

**MINUTES OF THE
BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON
DECEMBER 15, 2020
CAUCUS/COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

OPENING: Mayor Thomas J. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Weaver read the following statement, "This meeting has been properly advertised and posted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice has been posted on the Municipal Website of the change to the remote meeting format pursuant to the executive orders of the Governor of the State of New Jersey."

NOMINATION TO FILL UNEXPIRED COUNCILMEMBER TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2021:

Jenai Johnson, Municipal Clerk/Administrator noted that a letter with three nominees to fill the vacant position created by the resignation of Melvin Applegate, with a term expiration of December 31, 2021. Ms. Johnson read the letter submitted by the Municipal Democrat Committee. Councilman Shaw motioned to nominate Robert Dorsey to fill the unexpired term until December 31, 2021. Motion to appoint Robert Dorsey to the unexpired seat was seconded by Councilman Armbruster and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR APPOINTED MEMBER OF COUNCIL: Mayor Weaver administered the oath of office to the newly appointed member of Council, Robert Dorsey.

ROLL CALL: Jenai Johnson, Administrator/Municipal Clerk, called the roll which resulted in the following members present: Mayor Thomas Weaver; Councilman Mark Armbruster; Councilman Robert Dorsey; Councilman Christopher Hammond; Councilwoman Meghan Milano; Councilman Thomas Shaw; Councilwoman Holly Strobl.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Weaver lead in the salute to the flag.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR A TOTAL TIME NOT TO EXCEED 10 MINUTES FOR ITEMS APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

ONLY: Mayor Weaver opened the floor to the public for anyone wishing to speak on matters appearing on the agenda.

Rebecca Holloway, Clementon Borough- Ms. Holloway stated that she wished that the newly elected member of Council provide the audience with his qualifications. Councilman Dorsey stated that he was a 17 year resident of the municipality and passionately involved in the community. Councilman Dorsey stated that he had a mechanical background in his occupation and felt that he would be an asset to the Department of Public Works.

ENGINEER REPORT: Mark Basehore of Bach Engineers provided a brief status update of the Jim Smith Park Trail, noting that he was working with the public works department on the progress.

APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST: Councilman Armbruster motioned to approve the bill list upon proper review and certification. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Strobl and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 2020-14 AMENDING SALARIES AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS IN THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2020. Mayor Weaver read by title and opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Weaver closed the hearing to public comment. Councilman Armbruster motioned to adopt on second reading, seconded by Councilwoman Strobl and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw. Abstain: Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-157 AUTHORIZING ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN WATER ACCOUNTS IN THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilwoman Strobl motioned to approve, seconded by Councilman Armbruster and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-158 AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF 2021 TOWING COMPANIES FOR THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilman Armbruster motioned to approve, with a second by Councilman Shaw and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-159 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL FOR THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilwoman Milano motioned to approve, with a second by Councilman Armbruster and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond, Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-160 AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilman Armbruster motioned to approve with a second by Councilwoman Strobl and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl

RESOLUTION R20-161 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSE TO JATINDER SINGH FOR BAINS PETROLEUM, LOCATED AT 100 CHEWS LANDING ROAD IN THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilwoman Strobl motioned to approve, with a second from Councilman Armbruster and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-162 APPROVING RAFFLE APPLICATION 2020-02 FOR ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilman Armbruster motioned to approve, seconded by Councilman Shaw and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-163 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSE TO MARK MICHAEL AND CHASTITY RUSSELL FOR OPERATION OF JAY'Z BARBER SHOP AND GROOMING SALON, LOCATED AT 1 BERLIN ROAD IN THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilwoman Strobl motioned to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Milano and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-164 CONFIRMING CANCELLATION OF TAXES DUE TO 100% DISABLED VETERAN STATUS FOR BLOCK 146, LOT 19, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 115 ERIAL ROAD. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilwoman Milano motioned to approve, with a second by Councilman Shaw and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-165 AUTHORIZING PRECISE SALARIES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THE FIRE SAFETY DEPARTMENT RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2020. Mayor Weaver read by title. Councilman Armbruster motioned to approve, with a second from Councilman Dorsey and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

RESOLUTION R20-166 AUTHORIZING ANNUAL STIPEND FOR DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, EFFECTIVE BEGINNING THE 4TH QUARTER, TO LEAH FREILING. Councilwoman Milano motioned to approve, seconded by Councilman Armbruster and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

NEW BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ON JANUARY 15, 2021 FOR BLOOD DRIVE, 3PM-8PM- Mayor Weaver reported that he had been contacted and a request had been submitted by the Knights of Columbus to host a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross for a blood drive to be held as described. Mayor Weaver noted that the social distancing and COVID executive orders would be abided by and all necessary precautions taken. There were no objections from Council. Mayor Weaver noted that Public Works would open the building for the event, and he would be responsible for securing the facility at the conclusion.

SAFE STREETS TO SCHOOLS SILVER STATUS- Councilwoman Strobl reported that the Borough had received Silver Certification Status through the Safe Streets to Schools Funding Program. Councilwoman Strobl also noted that she and the committee desired to orchestrate the creation of a community garden . Councilwoman Strobl stated that suggestion had been made for the location in the rear of the Senior Center. It was noted that there were no objections and Councilwoman Strobl was instructed to bring concrete plans and a diagram of the proposed garden to a future Council Meeting.

USE OF FIRE VEHICLES CHRISTMAS EVE- Councilman Shaw stated that he had been contacted by Randall Freiling, Chief of the Clementon Fire Rescue, who had requested use of all four fire apparatus for Santa. Councilman Shaw also noted that the Fire Rescue had arranged photos with Santa, in accordance with the appropriate social distancing measures, on December 20th from 1pm-5pm. There were no objections by the governing body.

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER- Councilwoman Strobl stated that the Police Department had participated in No Shave November and raised funding in the amount of \$550 for a charitable cause.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mayor Weaver opened the floor to the public for anyone in the audience wishing to speak.

Brenda Franks, Clementon Borough- Mrs. Franks stated that she was concerned that animals would neglect to rabies vaccines if the Borough did not offer the winter free clinic. Jenai Johnson reported that she had reached out to the County to obtain availability of the vaccine, and if the county would be providing to municipalities.

Mrs. Franks also asked if there had been any research and progress on the possibility of the Sandberg building being preserved and moved to an alternate location. Brief discussion occurred and Mayor Weaver noted that Councilwoman Franks stated that she was concerned that animals would neglect to rabies vaccines if the Borough did not offer the winter free clinic. Jenai Johnson reported that she had reached out to the County to obtain availability of the vaccine, and if the county would be providing to municipalities.

Councilwoman Franks also asked if there had been any research and progress on the possibility of the Sandberg building being preserved and moved to an alternate location. Brief discussion occurred and Mayor Weaver noted that the project was likely cost prohibitive due to the cost of the land and the price of moving the building.

Rebecca Holloway, Clementon Borough- Ms. Holloway stated that she was not able to view the documents related to the meeting on the website. Jenai Johnson reported that there had been technical difficulties with the ability to load documents to the site, and the issue was being resolved. Jenai Johnson stated that she would email the supporting documents to Ms. Holloway.

Ms. Holloway expressed her dismay at the proposed candidates for the vacant Council seat, specifically that Juanita London had not been presented the opportunity. Councilwoman Strobl stated that the position had been advertised on the Clementon Democrat Committee Facebook, and Ms. London had not expressed interest. Councilman Armbruster stated that it was the responsibility of the municipal committee to present the names, and not specifically detail the process in which they were chosen.

John Schmidt, Gloucester City- Mr. Schmidt stated that some North Jersey municipalities had partnered with a veterinarian to obtain the required vaccines to host the clinics. Mr. Schmidt also noted that the Clementon Housing Authority was half way through the replacement of the flooring project. Mr. Schmidt also stated that he wished to thank Melvin Applegate for his service to the Borough and wished the best to the new member of Council.

Nicholas Stankowski, Clementon Borough- Mr. Stankowski expressed his dismay for the current operations of the Borough, as well as many of the members of council and professionals appointed.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Mayor Weaver closed the floor to the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Shaw motioned to enter executive session at 8:25PM for the following matters:

DISCUSSION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION-MCDEVITT V CLEMENTON
DISCUSSION REGARDING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

It was noted that the anticipated duration of the closed session was 30 minutes to one hour.

It was also noted that possible action could be taken following closed session.

Councilwoman Milano seconded the motion and hearing none opposed, motion was carried.

Councilwoman Milano motioned to re-enter open session at 9:20PM, with a second by Councilwoman Strobl and hearing none opposed, motion was carried.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION R20-167 AUTHORIZING RETENTION OF AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT CHIEF CHARLES GROVER IN REGARD TO CLAIMS OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES NOT TO EXCEED AN HOURLY RATE OF \$160.00 PER HOUR, WITH A RETAINER AGREEMENT APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AND MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CLEMENTON AND CHIEF OF POLICE. Jenai Johnson read by title. Councilman Armbruster motioned with a second by Councilwoman Strobl and motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes; Armbruster; Dorsey; Hammond; Milano; Shaw; Strobl.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilwoman Strobl motioned to adjourn at 9:20PM, seconded by Councilwoman Milano and hearing none opposed, motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenai L. Johnson,
Administrator/Municipal Clerk