at St. Agnes and Kumpf.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Mr. President. The issue of the revaluation. I was on Council in 1985 when we did it. The biggest issue back then with the residents was that they knew nothing about it. It's a different age now without a computer and everything else back then, Mayor Nucera sent out a flyer to everyone and notification that it is coming, be prepared, get your permits up to date. It was just the people's basic complaint back in 1985, many years ago, that they were never notified of it. That was their biggest complaint back then.

John Laezza: Well, you'll probably have the same thing this year. We will be sending out letters but when I talked to the Appraisal Systems, we'll be going on television to talk about it and explain.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Brian, let me tell you something about that. When we in 2006 went to the Sewer Utility, John and I did a whole TV program on it. I did a presentation at a Council meeting, we did it at another Council meeting, there had to be five Star Ledger news article on it and maybe more than that in the local papers. And the day those bills went out we had a line from here to Manny's Diner saying what the heck is this all about. So, there are some people no matter what you do, they are never ever going to pay attention to what you send them.

Councilman Toal: The other issue I had is two roads; Washington Street, I need to get public works down there, there's a dangerous and I mean this word, dangerous, pothole right just before the apartments. If you can get somebody out there. I know the weather becomes back to where we are filling potholes. And the other question about when we had the street done, like we had Mildred Terrace a year or two ago, the street is falling apart. And if we can get back the vendor to look at the street and do a new revaluation.

Mayor Bonaccorso: What the problem is Brian and I agree with you no doubt. We have the State of New Jersey with our clean water, clean this, clean that, it has changed the mix of the blacktop and taken a lot of oils out of the blacktop. Streets that when we were kids were paved, they were good for forty years. It's like we can't get around fast enough. Streets we did ten years ago we got (tape inaudible) it's a crying shame. It's not to work with you buddy, it's the material.

Councilman Toal: You know where I'm concern about Mildred Terrace and the school. It's crazy in the morning.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Not only that buddy, it's everywhere, and I've complained in the past and O'Connor and I have no reason to doubt him on this said to me, Mayor, it's what they are not putting in the material and a lot of the things they are doing now is they are recycling the old blacktop and reusing that, reheating it and remixing it, and that's not working out as well. So yeah, we are in trouble, I mean everybody, it's not just Clark. We all order the blacktop from the same place and it's all over.

Councilman Toal: I totally understand that. But again, take a look at Washington Street.

Council President O'Connor: Just one clarification, when the mayor referred to O'Connor, he referred to Rich O'Connor.

John Laezza: no comments.

Attorney Triarsi: I have no comments.

Township Clerk: no comments.

Council President O'Connor: My comments will be held until the public meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Council President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**March 2, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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. **20-11 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE 2020 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$750,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS**

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: Basically, Council President and Members of Council these are five roads that are in the 2020 Capital Program, Picton Avenue, Evans Terrace, Linda Lane, Post Road and Circle, and Rainbow Drive, they are all through roads.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mr. Laezza: We will have another ordinance later on in the year for NJDOT Project which we will be Wilson Drive, Emerald and Emerald Court.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Mr. Laezza: We will have another ordinance later on in the year for the New Jersey DOT Project will be Wilson Drive, Emerald and Emerald Court. That will be another \$750,000 with a \$329,000 grant from the State of New Jersey. That will also include a traffic light on Westfield Avenue.

We have another Bond Ordinance this year predicated on what kind of grant we'll get for the library. We estimate that should be a \$550,000 ordinance with a 50% grant from the State of New Jersey. If we get the grant, we'll write the ordinance.

No further discussion

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

**1A. 20-12 BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FIELD AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH CLARK BASEBALL PROGRAMS IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$200,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS**

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: This is for the "Park and Recreation Program" ...basically, (inaudible) to match whatever grants we get from the county. We have a \$42,000 grant from the county. Basically, it is predicated for the use of improving the areas around the baseball field, parking lot, dugouts, and fencing. One of the major improvements to a field that's been there for many years and that needs upgrading.

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

Mover: Smith Second: Hund

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**1B. INTRODUCTION OF THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Discussion:

Councilman O'Connor: The Finance Committee met with the Business Administrator regarding the budget. We took a look at it and it was a good budget, as usual. Mr. Laezza, do you have any more comments on it?

Mr. Laezza: Basically, it is a budget that accommodates the new salary contracts. We have contracts for White Collar and Police through 2023. We amended the DPW budget and we told them if the other two unions got more, we would adjust theirs. Now we have equal increases for equal work predicated on what everybody gets. The budget has some items in it usually done as capital items, they will not be recurring next year. We have been able to build up rainy funds of 4½ million-dollar surplus over the years. We are using some of that surplus to maintain a non-tax increase for municipal purposes this year.

Councilman O'Connor: Right, a non-tax increase for municipal purposes.

Mr. Laezza: It is probably less because the 2.30 tax rate includes the library. So, the municipal purposes will be a refund and it will be less than it ever was.

Mayor Bonaccorso: A reduction.

Mr. Laezza: A reduction.

Mayor Bonaccorso: How much John? Right now, the 2.30 tax rate including the library tax.

John Laezza: Probably 1.1 cent decrease. It has nothing to do with the grant for the library.

Mayor Bonaccorso: When you talk about the library, is there tax on that?

John Laezza: Yes, a library tax.

Councilwoman Albanese: It has to be separately stated on the tax bill.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That's good to hear.

Council President O'Connor: Yes, and in my opinion, I guess it shows how well the administration works for the residents of Clark.

Councilman Smith: Will the county follow suit?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Some of these PILOTS such as Walnut Avenue Valley Road apartments we are going to finally reap what we are supposed to get. Without sending to the county, we will finally reap some of the benefits for the years that we scraped and saved and have to provide tax appeals that the school and the county did not have to pay, we paid. All that stuff that we have been doing here for 20 years I think that we will be in a pretty good shape in the next few years. Like I said when we made a deal with one of the developers so far, a lot of the money is coming back into the community, to our budget.

Councilman O'Connor: Good work, thank you. So, council please take a look at the budget and if you have any questions reach out to Mr. Laezza or the Mayor. This will be introduced on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Laezza: It will be advertised on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the public hearing and adoption on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you Council.

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

Mover: O'Connor                      Second: Albanese

- 1C.**     Award of Contract to HBK IT for Information Technology and Network Support Services in the amount of \$1,750.00 per month

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Albanese

- 2.**       **Council as the Board of Health:** Accepting and Approving the Annual Health Report for 2019

Discussion: none

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

Mover: O'Connor

Second: Smith

**3. Discussion: School Board Election Date REMOVED #3**

4. Award of Contract for the Operation of the Pool Concession Stand (Bid opening March 4<sup>th</sup>) Council note: There were no bidders for the February 5<sup>th</sup> Bid opening. Minimum bid dropped from \$7,500.00 to \$6,500.00 for the second round at the direction of the Recreation Director.

Township Clerk: We went out the first time and did not receive any bids. So, the minimum bid was reduced. This is a new bid; it's been reduced from \$7,500.00 to \$6,500.00 as a minimum. reduced. This is a new bid; it's been reduced from \$7,500.00 to \$6,500.00 as a minimum.

Councilman Hund: Did they not make money last year?

Township Clerk: Last year's vendor paid the township I think eleven thousand dollars and had a rainy season.

Councilman Hund: Okay.

Mayor Bonaccorso: (tape inaudible) Steve. Even during the regular year's, you can't make money up there.

Township Clerk: So, it's something that's kind of in many places going by the wayside because nobody is able to get vendors to do a concession.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Bill, I made a suggestion, you are head of the pool, I made a suggestion to Ralph. Do what we do with travel basketball, get Donna (Dinny's Dinners) to sell chicken sliders there, you can bring them in. Maybe you can get a little pizza oven, some ice cream, soda, water and maybe some candy and chips, hire some kids to work back there when we do at the tournaments. At least you are provided something versus nothing.

Councilman Smith: So, the Pool Utility would buy the food, the refreshments and stuff.

Council President O'Connor: I don't know how that would work with the Board of Health.

Councilman Smith: She will be fine, it's just like a concession at the softball or little league.

Councilwoman Albanese: What about food preparation?

Councilman Smith: There's no preparation.

Mr. Laezza: Let's see what we get from the bids.

Council President O'Connor: So, the worst-case scenario we get no bids for second round and then we negotiate.

Councilman Smith: A few years ago, the guy made money, last year he didn't because it rained,

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

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

5.      Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount of \$2,822.19
6.      Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply a sewer account balance adjustment as an additional charge in the amount of \$140.00

Council President O'Connor asked for a mover and second on the Consent Agenda  
Mover: Mazzarella      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 opened the public portion of the meeting

Seeing no one coming forward Councilman Smith made a motion to close the public portion, seconded by Councilman Hund

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: The new hot subject that everyone is worried about is this Coronavirus going around. I watched the Vice President today on TV that they brought in someone who's been around forever doing a great job in helping them. John and I sat Nancy down on Thursday and talked about what we're doing. Basically, as of then the State really didn't put anything out. You know you hear the reports on TV that our flu kills more people than this. I'm sure some of this is you know the election year, it's Trump's fault as always, but it is something that we have to take seriously and we are here in Clark. So, I had Nancy write up a little report on what we are doing so you all can see it and where we are at. And our first concern is of course along with our residents would be our first responders to make sure there are equipped properly if this does become an issue in town. As you can read here, she has an investigated one report from the town and I think it has come back fine. So, you know we are going to have this as time goes on, and we're going to have more investigation I do believe. But at this point I think the simple thing they are saying is to wash your hands, keep your hands away from your face as much as possible. Nancy is on it every day with webinars, meetings and all kinds of stuff, it's listed here right in the report. So, I just want the council and the citizens to know that we are not sleeping at the wheel here in Clark. We are working through our health officer and she will be updating us on a daily basis on what we need to know. If there is anything ever an emergent, we will of course have council notified immediately. If she asks for my assistance if there was a problem with the schools, I said that would not be a problem, at that point it's my call if we ever got to that point. Maybe I'm being hopeful for everyone but I think it's going to be okay as time goes on. You know they said tonight on the news Trump did the right thing by closing the border off, (tape inaudible) flights from

different foreign countries and stuff, he was right on it. So, I'm glad to see that all worked out and we'll see where this goes. We're working on getting more masks for the police department and rubber gloves, stuff like that. Which they need to have God forbid this spread. We don't need our police department dilapidated with twelve guys home with the Coronavirus. So, we'll take care of them first, then our first-aid and everybody else. So that's all on that.

We had a three-weekend basketball tournament here, nothing to be really concerned about that, but I will say I looked on Facebook and there was a picture of our gym from someone from Edison and they said "are you kidding me, Clark can provide this and a bigger town like Edison can't?" That made me feel really good that people enjoy our facilities, it's a really good thing to see.

The phone started ringing off the hook in the DPW. I don't know if we are going to have winter this year or not. I'm not optimistic, I still think we are going to get hit. I can't trust New Jersey, today it was almost 70 and you know next weekend will be a foot of snow, so how do you know. In another week you are going to see landscapers dumping out in the street and people are going to start cleaning up their lawn, spring lawn and leaf pickup will be in to do that. So, like I said DPW is starting to pick up pretty good now. They have been out working on our parks and playgrounds getting them all in shape, so we're all in good shape right now in the town. If we don't have any snow, we'll have a lot of salt to sit on and extra money for overtime for plowing. But like you say, what are you going to do, you need it, next November or December we can get clobbered too and that money will come in handy then, hopefully it won't.

Councilwoman Albanese: no report.

Councilman Barr: no report.

Councilman Hund: not at this time.

Councilman Mazza: no report.

Councilman Smith: Just on the basketball tournament, 358 games over fourteen days. It was a big boom for all the local businesses.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is true guys our local businesses are doing very well with that basketball tournament.

Mr. Laezza: no comments

Police Chief Matos: Just to touch on the Coronavirus, there are a lot of things I plan on implementing should we start seeing confirmed cases come closer to us. I plan on limited type of medical calls the police will be responded to. Right now, pretty much if someone calls 911 looking for medical assistance, the police could probably (tape inaudible) response person (tape inaudible) take a little bit more than usual. If we do implement this, it will be if we get a routine sickness, "I'm not feeling well, and I wish to be transported to the hospital", I think I'm going to limit the police department from responding to those calls because there's no need to risk a police officer getting to be put into quarantine that came into contact with someone (tape inaudible) ... an issue where the police department goes there is really not much we can do expect assist with the ambulance when they get there. So, unless it's medical emergency, obviously if someone is having chest pains that's different. Where the officers can actually do something, maybe an overdose situation or like a heart attack, a possible heart attack or stroke, that an officer can provide some medical assistance. If it's "I don't feel well, I haven't been feeling well for the last several days, I would like to go to the hospital", there's really nothing much that the police officer can do at the

Workshop Council Meeting March 2, 2020..... 7  
scene. There's really no risk to putting the officer at risk coming into contact with something where it would we think it would put him out of work.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The Chief is correct, because a lot of Chiefs have told me in the past, and unfortunately some of our citizens use our services as a ride to the hospital. So, like I said it's up him to make that call when and if we get to that.

Police Chief Matos: With those type of calls we're going to see...well I'm going to classify them as like non-emergency calls.

Township Clerk: If you know anybody that would like to be a poll worker. I'm going to go to the Senior Citizen meeting on Thursday and try to drum up some business and hand out applications. If you know of anyone who's willing to be on the job at 5:15 and work until 8:30 at night for \$200.00. We are really, really hurting for people. The last election there were tables that we had only two people. This go around we're going to have the mayor running, and President running, and the lines are going to be out the door, if you recall four years ago.

Council President O'Connor: Voters in Clark need to understand it's not Clark's issue, it's an issue all over. Because I know people do get frustrated when they wait on line a long time. I know the last Presidential election, specifically with the second ward with the senior housing, that line was incredibly long.

Township Clerk: Remember we had Hehnly (School) knocked out with the power from the October storm.

Council President O'Connor: Correct.

Township Clerk: We had so many people that were extra in the gym.

Council President O'Connor: That was frustrating. And the more the public know the better it is but again if the TAP into Clark could help recruit people.

Police Chief Matos: I have another question. If someone volunteers from Clark, will they actually work the elections in Clark?

Township Clerk: There's a question on the application that says, "would you accept an assignment other than your hometown?". So, you can check yes or no.

Council President O'Connor: I have no further comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Council President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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



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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

**1. AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 347 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

Discussion: none

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

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

Discussion:

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

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

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

Discussion: none

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

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

Discussion: none

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

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

Discussion: none

This resolution will be moved and seconded by the Entire Council

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

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

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

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

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**Conference Call – No Physical Meeting Place**

**May 4, 2020**

**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dispensed

This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings and by electronic advanced notice of at least 48 hours pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.1, as permitted during a declared emergency, 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, the Official Website of the Township and the proper filing of said Notice.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Authorizing final payment to S. Brothers, Inc. for the 2019 NJDOT Road Improvements in the amount of \$35,509.81

Discussion: none

Mr. Laezza: Basically, the project has been completed and the maintenance money is available.

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

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Barr

2. Award of Contract to Cifelli & Son General Construction for ADA Curb and Ramp Improvements

Township Clerk: I would like to just say that the amount is not there just yet because it has to be decided whether there will be six ramps constructed or all ten. Then I will put the amount before the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Council President O'Connor: Thank you for the clarification.

Discussion: none

Mr. Laezza: Basically, we got twenty thousand dollars from the CDBG for this program. According to my understanding because of the Covid-19, we may be getting some additional money. The contractor indicated that they would take the estimate (tape inaudible) for doing this job and then any other money he would keep the price to accommodate it.

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

Mover: Albanese      Second: Smith

3. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority for an additional one-year term for Bulky Waste Type – 13 and Construction and Demolition Waste – Type 13C

Discussion: none

Mr. Laezza: Each year we had the bulky waste pickup.

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

Mover: Mazzarella      Second: Barr

4. Re-appointing Josephine Burkhardt and Robert Tarantino as Constables for a three-year term

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Smith      Second: Hund

#### **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount of \$3,711.96

Discussion: none

6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$326,715.18

Discussion: none

Mr. Laezza: Council, if you look at the sewer adjustments there are 53 major ones, meter issues with meters that were running fast. Panda Express gave about \$238,000.00, and Hyatt Hills Golf Course \$63,198.00. That was the majority of the \$326,000.00. The others were the usual kind of water issues.

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

Mover: Toal      Second: Albanese

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Council President O'Connor opened the Public Comments portion of the meeting and directed the Clerk to read emails and text messages received from the public for response by Council or Township Professionals as appropriate.

Township Clerk: No emails or text messages were received from the public.

Hearing no public participation Councilwoman Albanese made a motion to close the Public Comments portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Toal

Council President O'Connor directed roll call:

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

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Council President O'Connor: Mayor, any comments?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, Mr. President thank you very much. Just for the record our Covid-19 results of the town are moving downward in a very, very nice manner I'm very happy to see. I didn't have any fresh numbers today since last Friday. Nancy has been overwhelmed and she's starting to get her head above water, so I'll probably have a number to report tomorrow to everyone. But the number has been moving down and last week at one time I think we're down to about 7 active cases. The nursing home is our biggest problem in town, as we all know historically throughout New Jersey and probably other States, nursing homes are always an area of infestation for virus, and infections, and it's always a battle for those poor people that are put into nursing homes well before this virus has hit. So, I look at that one way, and I look at our town in general in another way, and we are doing very, very well.

So, I would also like to inform the Council that I have to say that Nancy Raymond has done a job that is just next to unbelievable. She has worked seven days a week in most cases, in most weeks, and she's just doing a tremendous job for the community. Remember she's single handed and she doesn't even have a full-time secretary, so you know it's a lot of hours. She's even getting back out on inspections right now and I'm pleased to have worked with her. She really has been doing a great job.

Today we saw our Fire Department and Police Department in action as you know on a house fire on Jupiter. A fifty-five-year resident lost his home and his dog which was a shame. The resident is okay and seems to be doing well. He has been taken in by a family and I've known him for many, many years. I also would like to thank Cranford, Rahway, Linden and Union Fire Departments for being there, also, the Union County Fire Company and some of their different units. It was a bad fire, a very, very bad fire, to say the least.

We went through our spring lawn leaf cleanup. We are now going into the grass cleanup and branch pick up. Branches are put out the third week of the month, and are picked up the fourth week of the month. Bulky cleanup has been very, very heavy because everyone is home cleaning out their houses.

My Golf Outing is cancelled for this year. We just couldn't find a way to try to A; figure out if we could have one, and B; with the times the way they are, to ask people to donate and spend money to come and play golf is just a little bit overboard I think at this time, so I cancelled it.

Right now, I'm still planning for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks but we will see what happens as we go. The Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled due to the virus. I'm sure you all know, but again I'm saying this for the record, that school has now been cancelled for the rest of the year. The Board of Education is in session tonight and I'd like to see their ideas about graduation and trying to do something for the kids, you know it's day to day.

Our Governor is out there every day. I'm sure he is doing his best. It's a tough time everybody and I don't want knock anybody in this time but his Executive Orders are always full of loopholes and we don't know which way they are going. Last Friday, I was going to open up the playgrounds and the basketball courts.... when he (Governor Murphy) opened the parks, he kept the playgrounds closed. I got called by Chief Matos on Saturday morning that somebody called into Crime Stoppers to say I was violating the Governor's order. The Chief was called by the Prosecutor's Office telling me to cease and assist on doing that, which I did. There was another article in this week's paper about Congressman Malinowski's paper asking for all the Mayors and Freeholders to sign, to put a Bill up to, I think, ask for two hundred and eighty million or billion dollars, I can't remember, to help local towns. I chose not to sign that letter due to the fact I believe it's completely political at this time. It's a political piece. My reasons are very simple, I never, for the record, refuse money, we never refused money. I refuse to sign a letter asking for money. Now, my feelings are very simple on this, we are in the end of the first quarter of our year. How do I, or John know at this time if we are having revenue shortfalls, and it's going to last throughout the year? I think this would have been more appropriate to ask us in the third quarter to find out how our revenue is, and what kind of shortfalls we may be having, and try to project our fourth quarter out, you know, running two years back, on a two-year average what it would be. And at that time if we were running for major revenue shortfalls, I would be more than glad to tell the Congressman, and also have him understand how much of the pie we would be looking for. But at the end of the first quarter guys, I've been in politics twenty-five years, this is nothing more than a political scheme to say, "look what I'm doing for you". That's my feelings about that and that's my report.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just want to thank all the employees for their hard work. As the Mayor pointed out, Nancy Raymond has gone above and beyond her normal duties because of what's required with what we are dealing with. I did want to ask the mayor about the camps, is that a decision that being deferred at this point?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right now, Councilwoman, camp and the swim pool is up in the air. We don't know if the Governor is going to allow it #1, #2 Ralph is sick over it, just let me tell you, Ralph is literally sick and he is just so upset by this, and so am I, and I'm sure you all are too. These are two great things we have in the community. How do you social distance first, second, third, fourth, fifth grade kids? None the less sixth, seventh and eighth graders too. Ralph did send out an email to the camp parents asking them if they would be interested in sending their child if it was opened. We had about, and I don't want to use the number because I did forget the number, we had some that said, "no, no matter what, we love the camp but we wouldn't send them this year." And then we had a few hundred more saying, "yes". But you know "yes" isn't the answer Angel. I don't know, Ralph is going to have to figure out how you can keep these kids separate. It's going to be very hard. Same thing up at the pool, the restrictions coming out for the pool are ridiculous at this point. You would have to take temperatures of everybody coming in the pool, social distancing, people would be fighting over the shaded area because you know you might get twenty people in the shaded area where now you can get about eighty. You would have to almost draw out with paint on the grass areas six-foot boxes so people could stay within their box. I don't know guys, it's going to be very, very difficult. The problem is that there might be no guest, there might not be this, or you can't do that, and you can't bring this, you have to bring your own chairs. It might get to the point where it's not worth it for the aggravation it's going to be. I don't mean aggravation for us, but for the pool members. It's not going to be a normal summer.

Councilwoman Albanese: This is a separate item regarding the State. They changed their year-end to September 30<sup>th</sup> right now because they don't know what their revenue is etc., etc. Just concerned

about whether the State will be able to get the State Aid they need to send to us, our one million seven hundred and fifty-eight thousand. We're probably not going to know that until maybe September.

John Laezza: If we get any money, it won't be until October.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, it depends when the Governor wants to open the State. (John Laezza: right.) You know my understanding is the man is cautious and I understand. When you are in decision of.... in charge of people, you don't want to make a decision and hear the numbers spike and you know another five hundred just died, I get all that. But you also are dealing with a Governor who couldn't handle snow two winters ago, we didn't have any this year, that he was calling state of emergencies before snow even hit, closing schools, and the next day there wouldn't be any snow. Grossly salting and brining highways with no ice or snow on them. Because he got a beaten that November from everybody, and I don't think he can handle negative publicity. I think in opening the State he is going to be so, so cautious for his own reason at this point. I think it's going to get beyond him worrying about people, or worrying about the beaten he may or may not get if doesn't work right. Then we might see a real dark New Jersey. He might run this State right into bankruptcy. And you know they're looking to the White House to bail them out for their pension payments too. And I'm glad the President is standing strong with States that were a wreck before this happened, don't think we're coming in to bail them out, it's not our problem and he's right.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay, the only last point I want to make tonight is I thank the employees. Just so the citizens know even though the doors are closed people are working, doing their jobs. Same thing for the library, although the doors are closed there are resources available online at the library, try to take advantage of it. Thank you.

Councilman Barr: Thank you Mr. President. Basically, I just want to say that as things supposedly easing with the virus. I have been speaking to a lot of the seniors and I try to keep telling them to remember that seniors are a much more susceptible to the virus, so be careful.

Councilman Hund: Thank you Mr. President. I just would want to say everyone in town to stay safe and healthy as possible. Thank you

Councilman Mazzearella: Thank you Council President. I just want to reach out to Mayor Sal to thank him for all your reports every day. I know I have mentioned it on Facebook but you know what, it makes a world of difference to people not knowing what's going on that we get a local report from you every day. Thank you for your reports, it is really nice of you to do that.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Frank thank you, but I also want to thank Nancy and Jennifer who put that report together every day also for the record.

Councilman Mazzearella: Absolutely, they are fantastic what they've been doing for our town and for our residents. With that everybody, stay safe, be well, and stay at home as much as you can, thank you.

Councilman Smith: Thank you Council President. I just want to thank the mayor and the rest of council for their condolences for my wife Susan's mother who passed away from, we believe, Covid-19, but she also had pneumonia on top of that. It is a sobering statistic from the nursing home she was in, on her floor 16 of 30 residents have passed away from Covid-19. So that is a little over 50%, so it is affecting the elderly much more than the younger generations. So, to the elderly please stay safe and keep social distancing. Thank you.

Councilman Toal: Thank you Council President. I received a phone call from my neighbor saying there's a house fire on Jupiter Street. I just want to bring up what Councilman Barr says at every meeting about thanking the firemen. I want to thank the firemen for what they did that day. The resident is okay, his family is okay, but the dog was lost and we are sorry for that. We have a great fire department and a great police department. Thank you.

John Laezza: Basically, I want to say one thing I forgot during the meeting. This is Public Works Week, and if any public works department should get an accolade, it's ours. They've been right out there during this Covid-19, and they continue to do their job. So, I think we should basically, maybe Elizabeth you can put something in (Tap into Clark), to accommodate our public works department and recognize their strong efforts for the citizens of Clark. Thank you.

Police Chief Matos: I have no comments.

Attorney Dugan: No comment.

Township Clerk: No comments. Everybody, just stay safe.

Council President O'Connor: My final comments are that I've seen the police around town doing their job. I've passed by the tennis courts, as you all do, and I guess some people have thought it was okay to play tennis, and the police pull up they were very polite and very non-confrontational and advised them it was closed and the people left. They are doing a great job around town. Other than that, just stay safe. May is Motorcycle Safety Month, so I want to make sure everybody is aware, you know, "Look Twice Save a Life". I'm sure you've seen a lot more motorcycles on the road now more than ever, because less car traffic is always going to equal more motorcycle traffic because it is difficult to ride around this area with all the cars. So, it is an opportunity to get out on a bike, so just please be careful.

Council President asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT





**7:30 pm**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Council Vice President opened the public portion of the meeting

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

Council Vice President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let's talk about the fireworks. The fireworks right now I don't even think we are allowed to have them because of the Governor's office gathering rules. What I want to do is move the show to Sunday of Labor Day weekend, with Monday of Labor Day being the rainout. We have to make sure I don't know if the company could do it and that will be in celebration of the frontline workers for Covid-19, and we will advertise it as such. Hopefully we will be able to come here and watch and have a good time and not have to worry about this anymore.

You all see what is going on with the protests, we have two groups that are coming into town, one we thought was coming today, it is a group from Rahway. I have had a lot of dialogue with the individual who is in charge of that group and he's assuring me that it is going to be a peaceful protest. Mayor Giacobbe from Rahway has been helping me along with it. The fellow from Rahway, I have to say, unless I read people wrong, seems very sincere and I don't think that we are going to have a problem. The problem that I worry about is outside agitators coming in, that is what you always have to worry about. Thursday at 12:00 at the Commons, we have another group coming in that we don't know much about. The Chief has had some correspondence with them earlier today. I thank the Chief for preparing his men this morning. I think that he has the right feed on it, I am not getting into all of it because we will be here until 10:00pm. I agree with the Chief's theory on this and the way he is handling it and even over the weekend. Social media is out of control, we have some of our own people getting goofy, we will not tolerate any goofiness from anybody. If they come and they start they are getting locked up, period, get out. Our people or their people we don't need a scene here and we will not put police officers in harm's way with some big mouth that can't shut up. We all agree that what happened to Mr. Floyd was a travesty, and an outrage to any human being to be treated that way and I wonder what the hell was on that cop's mind. But it sure doesn't help the situation that is going on. The Chief was constantly in touch with me on this, we will be working together. Guys, I am not answering text messages so please don't send them. Tell your constituents, "we know and we are on it", period. It is getting to the point where my phone died today at 4:30, died, it has never died at 4:30 in its life, because of, "did you see this, and what about this, what about that?" We have a lot of experts, a lot of experts. I and the Chief of Police will figure out what we have to do. He is the expert and I will work through him always. I will say to stay out of the Commons area on Thursday at 12:00 noon, do yourselves a favor, keep your kids in, tell them to stay out of the area, God only knows. What I don't like and the Chief and I talked about it they are looking to come to Clark, on private property, the Commons is private property, #2, is that they want to march through Raritan and Central which is the busiest intersection in Union County. They are looking to make a statement and I am a little dubious about this group. We'll see what happens. They'll be there and we will run it and hopefully I will be out there. I was supposed to get an endoscopy on Thursday morning but I will

see if I can get it done earlier or push it until the next day because I want to be there. We will just take it from there and have all of the precautions in place as we know how. Ralph was going to talk to you about (Clark) summer camp, we had a summer camp meeting today he was going to give us his recommendation to us and I agree with him on what to do. Right now, as of today, we have had zero Covid-19 cases in Clark. I was one of the fortunate ones I have the antibodies, so I am very lucky.

All of the services are intact, everyone is doing what they are supposed to do. The girls are working hard, we are still on a lockdown here, by appointment only. Again, like everything else we have some frequent flyers that want to pop in and say, "how have you been? We missed you." Save the accolades for Christmas time, bring a box of candy and come and see us then. Right now, is not the time to be popping in and wondering what you have been up too. So, we are just keeping it this way for the time being.

The Clark Pool, we have not made a decision on that. Ralph is still following that, it is going to be another nightmare, it is going to be another nightmare. This Governor is going out and saying that he is allowing summer camps but the restrictions that it comes with, why bother? So, that is all I have right now, any questions?

Councilman Toal: Two events, two different groups, same location?

Mayor Bonaccorso: One is coming up Westfield, one is coming down Raritan (Road).

Councilman Toal: Cuts the town in half and a mess.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are not the same day.

Councilman Toal: That was my concern.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know when Rahway is coming in but he is going to call me and let me know.

Councilman Toal: The Mayor Giacobbe is a great guy.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I know but I am talking about the fellow who organized the March. He is going to call me and let me know when they are coming in. Mayor Giacobbe has been working with him and I think that is very nice. So far, again, unless I am totally bamboozled the guy seem very sincere. We told him that they are welcome to come and we have no problem, we agree with him, it should have never happened to that man. What they want to do is go into communities and try to spread the word. The Chief put out a very, very good statement tonight if you read it on Facebook you will be very impressed, I was, my wife was. You know I made a comment today that if you look at the police in this nation, and the people, if there isn't a million encounters a day between the cops and people, and it could be a lot more it could be 10 million, God only knows, you don't really have a lot of problems. You get a yahoo like this who did what he did just blew the whole country up. The other thing is that since 2016, the Chief said this in his statement, he said that we approved body cameras since 2016 and Chief we have been completely clean of everything since that date. To get to a personal story on the record, one day my daughter got pulled over at night and the police officer did not give her a ticket but she said, "you know daddy he was kind of rude" and her boyfriend kind of said the same thing. So, Monday I called the Chief, I wasn't mad and I wasn't looking to hurt anybody, I just asked the Chief to pull it because I just wanted to see it. I went up to his office and I saw, and I called my daughter from his office and said, "hey, do you want to come and see how the cop mistreated you, what are you out of your mind?" The Chief said, "Sal relax, when people get pulled over they get all frazzled, they hear

Workshop Council Meeting June 1, 2020..... 4  
things, they think things, whatever” and that is a good point, you know when I hear, “when we go through Clark, we get pulled over”. Well, if you are doing something wrong you got pulled over regardless of your color. And we have tapes, a dash cam and a body cam that will verify the officer’s professionalism and all kinds of stuff that that they have to go through with State Attorney General Guidelines. So, like I said I think that it is targeting this way, I don’t know if it is going to leak out into any of the other communities but we will be ready and we will have to do the best we can and we are trying to run it through, “come on in, tell us what you have to tell us and go home”, and hopefully we are not going to take the first confrontational act.

Mr. Laezza: They had one in Nomahegan Park.

Councilman Toal: So, they are cutting through Clark?

Police Chief Matos: The protest is being organized in all of these different towns (Councilman Toal: I understand that). There is one, and I don’t know who is the organizer, I don’t know group is organizing it in Nomahegan Park in Cranford, I don’t know the exact date.

Councilman Toal: It is the unknown factor that...

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is going to be quite a weekend. Any questions?

Councilman Hund: Mr. Laezza any further comments?

Mr. Laezza: The only comment I have to say right now is that we will be sending out estimated property tax bills by the end of June. We are sending them out because the State does not want to make a decision on their budget and certify them (tape inaudible).

Mark Dugan: No comment.

Ralph Bernardo: As all of you know for the past three months every recreation program has been canceled. We have been holding on for dear life, at least I have, for the camp and the pool. You all know me and you know that I love the camp more than anything, all of the activities, this camp is really number one. So, with really deep regret and deep sadness that I was holding on for Governor Murphy to come in with some type of save. So, he came in and comes across as this almighty savior that now we have camp. He didn’t fail to list these restrictions that came along with it. I was with the CDC and Jersey Parks and Recreation; I have been on Zoom calls with numerous towns throughout the State and the organizations and they have all got the guidelines that he will eventually get. He still has not given them out. So, the guidelines are just.... the restrictions are so much that it will make it impossible for me to hold the camp. I met with Mr. Laezza and the Mayor and Nancy today recommending, and I can’t believe that I am saying these words, that we cancel camp this year. Number one has to be safety for my staff, the counselors and of course the children. I tried to look every way possible, even if I get half of what I get from last year, so 12,000 people signed up for the camp, we average 500-600 a day and 120 -140 counselors. So, how do I safely distance 10 children to a counselor? There are no group activities, there is no outside entertainment, there is no large gatherings, no communal feeding, no shared equipment, sports equipment, so if you are playing dodge ball and you pick up a ball the next kid cannot pick up that ball and throw it. So basically, you are going to be doing calisthenics in a field, or kicking a soccer ball. So, with the rise then in that pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome that was also with the Coronavirus and the Coronavirus, I just don’t feel that safety wise I don’t feel comfortable with it. You have to wear masks. How am I going to enforce teenagers to wear masks on a 90-degree day, and how am I going to get little children to not socially touch when that is all that they know throughout the camp. So, it is with deep regret that I do make that recommendation that we cancel

this year. We will refund those who have signed up already, we put a hold on it after this all started but we still have money (tape inaudible). I can't go on it would be an understatement to say how disappointed I am. These were just my all my calls (presents document) the "red" that you see are all the towns that have cancelled. Everything that was "not in red" was stating that it was with the Governor's guidance. Realistically you cannot do anything to the extent in our camp is above all.

With that, we are hanging by a carrot, by a thread with the pool. He still has not made a decision, if you read the paper on Sunday, he is not going to make a decision until July 6<sup>th</sup>. So, we are halfway into the season and even with the restrictions that you already heard will be that there could be only a certain number allowed inside, we will have to draw circles on the grass and have people stay in their circles, once that quota for the day is reached, whatever we determine that is, that will be it, we will be closed. There will be no guests, there will be no new members of non-residents. If you were a non-resident last year you could sign up again this year. If you are a resident you can sign up. The baby pool, Nancy looked at us, and said the baby pool...there is no (tape inaudible) of the baby pool. So that means now that the babies will have to be brought into the big pool and now you have to deal with poop. So, it just spiraled out of control. We are going to lose \$40,000 to \$50,000 in guest fees, and the concession stand we don't have a concessionaire. Like Sal and like all of us we want something for these kids and residents. The pool is going to be our last hope, if it happens at all. We are ready, I was ready April 1<sup>st</sup> this year, we were first on the list and we were painted, scrubbed clean and ready to go.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Before we turn it over to you guys for questions, as Mayor I am going to concur with Ralph's feelings to close the camp, that is my recommendation. I know he and I have had discussions for a month and a half now on this probably three days a week, we really tried our best to keep it open but we don't see the safe, logical way to run the camp. Even though it will be so watered down to what our children are accustomed to it is just the safety aspect and the liability aspect doesn't make any sense right now. So, I will turn it over to the council.

Council Vice President Hund: Thank you Ralph. We know the passion you have for the children and for your camp and everything that you do. This is a tremendous hurt for you. We apologize that you had to make that decision along with Mr. Laezza and the Mayor. Hopefully we will be able to do something for the children but in my opinion, I don't think that is really going to happen the way the Governor is taking a stance on things. So, thank you very much and again I apologize for the sadness of that. The children do enjoy the camp I had three boys that went through it and I can't say enough about it. So, in closing thank you very much.

Councilman Smith: I have a question regarding the pool. If he (the Governor) is not making the decision until July 6<sup>th</sup>, it is probably going to take a couple of days to get ready, so now you are looking at a July 15<sup>th</sup> the earliest, at that point....

Mr. Laezza: I think that they are looking at August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Smith: At that point it probably doesn't make any sense and that is terrible.

Councilwoman Albanese: I was going to say that I totally agree with that decision, it is awful because when you look at those restrictions, the kids have to have snack alone, lunch alone, you can't do anything with anyone and how you even control it, you just can't. I agree with what John is saying, if we can go to daily rates on the pool, because I guess we have to maintain....my understanding is that you have to maintain the pool, fill the pool, you have to do everything as if the pool is operating even though you are not operating because you have a pool.

Ralph Bernardo: And someone has to be there all the time.

Councilwoman Albanese: So, the route that we are trying to do in East Brunswick is for daily...

Ralph Bernardo: The only problem with that though that I fear is that every other pool is closed now, Mountainside closes, Springfield, Rahway...

Councilwoman Albanese: The only thing that we are thinking about is doing something...

Ralph Bernardo: How do I limit all these...anybody just walking in?

Councilwoman Albanese: You are doing it by the sale of the ticket. Sell the tickets online in advance to residents.

Mr. Laezza: Just residents.

Councilwoman Albanese: Once you hit your limit because it is just like the Santa Breakfast. Once you hit the limit you don't want people lining up there, going down there with their bags, their kids and what not. You have to do some type of advanced sale.

Police Chief Matos: Then how do you control someone who comes in? Sell them a ticket for all day but they leave at 11, you might end up with a pool that is empty at noon.

Councilwoman Albanese: You can't worry about it.

Mr. Laezza: You can't worry about it.

Councilwoman Albanese: You could do a split session type thing but it is not worth it in my mind.

Ralph Bernardo: In a 95-degree day you can have a line outside.

Councilwoman Albanese: No, you have to sell the tickets in advance. You get the ticket don't come down; it is sold out.

Ralph Bernardo: I don't know if financially if it makes sense.

Councilwoman Albanese: It doesn't, it doesn't make sense financially.

Mr. Laezza: I am not hiring 50 lifeguards.

Councilwoman Albanese: But there will probably be a lot of lifeguards available. Initially it was, "oh all of the lifeguards are going to get booked", but now there will be plenty of lifeguards I think since a lot of towns have already made the decision.

Councilman Toal: Again, it is heartbreaking hearing this from Ralph. Ralph with all of the hard work that you put in we appreciate everything that you do for Recreation, for summer camps and pool but you also have to think about if one mother comes home and the kid is sick it is our fault, it is not anybody else's fault, it is our fault. I also want to bring up an issue that happened many years ago, and I am doing a history thing again, the Township of Clark Pool was sued by members because the chlorine mix was wrong. It is a separate issue but with one issue the kid ended up taking the town into court and it was millions of dollars. It was all because of the pool and the chlorine mix was wrong and rotted the kid's teeth out, plus the kid liked sugar and stuff but that was not brought to the court. The issue is that one kid gets sick, it is on us. So, you really don't have a choice in this and I completely agree with the Mayor and the Administration.

Councilman Mazzarella: I agree with the restrictions that are going to be set on the pool as far as how many could enter the pool. In my view it is not feasible. I mean how do you determine if it is

50 people at one time? What are you going to give them a time limit? It's ridiculous. We are in a very unfortunate circumstances right now and everything that we do because of the Covid-19.

Councilwoman Albanese: I just want to clarify one thing. We are not deciding on the pool yet because we don't even know the limitations because they have not been announced, we don't have guideline dates so I wouldn't go with the...they will tell you how many that you can let in.

Councilman Mazzearella: You really have an idea, I mean, we are entering into the summer right now and if they are going to allow the pools to be open for one month, this is not going to go away. They are not going to open it up totally. I mean, let's be realistic about this. We all want to have this recreational ability for our town and all of that but it is not in the cards, we just have to bite our lip and move on.

Police Chief Matos: Regarding the event obviously since last Monday, obviously today I put out a statement that basically condemns the actions of the officers. I don't think that anyone who watches that video can any other conclusion then what you thought was improper and murder. With that being said I understand the need for these people to demonstrate. We currently have two groups, like the Mayor said, that....one group has already posted that they are going to be here on Thursday. We know very little about this group, I had some contact with them this afternoon, I am hoping to have more contact with them tomorrow and formulate a plan. The lady that I spoke to assured me that it is going to be a peaceful demonstration. I don't know if they are going to go to the Commons and are staying there or if they plan on moving. I am hoping to nail this down tomorrow. My approach to this, and if anyone disagrees with me please let me know, is I don't want to show up as an occupying army. I want to be there for security but I also want to be ready for any possible event. I plan on having access from the County, the State, if possible, in town and ready to mobilize into the area should we need it. I plan on calling a lot of officers in, ordering officers in. Tomorrow I will be reaching out to other departments for equipment. The best thing I can do, the way I plan to approach it, is when these people get there, me and other supervisory staff in the department, we are going to approach them, we are going to talk to them, we are going to encourage them to remain peaceful and we are going to join them. We are going to be there with them. And one of the things that I stressed with the lady I spoke to there today from this group is that I don't want to police this group, I want them to police themselves. All I want to do is maintain a perimeter. You police yourselves, I want you that if YOU see people getting out of hand, if you see agitators kick them out of your crowd so that we can deal with them. What I have learned over the last couple of days was what these groups are doing that are infiltrating these demonstrations is that they don't stand out in the front, they are using the legitimate protestors as shields and they are standing three or four layers back and talking to the crowd, hoping that the officers then of course go hands on with the innocent bystanders or protestors that are in the frontlines. That is going to be my approach, this is going to be a touchy situation come Thursday, I know nothing about this group and hopefully I can learn a little bit more over the next couple of days. Hopefully they stick by their word. I have seen a lot of post on Twitter and it has been 50% where people have spoken about coming to Clark and 50% of the comments have been, "are you crazy, I am not going to that town because those people are nuts, and you are asking for trouble" and the other 50%, "Well, we need to go to send a message".

Councilman Barr: Chief, is there any idea on how many people are going to be participating?

Police Chief Matos: The lady I spoke to today said that since she has posted this flier that she has gotten about 120-125 responses.

Councilman Toal: Their origins are from what town?

Police Chief Matos: I don't know.

Councilman Toal: That scares me.

Police Chief Matos: I don't know. I know that the organizer is from Linden.

Councilman Toal: That gives you something.

Police Chief Matos: But I don't know where the people are coming from or who she is affiliated with. The other group, the group from Rahway I believe I am more confident in, they already have a track record, they held a demonstration in Rahway and everything went peaceful. I spoke to the Rahway Chief and there were no issues what so ever there. They have been in contact with us and I believe that if this group from Rahway comes and they said that they want to share their plans before they even publicize anything with us. This other group did not do that, they just published this and made this plan and now we are left to having to you know not having really any input into how they do things, or where this location is going to take place. That's about it.

Council Vice-President Hund: Tomorrow is which one?

Police Chief Matos: Thursday at noon.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Chief, where are they coming to here or your building?

Police Chief Mato: Rahway?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thursday.

Police Chief Matos: I don't know. All the flier says is Clark Commons, it doesn't say that they want to march anywhere, it just says Clark Commons. So, tomorrow when I see this lady that is one of the things that I need to nail down. What is your plan? Are you planning on just staying at the Commons? Are you planning on marching somewhere? Again, she can tell me whatever she wants but if the crowd all of a sudden decides that they are going, they are going. I am going to plan that they are march and at some point, I am going to need enough access to move to the streets because more than likely that is what is going to happen.

Councilman Toal: That is scary. Clark residents that are at the food store or whatever and they get caught.

Mark Dugan: There is a lot of concentrated commercial activity there (Clark Commons) also, there are a lot of retail outlets.

Police Chief Matos: Exactly, and that is what scared me. Why are they picking a retail outlet to go to?

Mark Dugan: It is but it's all private property, so they actually could...the property owner they can shut that parking lot down if they wanted too.

Police Chief Matos: It is going to be tough. You can say it....

Mark Dugan: You are right but every commercial lease when there is a large shopping center as the landlord has the power, so it is in the lease to shut down the facility.

Councilwoman Albanese: What does he plan to do?

Mark Dugan: That may be something to determine is to reach out to the owner of that complex and find out what their reaction is going to be. Who knows, they may bring in quite an amount of people.

Police Chief Matos: Tomorrow we meet and when I speak further with this lady on of the first things that we need to do is, through the Mayor, we are going to ask to reach out to Bill Krame.

Councilwoman Albanese: Maybe ask her if she contacted him because it is private property. Are you aware that it is private property? They don't understand that, they think it is like a mall.

Police Chief Matos: The problem that I have right now is that they have already advertised this without our input. They have already advertised it. So, even if I could convince this lady tomorrow to move it to another location, I have a feeling what I am going to create is that some people are going to show up at the Commons and now I am going to have two scenes to control.

Councilman Mazarella: You'll have a bigger scene if that landlord shuts down that complex and then those people are on the property and they are trespassing then you as the police force have to find a way to get rid of them.

Police Chief Matos: It is easier said than done.

Mark Dugan: The ordinary protocols will not work.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Guys we are not playing with trespassers. He has more on his plate then he has to look at right now. So, if someone is trespassing, let them have fun. He attitudes to his men was that if they are driving through town trying to get pulled over to engage you, let them go, just let them go and they will go somewhere else eventually. It's the same thing there, we have a protest and some guy runs amuck and runs to the Commons, he can stay in the Commons we are not going to chase him. If we go and chase that guy and you grab him and throw him to the ground then the riot breaks out.

Mark Dugan: Look there is no right answer here.

Mayor Bonaccorso: There isn't.

Councilwoman Albanese: No, because you don't know what you are dealing with.

Police Chief Matos: Again, if everything goes well and that was the right answer and if everything goes wrong, well then you had the wrong answer. Everything that we will do we will be second guessing.

Councilwoman Albanese: Well just be prepared like you said, you have a good plan.

Council Vice President Hund: Thank you very much Chief for your preparedness, your men. Stay safe, we definitely appreciate it and I know there are residents in the town...

Police Chief Matos: Just one last thing. These protests, if you have been watching any of the protests none of these protests have gone into residents' neighborhoods and there is a reason why. These protestors know that if they go into residential neighborhoods, they are putting their lives into their own hands. People are going to defend their property, not a store, they are not going to defend a store. But they know that if they start smashing home that people are going to defend their property. That is why you don't see them doing that. So, this idea that the Clark residents are stating that, "oh my God, I am in such fear" then stay home. If you are in that much fear just stay home because no one is coming to knock on your door, I assure you that. It is going to remain, if

Workshop Council Meeting June 1, 2020..... 10  
this thing is at Clark Commons, it will remain on Raritan Road, they are not going into residential neighborhoods because they know the risks that they are going to take. They are not stupid and that is the last thing that they want.

Councilman Toal: You have the busiest intersection sitting right out there with the Parkway exit.

Mark Dugan: But that is why they do it. They want to make a statement and that will make a statement.

Councilwoman Albanese: If you watch the news, they are going on all of the highways.

Councilman Toal: That is what we don't want though.

Councilwoman Albanese: I know but it is a protest, it is what it is.

Councilman Barr: You know if I may say, I spoke to Sal today, the big rumor that is out there is that if you have flags by your house, they are going...

Councilman Mazzarella: They are going to go what?

Councilman Toal: They are going to go and burn the house down.

Police Chief Matos: Like I said, they are not going to go and throw rocks at your door when they don't know if there is going to be someone that is going to be sending a bullet back. Like I said, a lot of the comments on these threads on Twitter are stating, "Don't go over there, these people are nuts, you are asking for trouble". So, they are already coming with that mentality, we are suspicious of us like we are suspicious of this demonstration.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We have one guy in town that basically said about bloodshed and this and that and I said to the Chief and all of his men today basically that if that guys loses his mouth; we are locking him up and we will deal with the civil rights issue later. Anybody that is on our side of the street that is going to start agitating are getting locked up also. You can't have a riot in this town, you just cannot have it. We are not a big city; we don't have 1,600 cops on the force. If the Chief empties his cupboards we are going to have twenty, even if other people are coming in it is still not going to be enough.

Council Vice President Hund: Thank you very much Chief, we know that you are prepared and please keep us informed if anything needs to be spread out to the public. I believe that if we would all say that if you need anything from us, we will be more than happy to help. As the Mayor said before, there is not much that we can do to assist you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I would say if Saturday or Sunday when Rahway's comes if you guys want to go up by the police station, I don't think that would be a bad idea. If you are around it is not mandatory. The one at Clark Commons just stay away from because we have no clue what is going to happen.

Councilman Toal: Have you been getting calls from the media?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Not yet.

Council Vice President Hund: I think it would be a good an idea like you said Sal that we show up and show that we are in support of the protesters, I think that I can make that assumption. As long as they are protestor and they are not antagonistic in they are doing it for the right reason, we are all in support of them so I would say that if we are there it would be a nice sigh of support for people coming through the town at that time.

Councilwoman Albanese: No additional comments.

Councilman Barr: No comments.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comments.

Councilman Smith: I am sorry Ralph; I know that you are devastated. That is all I have today.

Councilman Toal: God bless the Township of Clark because that kind of issue has happened here before and you just never know what you are going to deal with. It could be a simple thing or it could go right through the community. I just pray for the Chief, his men and for our mayor.

Township Clerk: I usually don't tell you about OPRA Requests, we get hundreds, but today... and the reason I am bring this up is because you may get phone calls. I just gave to our attorney the request from this person who wants every personal email address of anyone who has ever signed up for a notification through our website. I talked to the Chief about this today. They want an email for even the people who signed up through Nixel but we don't have a database for that. We have hundreds of people's email because when we do the blast (Ralph Bernardo: 2,700) 2,700 emails and it seems that we have to give them out. There is a case that Tinton Falls lost because they didn't give out the emails. Then they were forced to give it out because since it is a township website, in effect the Township is soliciting people to give their email address and so it is considered official business. So, anything in the course of official business...So, if you get calls, "how come my email...I am getting all of these emails!" my hands may be tied. Unless we want to take the chance and go to court but that is my neck on the line personally.

Mark Dugan: I will have an answer.

Council Vice President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

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

Council Vice President Hund directed roll call: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT



**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**July 6, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE:**

**DISCUSSION: Garage Sale Regulations**

Township Clerk: You all received a lot of information about garage sales. The Mayor and I had a conversation at the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic and discussed that we don't need to handle cash or the \$1.50 we get from seniors, and the \$3.00 we get from residents. So, one of the changes would be to just not charge them, still require a permit and not charge them if that is okay with all of you. We also currently pay \$450.00 a box to buy signs and we then we require them to use our signs which we hand to them mostly for nothing. So, we are not even close to breaking even. So, I would also propose that to just let them make their own signs, as long as they are not larger than 18x18, and you can change it, whatever the size was that we were doing 11x17 (Council President O'Connor: yes) to not let it large than that.

Council President O'Connor: You still can't hang them on telephone poles.

Township Clerk: That is a state law.

Council President O'Connor: Only four (sales) a year, no more than 3 consecutive days, correct?

Township Clerk: Exactly. So, all of those things, if you are in agreement.....during this pandemic anyone who now is having garage sale we just wave the fee.

Council President O'Connor: Chief, how many complaints have you received about garage sales?

Chief Matos: Actually, I can't remember the last complaint.

Council President O'Connor: Right. So, it seems we were paying more for the signs and taking in less revenue.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We had one complaint Pat that I know of was across the street from my mother's house. A neighbor was having sales every weekend. Then they put a stop to it.

Township Clerk: We had years ago, we had four or five people who were doing that type of thing. One on Madison Hill, there was one that would cover it over and the people had to look at these

tables covered with all of the stuff on it. But we did put a stop to it. The other thing that we have to talk about penalty because right now it says up to \$2000.00 and 90 days in jail, that is ridiculous.

Council President O'Connor: We added estate sales in there as well.

Township Clerk: We added estate sales and took out warehouse merchandise. You have to own the stuff that you are selling. A lot of people make a business of it. We are also assigning a license number now so that they take it seriously and that they have to have a permit because then the police can know where the traffic is going to go. We send it (the garage sale list) over to Susan every Friday, in case there is a big sale. Now four or five neighbors want to do it (the garage sale) together, so it can get crowded.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Does it pay Edie to do away with garage sales but have a community garage sale four times a year?

Township Clerk: I would love that idea.

Council President O'Connor: In Seaside Park that is what they do. Seaside Park has weekends where it is a community garage sale, everybody puts their stuff out and people ride on bikes, they walk around and they do that.

Township Clerk: They make it an event.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We can have in maybe April, June, September, and late October. We can have four sales a year, email us that you are having your sale, we can maintain a town wide list, this way....

Township Clerk: The only thing is that certain people will come in and they can only do it certain days.

Council President O'Connor: I think that it is a great idea. I think that allowing them to do the four but then having a onetime pay on July 10<sup>th</sup>, if we are having a town wide (garage sale).

Councilwoman Albanese: You will not need a license then. That one will not count against you.

Council President O'Connor: I think that will be really good Sal.

Councilwoman Albanese: That's good because you recycle things.

Mayor Bonaccorso: In the Spring, like the end of May. So, maybe like the third weekend in May we can advertise that there is going to be a community garage sale weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

Township Clerk: Cranford does that when they list all of the addresses as to where you can go.

Councilwoman Albanese: It cuts down on the Bulky Pick-up.

Township Clerk: That's the other thing, if you wanted to have a special bulky pick-up right after that.

Councilman Mazzarella: That's what Woodbridge Township does. They have their town wide garage sale and then right after that they have the pickup.

Councilwoman Albanese: Maybe we can have one day of recycle. After your sale is done you take out what you don't want and during pre-cycle people just come and take it, that way it cuts down on Bulky Pick-up and people could reuse things.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We can talk about that later.

Township Clerk: Even if you do that as an event. I am not sure if you are going to need to put that in the ordinance.

Councilwoman Albanese: No, because there won't be any license, it won't count against their quota.

Township Clerk: Right, exactly. So, should we even impose a penalty?

Council President O'Connor: The penalty is that they lose their right for the next year to have Garage Sales.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Who would honestly do 90 days in jail for a garage sale?

Township Clerk: I noticed in other towns that they did the same thing. They just referred to their general penalty, but our general penalty is in between \$100 and \$2,000, and up to 90 days in jail.

Council President O'Connor: So, the fee is \$3.00?

Township Clerk: We are going to make it no fee.

Council President O'Connor: The penalty should be, again, is that you lose your right for a year to have garage sales.

Township Clerk: Should we have a penalty?

Council President O'Connor: If it is a law then you should have a penalty.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yeah, \$50.00.

Council President O'Connor: \$50.00 is fine, I am okay with that.

Councilman Toal: We have to have something because what happened on Madison Hill Road was absolutely ridiculous. That lady left all of her stuff out on the front lawn, for over a year she was leaving her stuff on the front lawn every day, Monday through Friday, Saturday and Sunday. She would have an event then she could leave the stuff out. I went over and knocked on her door several times and asked what she was doing and asked her to please put the stuff away. We needed a penalty to just wake her up because she would not do anything.

Council President O'Connor: How about a \$50 penalty escalating based on the number of events.

Township Clerk: So, the first event is \$50, then \$100....

Council President O'Connor: \$150, \$300, \$600, \$1,200, you have to have something.

Township Clerk: Okay. So, if we are going to put that on for the next meeting, we are going to need a mover and a second.

Councilman Toal: I will move it.

Councilman Hund: I will second it.

Councilwoman Albanese: What was your recommendation (Mr. Laezza)?

Mr. Laezza: I have nothing to do with it, I don't want to have any part of it.

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

Mover: Toal

Second: Hund

**RESOLUTIONS:**

2. Certifying to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that the members of the Governing Body have reviewed as a minimum, sections of the 2019 Annual Audit entitled General Comments and Recommendations

Discussion: None

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

Mover: O'Connor

Second: Mazzarella

3. Approving the 2019 Annual Audit Corrective Action Plan and Authorizing the filing of said plan with the Division of Local Government Services

Discussion:

Council President O'Connor: Mr. Laezza do you want to comment.

Mr. Laezza: Basically, it is an ongoing problem with only two employees, the Fire Chief and the Recreation Director, other than that there is not a problem. They have a tendency to order whatever they want, whenever they want....

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

Mover: O'Connor

Second: Mazzarella

4. Authorizing the Qualified Purchasing Agent to utilize the increased bid threshold of \$44,000.00 as adjusted by the State Treasurer effective July 1, 2020

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: What is it right now?

Township Clerk: It is \$40,000 right now.

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

Mover: Mazzarella

Second: Hund

5. Authorizing the purchase of telephone, radio and computer equipment through State and Cooperative Contracting for installation in the New Police Headquarters building

Discussion: None

Council President O'Connor: By the way Frank congratulations on your son.

Councilman Mazzarella: Thank you.

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

Mover: Hund

Second: Barr

6. Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute an Agreement with Union County to Modify the Cooperative Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant program

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Barr

7. Approval to Submit a Grant Application, Accept the Award, and execute the Cares Act – Coronavirus Relief Funds Grant SubAward Agreement with the County of Union

Discussion:

Township Clerk: Jennifer writes our grants, and this is funds that were made available from the Federal Government that they distributed to the counties. Then you submit your bills related to the Coronavirus.

Mr. Laezza: Give us an estimate on what you think that you are going to be spending for the year and then fill out an application.

Councilwoman Albanese: All towns over 50,000 got their own money but all the other towns in the state, which is most of them, have to go through the county.

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

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Toal

8. 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 2020 through June 2021

Discussion:

Township Clerk: You saw that one before but there was a renegotiation by the Business Administrator to get a little bit more money from them.

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

Mover: Barr                      Second: Hund

9. Authorizing Final Payment to S. Brothers, Inc. for work completed on the 2019 Capital Roadway Improvements in the amount of \$312,648.86 including Final Quantities Change Order which decreases the Final Payment by \$82,304.02

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Hund                      Second: Barr

10. Authorizing Final Payment to D.L.S. Contracting, Inc. for work completed on the 2018 Capital Road Improvements in the amount of \$15,079.13 including Final Quantities Change Order which decreases the Final Payment by \$102,272.26

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: In each of these cases I think that we will probably go out for bids on the roads that were not included on those jobs.

Council President O'Connor: So, we will have \$184,000.00, right?

Councilwoman Albanese: That's great.

Council President O'Connor: Good job.

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

Mover: Mazzarella                      Second: Hund

### **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

11. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$28,268.86 for the Clean Communities Grant
12. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$42,000.00 for the Kids Recreation Trust Grant
13. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant
14. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$8,966.99
15. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the amount of \$852.27
16. Rescinding Resolution 20-62 which authorized the Tax Collector to prepare and mail estimated tax bills which are no longer necessary

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

Mover: Toal                      Second: Barr

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Not much to really report. Protests, you know all about that. Chief are you going to talk to them about what we talked about the other day?

Chief Matos: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Okay, I will leave that up to you. So far everything is cancelled. I have to see about the Senior BBQ in September. That is a big enough place that we can do social distancing. So, we will look at that and see the date and see what we want to do, see how it looks by mid-August, if it is something that I think we can pull off then we will do that for the seniors. Everything else has been cancelled so far, as you know. The fireworks again were cancelled but we are shooting for the Sunday of Labor Day weekend as a tribute to our first line responders, police, fire EMS, doctors, nurses, etc. and so on. You know, the front-line people for COVID, I think that it would be nice to honor them with that show. Hopefully, again that is not crazy and we can have it. And basically, everything else...you know the gym floors are being worked on so they are all ripped up right now and they should be done by August. We are going to open this playground out here; I am going to ask Adam to do that tomorrow. That is all that I have unless you have some questions.

Councilwoman Albanese: Did we spend a lot on Covid-19? I guess we are going to include all of the barriers...

Mr. Laezza: We already spent close to \$100,000.00.

Councilwoman Albanese: Okay.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The protest is costing us money that we did not anticipate with overtime for the police. I will complement the Chief, this week he wheeled it down but the thing is, as he and I have discussed that we can't take a chance, we don't know, you never know. So, you always have to have enough on hand, the first couple were a pretty big count so we had a full complement out there. But you know I think that one of them cost us about \$25,000, that is a lot for 4 hours.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comments.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Councilman Hund: No comment.

Councilman Mazzearella: For the record, since we are on tape, I want to complement our Mayor and our Chief for all that they have done through these protests. And for the record I want to say to our Mayor, Sal you and the Chief have nothing to be sorry for, or apologize for. You are the extension of our community, looking at the Government out of our community, and you are fair, you are honest and you have nothing to apologize for or feel sorry for. I just want to say that on record.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thanks Frank.

Councilman Toal: Sal, it was one of those days that I was out in the community and the citizens were asking, "what is going on in Clark?" What they saw in the protestors is basically what was wrong. What you did and the way that you handled the events and you spoke to the protestors as well as the community, you showed what is right in this town. You held your own and you did a great job and we want to say thank you for being there because of one reason.... this town really

could have come unglued. The citizens were great, I have not seen this kind of stuff for years. You were the pillar of strength and we appreciate everything that you did.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thanks Brian. We did it with the town in mind. The only thing that I can say is that I do appreciate that. The Chief and I were called names a bunch of times and you know; you have to hold your tongue for the righteous of the town. But you know what we are also more mature than the twenty-year old's screaming names at people. So, I do believe the town and the citizens were great. You know, it is just like weird. I got into an argument with Darren Hartong father and son, the father was a police officer here, it was on Facebook, and he made a comment about the protest and he said, "this is bs, the township should not have allowed it" and I went on and said, "Darren, I know you a long time, do you understand what the U.S. Constitution means? It is a right to protest, a right to assemble, we have no choice. He comes on again and says, "that's bs, blah, blah, blah" and I went on and said, "Darren, I know you a long time and I don't want to fight with you.", "Why don't we put up a thousand dollars each as a bet and we will get a legal opinion" Then he goes on messenger which is private and is like, "hey bro I love you, you do a great job, blah, blah, blah" I was like, "what do you mean?". They have a right to do this stuff. We don't agree with it, we don't want to be out there on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but what can we do? It's our job.

Councilman Mazzarella: I just want to make a comment. I have spoken to a number of people in the first ward who told me, who stopped me on the street, they came over to the house and they were very happy how you.... both of you, have conducted yourselves through this whole thing. You are really looking out for the wellbeing of our community. I just want to pass that on.

Councilman Barr: They have the right to protest, peacefully.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well Al for the most part it was very peaceful except for the language. That is the only part that their language, right from the start. The thing that I do resent, I do not want to hear my police department and my citizens are racist, I don't want to hear that. And that's where it's going to end with me.

Mr. Laezza: We are in the process of mailing out our tax bills, next week they will be going out. We waited long enough so we don't have to use the estimate process.

Council President O'Connor: How did we do on our collections?

Mr. Laezza: Collections have been...we will see in August.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The last one was good, right?

Mr. Laezza: The May one was about 80%.

Council President O'Connor: Which is down from our normal.

Mr. Laezza: Which is down from our normal, our normal is about 98. The problem with the May collection were people payed attention to the Governor, who said that they don't have to pay until June 1<sup>st</sup>, which was not mandatory.

Council President O'Connor: So, they didn't assess late fees for that.

Mr. Laezza: So, we have basically we said May 29<sup>th</sup> because it was a Friday, then Saturday and Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> was a Monday, we said that they would have to have the money in by that time.

Council President O'Connor: Yes.

Mr. Laezza: People don't pay attention to what we do, but we pay attention to (inaudible), they read the headline and it says that they don't have to pay their taxes until June 1<sup>st</sup>, we penalized quite a few people going back to May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman O'Connor: Right, that's it. You have said that, there was no surprise, you had announced it on television, I believe.

Mr. Laezza: Brian Toal and other councilmen gave us some lip because some people are complaining. We told them that's our rules.

Councilwoman Albanese: That's the law.

Mr. Laezza: And you guys gave me the lip. What did you do?

Councilman Toal: We asked you to explain the process to the residents.

Mr. Laezza: I am done explaining the process and so now those people are paying a penalty.

Council President O'Connor: Right.

Councilwoman Albanese: Plus, some people thought that June 1<sup>st</sup> was the due date and that they had ten days after that too, in addition. It just got worst and worst.

Mr. Laezza: So, anyway I had told you that there will be no tax increase.

Council President O'Connor: Yes.

Mr. Laezza: (Inaudible) in our assessed value, so you have a 230.00, it is 230.4.

Council President O'Connor: Right.

Mr. Laezza: That generates about a \$4.00 tax increase on \$100,000.00.

The Board of Education indicated that they had no tax increase but that is not true because when they say that they have no tax increase, they used the budget that they passed this year, which is July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. They forgot that they have half of last years. So, the taxes went up 7.8 which is \$78.00. So, of the \$88.00 tax increase, \$2.00 comes from the County, \$78.00 comes from the Board of Education, and \$4.00 comes from Municipal, \$4.00 comes from (inaudible).

Council President O'Connor: Will you explain this on television? Because I know when we had our meeting, we did mention that on TV, I believe.

Mr. Laezza: I can if you want me too.

Councilman Toal: I appreciate it. There are some people that just don't understand.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They won't. I want this on TV anyway.

Mr. Laezza: I am explaining it to make sure that you understand.

Council President O'Connor: Right.

Mayor Bonaccorso: John, let me ask you a question, on the \$78.00 increase from the Board of Education from last year. That is January 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, correct?

Mr. Laezza: Yes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are going up \$78.00 for a half of a year. What was it for the year? How much did they go up last year?

Mr. Laezza: Last year they went up about 13 points.

Councilman Mazarella: That's a lot.

Council President O'Connor: I know that we were supposed to have the reassessment this year.

Mr. Laezza: They gave us permission to extend it.

Council President O'Connor: They did, so it will take place in 2021, or 2022?

Mr. Laezza: It is taking place in 2021 and it will be in the 2022 taxes.

Council President O'Connor: Okay.

Councilman Toal: Great.

Council President O'Connor: Thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Guys listen, you have to explain to the people in this town, and we will. We are going to go on TV, we are going to do everything that we feel we can, do a presentation. They have a right to appeal if they don't agree. This company is right about 88% of the time? (Mr. Laezza: yes) okay, the town has not been reassessed since the 80's.

Councilman Toal: 85'.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are being forced by the Union County Board of Taxation. This isn't your Mayor, your Councilman that decided one morning to reassess the town. Actually, I fought it off for twenty years, and John will sit here and tell you. He said to me, "Mayor we should do this" and I said, "Yeah John, when Newark and Elizabeth and the rest of them do it, then we will do it." We went through cleaning up Ellenport's mess, we went through the sewer utility and that mess, putting the sewer utility in and the extra fees. You know back then we were talking and I said, John, how much could these people take?" So, he was right, he was never wrong but then it got to the point, which is better for you, that the Union County Board of Taxation came in and if you have a problem with them, call them. We are governed by certain laws that we have to follow, plain and simple.

Council President O'Connor: So, one of the things that I heard from constituents is that they don't understand the process, they think that it would be better for them not to let them in their homes, then to let them in (Mr. Laezza: no), and we know that it is better to let them in then not let them in because of these assumptions that an Assessor would make. I think that we have to make that clear when the times comes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: When the time comes Pat, we'll have a full-scale meeting on it. I think that we can even go to the high school and open up the auditorium if people want to come in for the Q and A. (Mr. Laezza: we are going to do that before we even go out) But they have to understand that if they don't see it then they are going to assess you on the high side. So, you are not getting cute with that either.

Councilwoman Albanese: We are just slicing up one pie. It is the same thing with the sewer utility, we only have 100%, so, when one person is favorably impacted, one person may be unfavorably impacted. But it is only going to be about 1/3 statistically. Because probably 1/3 are right and 1/3 are wrong and 1/3 are paying too much, you have to look at it that way.

Council President O'Connor: Right.

Councilwoman Albanese: We had the same issue with the sewer utility. People have to pay who have value in their homes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I would really like to talk to the people about sewer utility now. Who were a little taken back by it back in 2006? Who now have kids that graduated college, moved out and got jobs and their bills went from \$500 and some dollars, down to a \$280.00 minimal balance? I mean we said it at the time it was going to happen and it did happen. But like you say I mean even with this reassess evaluation, it's not our fault guys, it is what it is. These are the same people that if you went over there as a real estate agent and said "gee you know Mr. O'Connor I think your home is worth 525", are you kidding me "this is worth 650, they won't be saying this if the guy comes through the door, but that's the truth.

Mr. Laezza: I'll give you an example; the tax rate is 8.745 right now. If we use the equalized evaluation that the County uses, that (tape inaudible) would be \$2.21. So, if your house goes from an assessment of a hundred and ninety-three thousand, the seven and eighteen thousand you come even. So that's how it works.

Councilwoman Albanese: In some parts of the State they are doing it every year, one County is doing it every year. And that's probably what's going to happen, it might me twenty years from now or fifty years from now, who knows, but they are doing it every year.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It's also going to cut down on tax appeals which costs everybody money.

Council President O'Connor: It costs us money.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well I'm saying the taxpayers too guys.

Council President O'Connor: That's what I mean, us, because the county and the school don't have to pay into it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right, right. So, I mean even on that basis there's going to be less or if any type of appeals. And it's there for businesses and industries because we were getting killed there too.

No further discussion

Police Chief Matos: So, concerning all the protests that we've handled for the last several weeks. I feel it's my opinion that this is going to become more and more (tape inaudible). It's only going

to be a matter of time before there's another spotlight incident or a major incident. I highly doubt it's going to happen in Clark but I'm sure it's going to be somewhere in California or something and they will be demonstrations in Clark again. It's my recommendation...I spoke to the Mayor about this earlier and I also spoke to Mr. Dugan tonight about the town passing ordinances that would at a minimum prohibit demonstrations in residential neighborhoods, I feel that's important not to have...like this weekend if we had that (ordinance), this weekend they would have had to change and done something else. So you don't have protestors/demonstrators or whatever you want to call them walking through a residential neighborhood, disturbing the neighborhood and #2 would also prevent demonstrations specifically in front of a home, let's say if a town official lives there and they want to speak out against the township or a State official, it would prevent that. That's my recommendation, Mr. Dugan said he was going to look into it. Which also maybe having a permitted process, (tape inaudible) along as we know or who is organizing the event. So, if God forbid something happens, we can always go back to that person and hold that person accountable.

Council President O'Connor: I mean I have to lean on Mr. Dugan, I don't know enough about the constitutional law.

Attorney Dugan: There could be reasonable restrictions on any constitutional (tape inaudible, speaking too low). We'll definitely look into that; we'll put together an ordinance but we'll talk about it before I put anything together.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They'll be holding a protest down Westfield Avenue. Although there's some residential areas it's (tape inaudible) I guess Raritan Road to up here (Westfield Avenue).

Councilwoman Albanese: Well that's what I was going to ask you because there's so many houses (tape inaudible) in the area.

Mayor Bonaccorso: The zoning in the area, that zone Downtown Village business, blah, blah, blah. (tape inaudible) they would only be able to walk from the Parkway Circle to the Central Avenue Bridge.

Councilwoman Albanese: This might be worse.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Right. So, I mean you basically tell them Westfield Avenue is your place to walk to or up to and that's basically that, it's more controlled. Because in front of people's houses eventually someone is going to say something. So, I mean the Chief has been with great strategies with these protests on having a lot of people around but not visible, not to make it look like the military type thing and looking for problems. And other than their little potty months they were you know for the most part.

No further questions to the Chief

Attorney Dugan: no comments.

Township Clerk: Yes, thank you. I need a brainstorm here. I have a woman who said since the end of May has been asking when can she door to door soliciting. I said ma'am we have a virus out there. I'm sure people don't want to see a stranger at their door. But I said that's just my opinion, I haven't heard the Governor say anything about it.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I thought think there's any rule against that.

Councilwoman Albanese: No.

Council President O'Connor: I think we have the ability as a Council to either supersede or override what we do governmentally as far as COVID.

Township Clerk: I gave her contact information to the Governor office. I said why don't you ask the Governor. She said some towns are accepting it and she said I'll just keep you as a "no", but I don't want to restrict her.

Council President O'Connor: What is this for?

Township Clerk: This is for environmental.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Look, I'm going to tell you something right now, here's the bottom line. You guys go campaigning door to door like I do. You know 50% of the bells ring and no one answers. Now you are going to ring the doorbell, okay and sometimes no one comes out, don't be offended, it happens. But seriously not ringing the doorbell that's going to probably go up to about 60 or 65%. So, I mean and the other thing is, it's Covid-19, if you don't want to answer it, don't answer it. People will come to the door and say "hi, I'm here for this", excuse me there's a pandemic, I don't want your stuff, go. You know what I mean. I don't know what I'm going to do with the election right now.

Township Clerk: So, give her the permit.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I would Edie, and just say, "Look you are on your own."

Township Clerk: Do we restrict her in public with a mask.

Mayor Bonaccorso: No, it's not the law, you don't need a mask. The law is you don't need to wear a mask in public.

Township Clerk: Chief, do we know if the company working with the fingerprinting.

Chief Matos: That's a good question, I don't know, I would assume so because the pistol purchase permits are still being process, so these people are getting fingerprints somewhere.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Did you see the US for the first month they sold two million guns.

Chief Matos: You should see the amount of purchase permits I'm processing. We're getting thirty applications a day.

Councilwoman Albanese: Raise the fee on that.

Chief Matos: That's State mandated.

Councilwoman Albanese: Can't we have a local thing.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You know what it's very hard to go into a gun store right now.

No more discussion

Council President O'Connor: So, for me, I was down the shore this weekend and I got an alert bear in my neighborhood. And I just want to commend the police department. I have Ring Doorbell

and my doorbell was ringing every thirty-five seconds with a police car going up and down my street looking for that bear. So, what a nice job of keeping the neighborhood safe.

Council President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**August 3, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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.

**RESOLUTION:**

1. Award of Contract for the Collection and Disposal of Leaves (Bid opening August 5)

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Mazzarella      Second: Albanese

2. Appointing Thomas Sweeney as a member of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Barr      Second: Hund

3. Authorizing the Health Officer to enter into an Agreement with the Visiting Nurse and Health Service for the year 2021 in the amount of \$7,986.00

Discussion: none

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

Mover: Smith      Second: Albanese

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

4. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount of \$1,605.35
5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$5,100.00

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

Mover: Toal Second: Albanese

Additional Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: We are going to have an ordinance introduction for seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This is using the New Jersey Department of Transportation funds. This is for Wilson Drive, Waterson Drive, the signalization on Westfield Avenue at the corner of Wilson and Westfield, the Clark Library parking lot will be repaved, Emerald Drive and Emerald Court. The amount of seven hundred and fifty thousand will be introducing on August 17<sup>th</sup> and adopted on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

No further discussion

Council President O'Connor asked for a mover and second

Mover: Albanese 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 O'Connor opened the public portion of the meeting

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

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Mr. President. Preparing tonight for tomorrow storm, I spoke with Scott McCabe, and the Department of Public Works is ready to go, everything is set and in motion. They are out today cleaning some catch basins in low line flood areas. If people call you tomorrow and say their street is flooding, tell them no kidding there is three to six inches of rain, that's what they are predicting, streets will flood. And when it stops, they will go down like they do every storm flashflood we have in Clark. In the meantime, if there's power outages and such we'll deal with it, we will be read to go. So, the department is ready to go so I'm glad to report that.

With a sad part I'm going to have to cancel this year's Senior Citizen BBQ because again the Governor has put a lid on the outside gatherings on how many people it could be. And I don't know how many seniors would really want to come God forbid even though the Deutscher Club has plenty of room for social distancing. But you know what they still have to get food and all that, I think it's safer. And for the Labor Day weekend we are going to have to cancel the fireworks because we do not have the amount of...again the outside gatherings, there's going to be thousands of people. So that's a sad thing we have to do, I'm not happy this year. None of the extra services we provide for the residents are being achieved because of Covid-19.

As of last week, I talked to Nancy, I think there's three cases in Clark. Niche put out a ranking of all the towns in the State today, A plus to B minus, and Clark got an A minus, which I think is okay, we're in the A's so I'm happy. This is a ranking that took several factors into consideration such as the quality of local schools, crime rates, housing, (tape inaudible) statistics and access to

amenities. We are the amenities, so (tape inaudible) for here in Clark, so it's good to see. Again, guys you know for twenty years I've always said, when it's something good you advertise it, I don't know how they come up with this, I have no idea. Like one year you can be rated twelve and the next year you are rated sixty, like everything is the same, like what happened, but whatever. I liked it for you know in today's computer world when people are shopping from home is in their google and stuff like that pops up, it's nice for the community, they feel they are coming into which they are a better community. So, I'm very happy to see that, I don't think there's anything wrong with that.

And Ralph was going to send out the book for fall and for winter activities in the Rec Department, and we are going to play it by ear. The minute we can start opening some things up, we are going to. You know then it's up to the people if they want to come or not, or etc. and so on. Just like we did with the town pool. The pool I think I was there one night this year, it's fantastic, beautiful and gorgeous. And from what I hear the people who are using it are really, really enjoying it. But it's not running to its capacity.

Regarding the schools, they are having a Board of Education meeting tonight on what they are going to do. I think they have this half day plan. You know everybody has an emotional attachment to what's going on with the Covid-19 with their kid. Look, my kid is a Junior, to me the horse has ran out of the barn already. You have these kids in the elementary, if they don't get in class and start... you know listening to the teacher, discipline in sitting in a chair, paying attention, having conversations and comradery with the fellow students, these kids are going to be backwards. I'm sorry, that is just my opinion, what do I know? I don't know, but that is my opinion. I think that the school district is going to make every effort to try to keep it safe for everybody, that is all you can do.

We are still in lockdown here (Municipal Building) as you know, locked down here. People are doing business; they call a number and our people come out and take care of it. Until this alleviates a little bit, we are just going to have to keep doing what we are doing. It is not what we are used to any of us. That's it for me, any questions?

Council President O'Connor: I know that in the past the cafeteria was always open to people if they needed a place to go if there is a storm.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, we will do that.

Council President O'Connor: They will still be able to go in there?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, Pat we can absolutely do that. The gyms are in construction right now so we can't do that. But you know between here and the First Aid Squad, we have got room for people. If something gets knocked out, we have to have a cooling center we can do that, we will just have to do the best we can.

Council President O'Connor: Great thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: With the gyms we are usually okay but what are we going to do?

Councilman Toal: Mayor, the fireworks were set and were allocated the funding, we had the date then the rain date, and we moved everything. Do we get our money back?

Mr. Laezza: No, we still get charged half of it.

Councilman Toal: That is what I needed to know. Maybe next year they can make it up and lessen the bill?

Mr. Laezza: No.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Either we blow them all off or we get penalized for half because they are not coming to do half of a show at the end of summer. This is part of the Covid-19, it is contractional, there is nothing that you can do about it.

Mark Dugan: How much are we talking about?

Mr. Laezza: 15,000 dollars.

Councilwoman Albanese: No seventy-five hundred.

Mark Dugan: I have been successful in challenging those. So, if you want me to look at it, the problem here is the amount may not warrant that (tape inaudible) even if it's (tape inaudible) you don't go to court, it might not warrant. But I will look at it if you want me too.

Councilman Toal: It saves money.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It saves money but we've been dealing with...

Councilwoman Albanese: We said that we are going to be doing 50% of capacity which I think the State allows at the pool. Are we hitting that?

Mayor Bonaccorso: No.

Mr. Laezza: We are losing our shirt.

Council President O'Connor: If the council doesn't mind, I would like to have Mr. Laezza go next, as he has an update for us. Is that okay with council?

Mr. Laezza: Councilman Hund called me today and obviously he has a citizen that complains about everything and he wanted to know why he had a \$200.00 increase in his taxes. The County went up 2/10's of 1% of County Open Space. The municipality went up 4/10's of 1%, and the municipal library went up 4/10's of 1% that is like 44 cents. Our tax rate was 230 last year, it is 230.4, but our school went up 7.8%, so, they are about 88.64% of our increase in property taxes.

Mayor Bonaccorso: That is for the 19/20 budget for the school, correct? June to June?

Mr. Laezza: January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. When the school put their budget together, they used July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, knowing full well that they had to first pick up July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Council President O'Connor: So, there is a mathematical error as well, on top of it?

Council President O'Connor: They don't have John Laezza as their Business Administrator, I guess. Thank you, John, for keeping Clark the way it is.

Mr. Laezza: The second thing I have is that I got a letter today, an email from a citizen today indicating that President Trump pass an executive order that says that there will be no affordable housing built in the suburbs. So, they asked if that eliminates our need to build affordable housing.

I am having it investigated by our administrative agent, because that is what he does for a living. So, I will let you know when we know.

Council President O'Connor: So, I am assuming it isn't true and that everything that is already in process will continue but there will just be no new. If that is correct.

Mayor Bonaccorso: If Governor Murphy really cares about the State of New Jersey like he says he does, and you look at where the Covid-19 hit the hardest, they hit in poor neighborhoods with higher density, up in Bergen County with higher density, and if you continue doing what you are doing in Union County this is going to become a higher density then it far already is and someday, God forbid, it could be two years from now or it could be 200 years from now, who knows? But, when that pandemic hits again we are going to be wrapped up into the same predicament that Bergen County was and the higher density areas of this State. Just look at the cities that were hit, look everywhere nationwide it is the higher density areas that are hit the hardest.

Council President O'Connor: Thank you. Mr. Laezza, are you finished? Thank you very much for the updates we appreciate it.

Councilwoman Albanese: Just a quick update on the library. So, they started to take reservations for curbside pickup and now they are open with limited access, and a special hour for people who are compromised, or elderly, they can go in initially and they will have a limited amount of time. They will keep increasing as things go on and improve. I will give an update at the next meeting unless someone has questions otherwise.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Councilman Hund: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comment.

Councilman Toal: I want to say to the Administration thank you for paving Rainbow and also Post Road. I was out before the meeting tonight and talking to the residents and they are very happy except they are very concerned about the drainage issues on Post Circle, I spoke to four vocal residents that were very nice but they don't want to see the water accumulate because then it becomes a hazard for their homes and the neighborhood.

Mr. Laezza: I think that Post Circle was supposed to be redone also.

Councilman Toal: It wasn't, it wasn't. When I was there one of their sump pumps were pumping out the water and they saw it draining. If you can tell the engineer check it again. Everything else is fine but the company said that they were going to be checking it again themselves.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well Brian the one thing is that you have been on council for twenty something years. The problem with sump pumps is that they don't have the push of the water amount to get them down to the sewers. That is why we have so much icing in the wintertime. It discharges, for example, the sewer is down there in the corner and lays here in front of John and Angel and it never gets to there because there's not enough push of it. So, even with any kind of grading that you do, you are always going to have that problem.

Councilman Toal: The residents are very happy and I just wanted to say to the Administration, thank you.

Township Clerk: No comment.

Council President O'Connor: Just again, the DPW is doing a great job. They are doing the leaves and they are getting everything done. They really are doing a nice job keeping the town nice.

Councilman Mazzarella: They are, they are doing fantastic.

Councilwoman Albanese: With the bulk pick-up, even though we haven't had the other events, people have been obviously cleaning.

Councilman Mazzarella: Just recently they have been working with PSE&G, and they removed a tree and they cleaned up and the person is very happy.

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

ADJOURNMENT

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**September 8, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dispensed

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Council as the ABC Board:** Authorizing the annual renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the 2020-2021 Term

Discussion:

Township Clerk: I am happy to say that all of the licenses complied and will be renewing. The state delayed the process because of the virus, everybody is good.

Councilman Smith: I saw Molly's down on here but then there is no sign up at Molly's and it hasn't opened. Do we know what is going on? Have you heard anything?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Some say the sign broke during the storm, others are saying they are not coming back, so who knows. But either way they still have to renew their license to make it transferable.

Councilman Smith: So, the license is theirs or their landlords?

Mr. Laezza: It is theirs.

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

Mover: Mazzarella     Second: Smith

2. Ratifying Police Department promotions effective September 1, 2020; Det. Sgt. Lott to Lieutenant, Sgt. Miguel Acabou to Lieutenant and Lt. Pitts to Captain

Mayor Bonaccorso: I will talk about it at my comments.

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

Township Clerk: I sent you all, late in the day, a resolution that we received after the meeting was all put together for the purchase of the furniture for the police department. So, we will be adding that as a separate vote, so that will not be on the consent agenda.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

3. Authorizing the Tax Collector to participate in an Electronic Tax Sale
4. Authorizing and Directing the Tax Collector to charge a fee of \$25.00 for each Notice of Tax Sale sent in conjunction with the 2020 Electronic Tax Sale
5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount of \$10,382.41
6. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$27,577.50
7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the amount of \$1,256.83

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Delia Collins, 32 Georgia Street: I was just wondering I haven't been following much of what's been happening regarding the revaluation. Was that brought up at any prior meeting as to when that is going to happen?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Next year.

Delia Collins: 2021?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes.

Delia Collins: Do you know when it will start.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Covid-19 came.

Delia Collins: I realize that, I am just asking.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, no problem.

Delia Collins: Okay, thank you.

Seeing no one coming forward Councilman Toal made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Smith

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

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

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, Mr. President, thank you very much. Edie the voters box outside of Ralph's office, what's the story, did we get it?

Township Clerk: No, well, I shouldn't say no. I asked today because I thought it might come up. We've been getting numerous phone calls about elections already, as you can imagine. The answer that I received was, "I will be told in advance, they are not making any announcements until the box has been installed. If an announcement is made voters are going to drive around looking for a box which is not there and it will frustrate them, breeding mistrust of the system. You can certainly redirect those questions to our office."

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know if they think that the people in Clark are stupid but I can attest that they are not. Why would we drive around looking for a mail in ballot (box) when nothing has been mailed out yet? But, okay, that answers my question. Hopefully our great president will win in court, which will be impossible in a Democratic Court of New Jersey and to make people vote the way they should be able to vote. Hopefully, he will beat the.... he may be heard in court but I doubt it because then they can't fix the elections. Let 70 dead bodies get to vote this year.

Township Clerk: You know unofficially, I cannot imagine them saying no to a box for us because the situation is ideal. We followed every single thing that they asked for, we gave them every picture from the surveillance camera, we have the concrete that they can bolt it right into, it is perfect. It is handicap assessable, the handicap spots are right there, the ramp is right there.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I think that we will get it.

Township Clerk: I think that we are going to get it but they have not told me so far.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Moving on Council, just to warn you about last Thursday nights Planning Board meeting. There were some inquiries made about putting some taller buildings up in Clark in certain zoned areas. Basically, this applied to around the (Clark) Common's area, this wasn't just any old lot around. More of a longer plan, than a short-term plan, to try to find and keep ratables coming into the community. Maybe an area like the Clark Commons to bring some residential (housing) there, and try to make sure that it stays as viable as it was. So, we brought it up before the Planning Board and there was no great flavor for it. Just more of what do you guys think...and then if they were to approving it, it would have to come to you folks for your thoughts and conversation. It was declined, and I believe it made a lot of sense because we have some very talented people on the Planning Board. So, that's kind of just a trial balloon that went up there and it really went nowhere. So, if you read about it, or hear about it, at least you will know that's where it is at, and it's a dead issue as far as we are concerned at this point. Some good points were made... until we see what some of the other buildings look like... get a few years down the road then maybe we will look at it again. God only knows, I mean things change every day. But, as of now it is a complete dead issue which was good, and again I thank our talented people on the Planning Board. See it's a very good democracy in Clark, as you know we let people have their opinions and we vote. That was a good discussion for everybody and I enjoyed the meeting.

New gym floors are being installed. The back gym is about complete and then they will be starting on the front gym. Today they painted the white lines on the floor, the fighting Crusader logo and it is really going to be nice down there. We have all the backboards primed and painted so they all look very nice and I think when we reopen the Recreation Center and there will be a lot of people that are very happy with our gyms. Which is, as you know, used for the children to seniors, male, female for all different kinds of activities.

The police department building is coming along very well. We believe that we have a very good contractor that is staying up on it. Our company, our construction manager that we hired on our behalf is doing a tremendous job, and is on top of everything and very happy to report back. The inside is basically sheet rocked as they are finishing up the outside. We are putting bullet proof glass windows in, things of that nature, the roofing went on. So, we are doing really well and it is very exciting right now to see the things taken place there.

This Friday is our 911 Memorial Annual Ceremony, it's our 19<sup>th</sup> after the tragic loss on 911. The place has been taken care of and cleanup up as always. I would say for you to get there at about 8:45 am and we will start about 9:00 am. This will comply with our Governor's social distancing phobia. We usually get about 50-60 people who attend, well it is an election year so we might have 3 or 4 more, every other year they come. I look forward to seeing everybody there remembering Jim Nelson especially and all of those who passed during the 911 tragedy. We must never, ever forget and we wont in Clark.

The Senior Fitness Center and The Teen Center, I am considering reopening them sooner rather than later. And what I mean by that is I want to see what happens. I don't want to open and close; I think that is counterproductive for everybody. But I would like to see in a few weeks or so what is the new COVID reports with the 25% indoor dining and the school opening up. Clark, our numbers are rock bottom and I am very happy and impressed about that. If the numbers are down, and once the gym floor in the front goes in, they are working on that, I think that is going to be another 10 days or so, then I will take a look with Ralph on opening up and you know again with all the social distancing rules and cleanliness, etc. and so on.

Ralph has asked me permission to open up the outdoor activities and I have given him the go ahead to do that. Some of the things that he does outside because at this point there is no reason not to when everybody else is.

Governor Murphy took another shattering tonight. He ordered the Turnpike Authority to let the American Flag fly over the overpasses on the Parkway and Turnpike. And now, he is trying to say, "Hey, look at what I did", No Governor I have to tell you if that was me a week ago, I would have blacked out on the Director of the Turnpike Authority which governs the Parkway and the Turnpike and would have ordered those things up the next morning. So, it is another thing that he is trying to pull over with his liberalism matters that he is trying to run our government under. There were a lot of banners going up on the overpasses, and I do agree that it is not a billboard and if you allow one with freedom of speech, civil rights, you have to allow everyone. There were some great banners up with the "Support the Blue Line", Support Our First Responders", and I am glad that they were up for as long as they had been. But I was in a position to make that call, and other people would have started asking, "can I, can I, can we, can we?", I would have said, "look, take everything down but leave the American Flag." No one is going to argue with that, I hope, well, maybe today they might, but the majority won't. That would have been smart, intelligent, seasoned and the professional way to handle that. I already ordered DPW to put up two flags tomorrow on Westfield Avenue and Madison Hill Road, immediately, first thing in the morning. I believe that they should be there. I know some patriots put one up on Westfield Avenue and the

Turnpike came by yesterday, or today and took it off. So, the Turnpike Authority, if you can hear me, can you return our flag, we keep it and put it back up, but if not, we have other flags. So, like I said I am very happy to see that the consistency of our Governor like when he got caught with the November snow, and he was brining in the middle of July, it seemed like to me. You know it is tough when you are in politics and you are in government and you can't take a hit because for sure he will get enough of them. So that is great, I am happy about that, God bless our great nation, so we are going to see that happening.

The police department were due to vacancies in those jobs and we are glad to appoint Danny Pitts as Captain, Mike Acabou and Chris Lott as lieutenants, they are seasoned, they are veterans and they are going to do a great job.

The other thing that is going to be very exciting for the town and I hope Council will be out that night is on November 6<sup>th</sup>, we are going to call it "Patriots honoring our Patriots and our Veterans Night" at the Johnson Crusader football game. The other night I was on Facebook and they showed a high school in Texas that came out with the American Flag on poles that we have on Westfield Avenue, we're Proud to be an American playing, and it was heartwarming, if you are a patriot and you love this country, like we all do, it was heartwarming. And some of the moms started saying that we should do that, we should do that, we'll raise money, we'll do this, we'll do that. So, I went on and said to relax and let me see what I could do and that I would let them know tomorrow. And we ordered flags, which we are going to use next year anyway for the poles because they get tattered every year, so it is not costing any extra money. Scott McCabe is going to make up some poles and they will be on November 6<sup>th</sup> against Bishop Ahr High School, the home game. There are only two this year because of COVID, things have been cancelled. The theme of that night is going to be honoring our veterans and our patriots in this town and country, and the boys will be coming out to that, each one will be carrying the American Flag. And there's going to be a little special treat as they walk on the field for them, kind of like I did when I opened up the other field, if you get my drift.

Councilman O'Connor: And that's a Friday night game?

Mayor Bonaccorso: That's a Friday night game, I will let Council be there, if you can, if you can't no problem, I understand some of you have very extensive social lives, and God-for-bid, I don't want you to stop from socializing. But it would be nice to see as many as possible out that night, at least for that part of the game. So, I am excited that we can do that. November 6<sup>th</sup>, the other game was October 30<sup>th</sup>, and the reason that we shied away from that was because it is "Senior Night" and we didn't want this to take away any of our hoopla from supporting our veterans and patriots. And there is going to be a very brief fireworks show when the boys run out on the field like I did like when I opened the field in 2007, we had a good night that night, nothing crazy, like you have seen before a football game. So, we had a little money in the budget that we didn't use for our major fireworks, again I apologize about September 6<sup>th</sup>, I really wish we could have done it, but the Governor won't allow us to do that. It's okay if you are standing in a Motor Vehicle line for 8 hours, 6 hours, 5 hours hip to hip with people and something like seeing a firework display is still not allowed.

I am happy to see that our restaurants are at 25% open, it is better than zero. I disagree again with our governor; I think that it should be around 50%. People have a right to make a living in this country, I am embarrassed of this State Republican Party, that they are allowing a one-person rule in New Jersey. There are people out there, it is so hysterical when I start to watch the political ads on tv, and they are blaming, in my opinion our President for economic fall when he is coming back strong, it is going to be strong and it was stronger than ever. And these are the same cities that are the ones shutting down a lot of these business and not allowing them to open. Is there a safety

Workshop Council Meeting September 8, 2020..... 6  
concern? To a degree, this pandemic is gone, it has been gone for a long time now Are you going to always have a flair up here and there? Absolutely, it is only science, it going to make sense if you think about it and read enough about it. But we need to get our economy going, people need to work. Joe Bidon should not tell me on TV about the unemployment rate when he is willing to shut down the country again next year. You know I guess some of these politicians just think that the voters are stupid and that is why we have been very successful in Clark; we've never treated the voter that way. You know to think people are stupid and will believe that, you have to have a brain about the size of a peanut in your head. So, that is my report for tonight. Any questions on anything I have given you?

Councilman Barr: Let me ask you one thing Sal. With the opening up of the recreation (center), and all of that, I can't see them opening up the once-a-month senior meeting in the cafeteria.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We probably can't yet Al because of the virus.

Councilman Barr: I know that we can't because....

Mayor Bonaccorso: Look folks, it is a very simple scenario to me...senior (citizens) are vulnerable, I believe more than the young. If seniors want to come and follow the safety guidelines and work out in the fitness center, not tomorrow, it is not open tomorrow, but maybe the beginning of October or something, I don't know yet. We are going to have the machines cleaned, they are going to be cleaned. We have a sprayer that L'Oréal donated to police, fire and DPW, they are \$4,400.00 a piece, and we have been spraying those buildings since the pandemic hit with a chemical that is not hazardous to your health obviously, and so far, in God's will, we haven't had one cop, one fireman, or one DPW guy with the pandemic, the COVID-19. So, what we are going to do is if we have the Senior Fitness Center open, if and when we are ready, we are going to open it with a certain amount of people, when people get off of the machine, the girl that works there has to clean the machine and then when it closes at 12:30, have the room fully sprayed to make sure it is okay. And you know slowly look at how we can open things up, slowly, I am not going to wave a magic wand. The Teen Center is open two nights a week, it doesn't get a real good crowd of kids but it gets some kids and we'll do the same thing down there to get that going, to give people again, opportunity. People are tired of living in a shell, it has been since March, you could see what happens. He opened the casinos, he opened the shore, which I am glad that he did on both counts. People went down there and there was no social distancing on boardwalks, some bars, beaches, everyone seems pretty good about it. Outdoors is definitely safer. Now, there is not a debate here, it is not an argument here, if people choose not to participate then they don't participate, no hard feelings, we will catch you down the road. It is kind of like what the school district did, and what I agree with, opening schools. We are going to have you in the classroom and if you don't want come then you can learn online, virtual. If there are parents who chose not to send their children, I respect their feelings... that is their child, that's their opinion. It is the same thing with certain activities that we are going to slowly reopen in Clark. Again, you don't want to participate and you think I am wrong, no hard feelings, come when you feel when you are comfortable. Because I know these people have been coming to me and say, "hey mayor, we would love to get back, what do you think, what do you think, what do you think?" I really want to see what happens now with schools and with the 25% of restaurants opening, if there is a significant balance. The other thing that I am looking for more than saying, "oh, there are 10 positive tests", how many are in the hospital and how many really past. You know when you take the nursing home numbers out of New Jersey, it is not as bad as you would think. There was a very bad thought process by, again, our Governor, to put those people in nursing homes that were sick, they were the most vulnerable, it happened in New Jersey and it happened in New York. And if you look, I think that they said 47% don't quote me exactly, of the deaths that were caused in nursing homes, that is a big number, that is a big number. And everybody already knows that they cheated on

COVID, you can have COVID-19 and get a heart attack behind the wheel of your car and they are blaming it on COVID-19, not that you were eating 16 cheeseburgers a week and you had a heart attack. So, I mean let's be honest, it was \$39,000.00 every time a hospital got to report it. They think that the American public is stupid, some may be but most aren't. If you listen and have an open mind you will see what has been going on. So, that really concludes that part of it. Any other questions?

Councilman Mazzarella: When you do decide to open up, when that time period comes, is there any possibility of considering opening up part of the cafeteria, or something like that for seniors, police, dpw, and municipal workers for flu shots?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, we can look at that too. I will talk to Nancy Raymond on that. They should be done in the gym where there is more space and everything. So yes, I will talk with Nancy and when she is comfortable to do that. We will be glad to do that as we always do every year.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Councilman Hund: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comment.

Councilman Smith: No comment.

Councilman Toal: People are just coming off of Labor Day, now it is gone, now we will get back into the swing of things. Typically, I haven't spoken to anybody. I hit the ward a couple of times but most people are away and are not coming back in. I just hope everyone stays focused on Clark, nice quiet Clark.

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Township Clerk: No comment.

Mr. Dugan: No comment.

Councilman O'Connor: The only comment that I have is directed to the mayor, and to the clerk... and I am sure that Mr. Laezza is involved in it somehow. Thank you very much for trying to get an (election) Drop Box for Clark. I know our residents would really appreciate it. I know that we have a lot of seniors, and I know that we have a lot of people in town are very, very sort of passionate about this election and having a box in Clark would really, really help them out. So, thank you very much for that.

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT



**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**October 5, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Award of Contract for Phase II of the Capital Road Improvement program  
(Bid opening Oct 7<sup>th</sup>)

Township Clerk: We are opening those bids this Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mover: Smith                      Second: Mazzearella

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

2. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount of \$30,464.83
3. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$7,450.00
4. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the amount of \$1,750.34
5. Approving the Council Meeting Calendar for 2021
6. Approving the 2021 Holiday Schedule

Council President O'Connor 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.

Seeing no one coming forward Councilman Smith made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Barr

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mr. Laezza: The Best Practices Inventory that was sent to us by the States Treasures Office for 2020, has been reviewed and prepared by the CFO, myself and the Municipal Clerk. We came up with a score of 23.5, so, that there will be no state aid for health from our (inaudible) at the time. By and large we (you have a copy of it, right?) (Council responded yes) Something that you should be interested in is item #44, and they asked us if we were in approval of the stormwater operation, the rain tax, and we said no. The current state mandates it without funding...the state should pay for it. So, we responded to this exactly as we felt, especially since they were looking for something to do down there for the unscored survey. We let them know how we really thought in most cases. We faired pretty well- and there were things that we said no to, that we would still say no, when and if they come to it. I think that we did a good job. Basically, we are in very good shape in the municipality as it relates to Best Practices. We told them exactly how we felt.

Councilwoman Albanese: So, you are talking about those unscored sections.

Mr. Laezza: Yes, the unscored sessions.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Thank you Mr. President. We are having Trunk or Treat; it is going to happen. Murphy has put out an array of Halloween restrictions with social distancing, masks, this, that and the other thing. Even candy, my daughter was telling me, I don't know where she saw it but I didn't see it, about like if you were going to put three little pieces to put them in a baggie, they are not allowed to touch the candy, the people at home have to give them the candy. You have to wear a mask...did you ever wear those Halloween masks? Like it's almost impossible to see or breath, so now we are going to put another mask on top of that, doesn't make sense. Look, whatever it is for the kids, it is about the kids and I am happy that we are getting to have something, it is very, very important.

The gym floors are basically done, everything is in shape down there, they look dynamite. We are looking forward to reopening up the Recreation Center. I am closely watching the COVID numbers, that is what my whole thing is here right now, because we don't want to open and then there is a spike and then we have to close and the whole bit. We had a sanitizing machine coming that is like a mist sprayer that we could put disinfectant in and spray all of the rooms and hallways that we use daily to help and try to cut down on this Coronavirus. I think that it has helped because we have used those three machines for the police, fire and DPW, and none of our people have come down with Coronavirus, and I am happy to see that. We have been doing that since about April in those buildings.

Numbers in Clark are basically relatively low. We had a few but anything would look like a jump from zero, you if you add four or five in it seems like a jump but those are very low numbers. Clark has been very diligent in trying to fight off this virus and I give all of the citizens all credit for that. Even though out the pandemic, I think that we had 295 cases, I believe from Friday's report, and that is not very much considering some of the other towns around us. I will dovetail into my speech about...if you look at the towns that were hit the hardest and the cities, they were towns and cities that have high density housing. As you all know one of my pet peeves on the high-density affordable housing that was jammed down our throats by the courts, and the lack of effort from the Governor and the State Legislature, these are the problems when you have pandemics like this. Clark has a lot of people but we are not overly populated and towns like Clark and Westfield and Cranford and Fanwood and Scotch Plains to name a few, these are the towns that someday are going to be at risk God forbid something like that ever happens again. Because when you move

the higher density into the community as well as that happening you will also have infrastructure problems, school crowding, police problems, more fire apparatus to worry about for even bigger buildings, so this is why I would really wish the State (of New Jersey) to take a look at this and think about what they are doing and come up with a decent affordable housing plan like we had here for the last I would say 15 or 16 years, I guess. Look at Bergen County, highly in density, highly populated that area (tape inaudible) they are cities, they got killed. So, even the cities around us here in Union County got hit very hard. So, that's why with all of that and all of the other reasons that I listed I think that for health issues it should be reexamined. We will try to do that but I know that the Governor's staunchly against it and I don't think it is going to happen unless there is another Governor that comes in with a brain that can figure it out.

November 6<sup>th</sup> the high school football team.... it's "Patriot's Night", sponsored by yours truly. We are going to have every football player come on the field with the American Flag, like we hang out on Westfield Avenue. We are going to be honoring our Veterans of the American Legion and the VFW's and that will be at the 50-yard line to get their congratulations and thanks from our student athletes. It is going to be a great night; it is going to be a very patriotic night in Clark. I am very proud of it and I thank Gus Kalikas our Athletic Director, Ed Grande and the Board of Education for going along with this - your support Council, like always. It is going to be a great night and a true patriots night honoring and thanking our veterans. It dovetails right into five days later on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, I think it is very imperative right now that this country looks at our Veterans and makes sure that we honor them properly with the respect they deserve keeping this nation so safe and great. And I certainly thank them and I know that all of you do, so we are looking forward to that. The only caveat is there's going to be 500 people allowed into the game. We are trying to get a live feed by TV36, we have some issues that we are trying to work through because of the new building going up it's now not time to spend money, but we are checking out the feed to the football field, if that can go live then we will go live. John has spoken to Ed Davenport and Phil Scardilli about it, it will probably be taped and shown throughout the week, so, even when people can't get in. Right now, the student athletes and their parents are getting tickets to the game or for any game in Clark for that matter. The Roselle game got cancelled due to COVID, we had a person test positive, no I'm sorry we didn't, Scotch Plains just played us and two of the players were temperature taken before the game, they tested positive a couple of days later, they let us know, so we had to cancel out. So, hopefully there will be some kind of season left for these kids, it is something that has been really tough since last March on all of our young athletes and our young students in town. So, we will see what has to happen there and we will go from there.

Breakfast with Santa, as of right now, doesn't look good. I haven't made a complete decision on that but if these numbers keep going... we are going to cancel that again this year like we did everything else unfortunately. That (day) is always a great morning with the kids and it is a lot of fun.

Ralph and I talked about the tree lighting; we will be having that. But it looks like it is going to be a scaled down model of mostly all outside activities. It's not going to be done indoors like we used the cafeteria and the gyms in the past for different entertainment. The tree lighting is important and we all like to do it, but it will be done outside and on a smaller scale at this point, so that's what it looks like right not. Any questions? John, thanks again for the Best Practices.

Mr. Laezza: It is interesting to listen to the mayor about opening the building. My Finance Office asked, "what did you learn from the pandemic about the municipal building and the like?" They said that we should keep it that way "closed" all the time, we have never been more efficient.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have to say to you in that matter that our staff here is doing a great job running up to the front door, taking the different permits and applications and helping our citizens out. I really can't see any citizen being upset with the service they are getting.

Mr. Laezza: No.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So, I thank the girls here in the building and the department heads for seeing that through.

The voting box is doing pretty good according to Ralph. He is seeing a very good flow in activity. As you guys know we are going out campaigning right now, still a lot of people don't understand that they cannot come here and vote.

How about the Town-wide Garage Sale?

Township Clerk: We had on Friday, 317 (applications), and we received about 20 more today.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Okay, 327 people. You know, there was a situation again where some citizens asked for us to do something on Facebook. Edie and I talked about doing this next year because of the silly garage sale permit and charging people, I guess it is like \$3.00 for it. But the reason for it is so people don't have a garage sale every weekend and make a business out of it, that is what it is all about, it is not the \$3.00, it is not going to make a hill of beans of difference in our treasury. We talked about it with covid, and we just kind of waved that (the fee) because nobody was doing it anyway, it was a very few.

Township Clerk: It is like every corner of the whole town, and there are about four streets that are new today that are not on there (the map). It is not going in the paper because it just would not be readable, but if anybody wants it, it is highlighted... literally.

Council President O'Connor: I think that it is a great idea. The only thing that I heard from citizens is that they are just concerned about traffic.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Well, do you know what? It is a Saturday and a Sunday. Traffic in Clark is always lower on the weekends. But what are you going to do?

Council President O'Connor: I understand.

Mayor Bonaccorso: There are a lot of positives and a little bit of negatives. Edie and I talked about speaking to you guys next year about maybe doing this twice, once in the spring and once in the fall, two times and having no garage sales throughout the year, that might be the way to go. You know, get them all (garage sales) done in two weekends in the year. The township is spending a little bit of money to advertise it for them. We are going to ask Liz from the Tap if she could do the final one maybe the Friday before the actual garage sale, which is the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. People are very thankful; they are very excited and they are very happy. So, the police will be out patrolling the areas like we always do and I think it is going to be a nice day to indulge in selling and buying.

Council President O'Connor: I know that Edie has worked hard along with Scott McCabe with regard to picking up after the events.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes, yes. Well, it's going to be for those who participated in the garage sale, they can leave their stuff out and we will pick it up the following week. It is not a reopening of the Bulky Clean-up. So, the citizens should know from March through October we were there for each

week picking up their bulky. You have to try and follow the rules a little bit, you have to kind of follow the rules a little bit because it wouldn't be fair now for other people who didn't participate to start throwing stuff out at the curb. You had all year until you had Coronavirus and no one was able to really leave their home. Our Bulky Clean-up number was very big this year, people were sitting home, bored and cleaning things out. So, to me, I think you know we've been more than fair and ample.

The last Monday in October we will start our "Leaf Clean-up", as we have traditionally done and we will then again be the envy of Union County on how efficient and how many times we are in front of people's houses picking up leaves. It usually averages 14 to 16 times a year, there is no other town in Union County that can do that. We are proud of that and we got the tools through your recommendation, and your funding, over the last 20 years to provide them with the best equipment to get it done efficiently and quickly, and I am very proud of the DPW for that. We have a good crew and the guys do a good job I have to say. Hats off to Scott and Pat who run it, and all of the men that work down there, we are very lucky.

Council President O'Connor: Can I make a suggestion? I just thought about this. So, I have a new neighbor right around the block from me. I was talking to him today and he had some question about all the great services that we have. I asked him if he received the Report to the People and he said that he didn't have one. So, I told him that I would go home and get you one. So, I brought him one. When people are new to our town, or are actually just buying a house in town, and they come to townhall for various permits, maybe we can put one of those Report to the People in a packet for them. Although they know the services sometimes, they are a little bit confused.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We have them in my office, and in the Clerk's Office, maybe what we should do is put some in the Construction Office. Pat, I had a lady yesterday at the door, very nice lady and she said I'm new to the town, and I told her about ourclark.com, we made it simple "our", for people like me to remember it because I am not going to say [http/Clark-backspace.org](http://Clark-backspace.org), I mean forget about it. So, I told her to go on there and you have all of our services right at your fingers, Recreation, DPW, etc. and so on. And then next year we will send out the book again in January like we do. So, the thing that disappoints me Pat, and I have to be honest, I talked to John early this year that maybe we should stop it. When Rich Kazanowski was a Councilman, this was the big thing. Everybody wanted the Report to the People, well, everything is online (Council President O'Connor: right), everything is online, so we are servicing a small group of people who do not go online, which is fine, and they usually are elderly people. But the problem I find that between the book and online is that people still don't know what is going on, and especially with DPW services, more so than anything else. When to put stuff out and when not to...People call here throughout the year and Donna says, "sir, we sent you a book and it is online" The information is available. Now, to the new people that move in, Pat there is no way of us really keeping track of that. So, I mean, like I tell everybody that I meet that is new in town, go onto ourclark.com. The other thing I'm really stressing to people, if you don't know...

Township Clerk: A lot of the new people do call and we ask them if they need the Report to the people. This is our website...do you need voter registration? Do you need a brochure for recreation? So, we kind of put our own little packet together when they call and we send it out.

Council President O'Connor: Okay, great, thank you.

Mayor Bonaccorso: So, that's the whole thing with that, I get disappointed some times with the same people doing the same thing each and every year. After that little storm that we had the other night some of the westside got hit with some winds and there were some branches down. Scott has been around picking them up and they should have probably completed it today. So, even that we

Workshop Council Meeting October 5, 2020..... 6  
do, unlike Westfield, we do it, we give the best services and we are happy to provide it. Any other questions?

Council President O'Connor: No, thank you.

Councilwoman Albanese: Regarding the library, the hours are continually being dispended to make it more accessible to people.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: Just wanted to say that Trump is a Rockstar.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We had a nice peaceful protest on Saturday, people behaved themselves and they were very happy to be here, they loved our community, and I really think it was a nice show of people supporting the President. I was happy to be a part of it, it was a lot of fun.

Councilman Smith: Nothing this evening.

Councilman Toal: No comment.

Mr. Laezza: Clark has exceeded the census (tape inaudible) 2010. We are 3.2% more than we did in 2010, so far. We have 6 communities in Union County that are below 2010, Elizabeth, Fanwood, Hillside, Plainfield....

Councilwoman Albanese: Those towns went down and we went up.

Mr. Laezza: Clark has exceeded the Census (tape audible) in 2010. So, we paid two percent more than we paid in 2010 so far. You have six communities in Union County that are below in 2010.

Mayor Bonaccorso: We saw on savenewjersey.com, Governor Murphy scores an F for graded (tape inaudible) and ranked one of New Jerseys' worst governors on taxes and spending and I will lay anyone a \$10 bet that would like to take it that he will be reelected.

Township Clerk: You know that we sent out postcards. I should have brought one here... everybody should have gotten one but I still have a stack, I guess Jennifer ordered extras, if anyone wants them.

Council President O'Connor: It is a picture of where the machine is.

Township Clerk: It is about voting and it shows where the drop box is. Also, different websites, you can go onto, such as, unioncountyvotes.com and all these different websites to get information.

Councilwoman Albanese: I did get a message from the County.

Council President: I just saw her video she (County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi) put on Facebook.

Township Clerk: That's the other thing, please tell people if anybody calls you with election questions, tell them to watch the video at [www.unioncountyvotes.com](http://www.unioncountyvotes.com). I mean they can always call us; we're getting steady calls all day.

Councilwoman Albanese: I did meet someone who accidentally threw away their ballots and they were very easily able to get a replacement.

Council President O'Connor: Do people understand that if they fill out a ballot that isn't theirs, or for someone who is deceased, that it is a crime.

Township Clerk: Most people understand that. I did have one election and it was probably four years ago, where somebody came into my office and insisted that she should be able to vote for her dead father because he was always so proud to vote. I told her to go see the judge in Elizabeth.

Mayor Bonaccorso: You know what guys I have to tell you the calls that I have gotten from Clark people who have received ballots, illegit ballots, people whose son hasn't lived in town for 10 years because he lives in Woodbridge, ballots thrown away, is that okay? Don't get me wrong guys I have not spoken to 100's of people, but I have spoken to people. The thing is that I hope in the inner cities, and in other areas, they are doing the same thing. Governor Murphy signed a pledge, I think eighteen other State's, promising to count every vote. I don't disagree with that; I am sure that they will. I am absolutely sure that they will count every vote, I really pray to God that's the way it is. What I am worried about is how many of those votes are doubles and triples. What happens to the person that passed away in the last month or two, or three or four, and they get a ballot? Does that family sit down and decide to send it in because they are not looking at signatures? You know, my kid has not lived here for 10 years. I mean conventional wisdom should have made you say if somebody hasn't voted in the last four elections, they are either dead or not interested. If you haven't voted in the last four elections and you want to vote you have to request a ballot because we are only going to go back the last four years of who voted, that is what I think. I mean if you haven't been out in the last four Presidential, Gubernatorial and you know Senate and Congress elections, what make them think that you are coming out this year? So, who knows? Again, will they count them? I am sure that they will. I hear that Union County things are secured and they have a Republican and a Democrat in the van, they pick up the ballots, they bring them down to a room, there is a 24-hour guard standing on guard, they have a Sheriff's Officer there, I believe all that. Mayor continues about ballot concerns....

Council President O'Connor: Madam Clerk are you finished?

Township Clerk: That's it. Just follow me to my office if any of you want those postcards.

Mark Dugan: No comment.

Council President O'Connor: My only comment is, once again, directed towards John and his team, phenomenal job every year. You know we never get money taken away from us because we do things right. So, John thank you very much, appreciate it.

Mr. Laezza: We have a good team.

Council President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT



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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE** (Dispensed)

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

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**Discussion:**

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

No further discussion

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

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

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

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

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

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

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

Township Clerk: No, no, we worked hard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Bonaccorso: Oh yeah sure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Workshop Council Meeting November 4, 2020..... 4  
Councilman Toal: I'll keep it brief. To the Mayor, the longest serving mayor in the history of the Township of Clark entering your sixth term, congratulations; to Angel, the longest serving Councilwoman, congratulations to you, and I wish Jimmy Minniti all the best.

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

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

John Laezza: We got him on board 2006

Attorney Dugan: No comment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT



**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**December 7, 2020**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dispensed

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Award of Professional Services contracts through a fair and open process for 2021:  
Proposals will be publicly opened December 9th
  - A. Auditor
  - B. Engineering Services
  - C. Professional Planner
  - D. Labor Attorney
  - E. Bond Counsel
  - F. Special Counsel

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: What about the (Clark) Planning Board and the (Clark) Zoning Board?

Township Clerk: We just make a recommendation for them. So, we are going to be accepting the proposals.

Councilman Mazzarella: That probably answers my question. Because in the body of the "Notice to Request" you have ten....

Township Clerk: Right. What we do is we'll receive the proposals on Wednesday for all of those positions. Because those two attorneys work for separate bodies, the Business Administrator and Council make a recommendation to those bodies of who they think would be the best choice, but those bodies actually select the attorney.

Councilman Mazzarella: So, ultimately there will be ten, or will there be just six?

Township Clerk: For us here it is just what you see. Then there will be two memos that go from my office to those two Boards (Planning and Zoning) that say which attorneys.... currently, no

Workshop Council Meeting December 7, 2020..... 2  
one has submitted, so we don't know if those boards are going to have an attorney right at this moment but I don't have any proposals for them yet.

Councilwoman Albanese: (tape inaudible)

Township Clerk: Yes, so what we do is just stamp them in. We ask that they do not send them (the proposals) by regular mail because it is unreliable. So, we have gotten FedEx, UPS and hand delivery. The only one on this list that we have not received anything for is the auditor, all of our other professionals, that are currently our professionals, have given us proposals.

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

2.        Cancelling unexpended budget appropriations in the Municipal Pool Utility

Discussion:

John Laezza: This is the first time we've done this in the 20 odd years that I've been here.

Council President O'Connor: There's money left over?

John Laezza: No there's not money left over. Basically, the swimming pool has been over spent, so in order to diminish the deficit that's on our books, now we want to cancel the appropriations so that appropriation goes to our benefit.

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

3.        Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement with World Insurance Associates for 2021

Discussion: None

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

4.        Appointing Michael Nenortas as the Emergency Management Coordinator for a three-year term

Township Clerk: Before we move onto the consent agenda resolutions, we have the draft that I handed you appointing a new Emergency Management Coordinator which will go on as #4, in the regular resolutions. So, if we could get a mover and a second on that.

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

5.        Demanding that The New Jersey State Legislature accept its responsibility to administer the provisions of the Affordable Housing Act

Discussion:

John Laezza: Before you move on, I think I have another resolution that should be discussed.

We got a resolution from Long Hill Township. The man who does the New Jersey State Legislature accepts its responsibility to administer the provisions of the Affordable Housing Act and states further action as such time as it promulgated rules governing its implementations. This is the start of a process of putting in a new COAH operation in Trenton.

Mr. Laezza continues further discussion.

Mayor Bonaccorso: This affordable housing is going to be very, very interesting. There was going to be a piece that I was going to put out in January and it was going to be about this. Now put everything else aside, everything else aside, and let's talk about the COVID-19 pandemic. Where was the pandemic hardest hit? In high density communities, towns that have a lot of people, a lot of growth, a lot of buildings, Bergen County, Essex County, Hudson County, counties like that. And what we are doing here in Union County is he's taking towns that were basically 98-99% built and we are now building high density apartments, as you all know. So, I agree with this resolution wholeheartedly, but I also agree that some of the farmland communities out in the state shouldn't have "the building one house on five acres", they must add some affordable housing, we had to do it and they should do it. You can easily achieve affordable housing in this state without building. Let's take the apartments that we have in Clark, my feelings, my thoughts would be... I don't know how many buildings are over in Lexington or Gibson, or on Lake Avenue, I don't know that number. Let's say each building had 10 apartments, maybe it is more, maybe it is less, I am not quite sure. Let's say that we need to put 20 into Lexington Village, I would say listen, "you are renting them for like \$1,300.00 a month, affordable let's say is \$800.00. We have to come up with \$500.00 a month for each (tape inaudible) ... such as the marijuana bill and put that money there if you really care about funding affordable housing. This way you get your numbers (tape inaudible) there are two ways to negotiate that because the landlord can't be shy \$500.00 a month from you because that wouldn't be fair to him because he did nothing wrong. But there is a way that you can make up that money in perpetuity for him for as long as he has those units, we can do things like that. If you go back five years ago to the conversation... it was the Fair Share Housing Group Lobby, the Builders Association Lobby, campaign donations down in Trenton. For Trenton to... as I said back on the record five years ago, it is an absolute disgrace, both parties should be held accountable, Governor Christie, now Governor Murphy.... I was at a mayor's meeting two years ago, and Murphy was there and all of the Republicans and Democrats from Union County, we have some talented people on both sides of the aisle, I will say. And everybody had a chance to speak (tape inaudible). But would you think something is wrong guys if you were heading the state or government, you are the mayor of a town and you have a 5/4 split on the council, or a 4/3 split on council, when your people and their people are both saying, "we don't agree with this", "why are you doing this?" Don't you think maybe we should stop and say, "wait a minute, my own people are going to tell me there's a problem with it". Basically, every mayor, except for the big city mayors, because it does not matter to them, and that is fine, I don't have any problem with it. But these suburban, Union County towns care because we are stock piling people, we are warehousing people, then the pandemic came along and proved that. Look at the numbers throughout New Jersey, go look at the numbers, your highest areas are your highest populated areas. Maybe there won't be another pandemic, God willing, for another 100 years, but you know what? Highly not. So, if the legislature would do their job, government will do its job and sit down and have bare discussions, it could work. They took away the regional contribution rule, which is, if the builder didn't want to build it, (tape inaudible), as you all know. Then when you got a bulk of money you would go with your towns who are looking to do something with it and you say, "give back our money and tell us what you are going to do" and you can award it to different towns. Mayor Armstead from Linden sat right in this room, I believe it was, saying that helped my city tremendously. We were able to rehab some houses for people who affordable housing people who needed their homes fixed up. Now, some towns might think this is a reason to escape the affordable housing, I don't know. We here in Clark...if you remember back when we were

Workshop Council Meeting December 7, 2020..... 4  
building Woodcrest Senior Citizen Housing, we had the opportunity to say yes or no for sixty affordable units. So, I think towns that were sincere were trying to help themselves along.  
(tape inaudible) Mayor Bonaccorso continued his discussion.

Councilman O'Connor: To your point, I know the (Parkway) circle was re-done years ago, so, we (tape inaudible) and now the traffic already is backing up on the Parkway again. If this is your plan, or your thought, I should say (inaudible) would give the opportunity for the towns to not increase and have no (tape inaudible) from the infrastructure.

Mayor Bonaccorso: (tape inaudible) responses in detail to Councilman O'Connor

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

4. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 taxes in the amount of \$ 37,726.52
5. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the amount of \$1,755.29

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Council President O'Connor opens the public portion of the meeting

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

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

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso: Saturday we had our annual overtime day for the DPW. We cleaned every street in Clark on Saturday except for the streets that we cleaned on Friday. I was very pleased with the DPW performance.

I was actually driving through a lot of the town yesterday and I have to say there was not a pile (of leaves) on the street, it was so nice to see. Today I drove around and saw people who put the leaves out, that's ok, we're still picking up but most of the leaves are down.

The Tree Lighting, Ralph put that together, unfortunately it was quick because of Covid.

Nancy is working hard on Covid details every day, doing the best that she can. Again, there are a lot of numbers but they are lesser, I think. From my understanding (the numbers are less) from back in April and May, so that's a good sign. We tested the employees here on Monday and I am happy to say that everyone came back negative. DPW had it, but they were not back to work until they were retested. It all worked out, it worked out very well.

Councilwoman Albanese: Since the Mayor mentioned Covid, compared to some other counties, Union County has done a good job with the pretesting. They just sent out a notice today about all of the free testing for the month of December. It is something for people to take advantage of whether it's through insurance or co-pays.

Councilman Barr: No comment.

Councilman Hund: Just a question to the mayor. Are we having Santa drive around?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Santa drives around, yes, we are.

The Tree Lighting... Ralph and I were talking about it literally for the last week, and we were going to have it. I was going to go with it... it is outside, wear a mask, social distance, you know, not having a lot of the goodies, and then Murphy decided to limit the number to 35 people, and that ended that.

My wife and I were coming back and we saw a heck of a parade that Woodbridge put on. There was Santa, the fire truck, and they have five towns there, so each town had a fire truck, police cars, first aid squad, Woodbridge DPW had some trucks in there. That might be a good idea, decorate a few things, drive around, it would be really fun, it was long too.

Councilman Hund: No comment.

Mayor Bonaccorso: It is usually the weekend before Christmas, that Sunday. People complain if the fire truck does not go down their street.

Did you guys see the Facebook page on a Saturday... when the recycling (truck) hasn't gotten there? People can just leave it out and they will come and get it, sometimes they fall behind, they have truck problems. I said to one lady, "look, if they don't come by Monday, pick up the phone and call them, the phone number is on the pail. (She replied) "Why do I have to call?" PMUA tells the residents to call.

Councilman O'Connor: Those guys (workers) are probably the nicest and polite guys that you will ever see. They wave, they say hello, very, very nice.

Mayor Bonaccorso: They are doing a great job. I think that the recycling program is better than it's ever been. Everything is in one container; it seems like everyone is getting along. If you have extra boxes, you could put them next to the container and they pick them up. I do that all of the time. Between Amazon and everything else today you have more cardboard than you know what to do with it.

Councilman Mazarella: I just want to reiterate what Sal was saying about the DPW. They are doing a phenomenal job throughout the community.

Councilman Smith: No comment.

Councilman Toal: I am piggybacking on the recycling. I had a lot of “verbal” Friday, Black Friday, with regards to Kathryn Street. I had five people call me... I thank the Clerk for her assistance on this. I went over and sat behind the truck, the second truck, on Sunday, then I knocked on every door who complained to make sure that (they know) we are there for them, we hear them, (we) listen to them to make sure everything is taken care of properly.

Mayor Bonaccorso: People question... Why do they come on Saturday? We save about \$300,000.00, right John? So, give us credit for saving you guys’ tax points and give us credit for putting together a better plan.

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Township Clerk: No comment.

Mark Dugan: No comment.

Council President Pat O’Connor: I am going to piggy back off of Angels comments. I actually took advantage of the Union County Pre-Covid testing today, my appointment was at 2pm, I got there at 1:40pm, and I was done by 2:10pm. The first stop was, “let me see your.....the window was closed, “let me see your phone”, “let me see your email confirmation”, the second stop you show them your phone, they have your name, they go get a piece of paper and they come back and ask if this was all of the information that you filled out, your name, your address, your date of birth, they fold it and put it in your windshield, you drive around and go into a Covid tent, roll your window down, look forward and it is the one that they do around your nostrils, they don’t go back and do your skull anymore. They just do your nostril; they hand you an envelope which explains that you are going to get an email with a registration number and when you get that you log on and you will get your results. And then there is a piece of paper that tells you what to do if you have it and what to do if you don’t (have Covid).

Mayor Bonaccorso: Where did you go?

Councilman O’Connor: Right here at Kean.

Councilwoman Albanese: If you don’t register in advance then you can just go there.

Councilman O’Connor: I didn’t know that. It was very smooth, no insurance, nothing about insurance, they want to know if you are a resident are you this or that, that was it. They did a great job putting that out on Facebook, that is how I found it, on Facebook. I forward it out to my constituents and I just think that it was a good program. I just got tested, not that I thought that I needed it, but you know what, it was free and it was there, why not?

Councilwoman Albanese: If you sign up with the county, they’ll just send the information to you automatically. I received a text today that the December calendar is out.

Councilman Toal: The question that I have is how many tests has everyone taken so far?

Councilman O’Connor: I received the one here (at townhall) and this one was my second one.

Councilman Toal: I have gotten five tests.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I have gotten four or five myself.

Councilwoman Albanese: If you go to the doctors you have to be tested before you get a procedure.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I just want to share this with you also. Union County Board of Elections found 190 ballots in Berkley Heights. One person beat the other person by 190 votes, I am not implying cheating. It would be interesting to see with the Presidential Election on how a hundred thousand votes came in for Biden and nobody else on the ballot is voted on, and Trump doesn't get any (votes). I want to see what happens up there. That would be funny to follow up on.

Councilman Mazzearella: Pat, the test that you got was that a rapid test?

Council President O'Connor: No, it was not the rapid test. I will find out (the results) in a few days. From what I heard there is a high risk of false positives with the rapid test.

Mayor Bonaccorso: There's a lot of false positives. Somebody in town told me that someone in town, that we know, had a COVID test five times. It (the tests) came back like three times positive, two times negative, and they never had it.

Council President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn

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

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNMENT

