



MEETING MINUTES

Township of Clinton Mayor and Council
March 27, 2024
7:00 p.m.

1370 Route 31 North, Annandale, New Jersey 08801

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. On March 22, 2024, a copy of this agenda was sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and made available to the public on the Township's website.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Councilman Glaser	Present
Councilman Kochanowski	Present
Councilwoman Switlyk	Present
Council President Strauss	Present
Mayor Mullay	Present

Also Present:

Trishka Waterbury Cecil, Township Attorney
William Close, Acting Township Administrator
Lindsay Heller, Acting Township Clerk

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA ONLY- Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes.

Les Giese, Clinton Township – thanked the Council for the deer management amendments and gave an update on statistics for this year.

Wayne Myer, Clinton Township – thanked the Council and all who were involved with the property auction for Block 63, Lot 9.03.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES

1. Regular Session meeting minutes from March 13, 2024.

The Regular Session meeting minutes from March 13, 2024 were tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are considered to be routine by the Mayor and Council and will be enacted by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by the Mayor, a Council Member, or member of the public, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

Councilwoman Switlyk requested that Resolution #2024-76 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

The Mayor asked for a motion for the revised Consent Agenda

Councilman Kochanowski motioned to approve the amended Consent Agenda; Council President Strauss seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

1. Approval of bills/vouchers.

TOTALS:	
Current	\$4,631,673.66
Trusts	\$4,703.76
Grants	\$4,088.34
Recreation	\$8,625.00
Capital	\$14,868.32
Open Space	\$133.75
 Grand Total	 \$4,664,092.83
 BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT:	
Board of Education	\$2,689,087.00
N. Hunterdon-Voorhees HS	\$1,000,000.00
Depository Trust	\$510,322.50
 TOTAL OPERATIONS	 \$432,264.16

2. Resolution 2024-77 – Resolution of Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton approving the 2023 budget appropriation reserves transfers.

RESOLUTION

2024 – 77

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON APPROVING THE 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESERVES TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, various 2023 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills represent obligation of the prior fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-59 provides that all unexpended balances carried forward after the close of the fiscal year are available until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year

to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and allows transfers to be made from unexpended balances to those which are expected to be insufficient during the first three months of the succeeding year,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The following transfers in the amount of \$3,000.00 shall be made between the 2023 Budget Appropriation Reserves:

	FROM	
Technology O/E	01-203-20-140-209	\$3,000.00
	TO	
Health Services O/E	01-203-27-330-212	\$3,000.00

2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

3. Resolution 2024-78 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton supporting the 2024 UText, UDrive, UPay, Distracted Driving Crackdown from April 1, 2024, through April 30, 2024, in the Township of Clinton.

**RESOLUTION
2024 – 78**

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON SUPPORTING THE 2024 UDRIVE, UTEXT, UPAY, DISTRACTED DRIVING CRACKDOWN FROM APRIL 1, 2024, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2024, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving can result in injuries and deaths to all road users (motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists); and

WHEREAS, distracted driving occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on another activity instead; an

WHEREAS, from 2011-2020 distracted driving-related crashes resulted in 32,000 deaths on our nation’s roads; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey distracted driving was listed as a contributing circumstance in 50-percent of all motor vehicle crashes from 2016-2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide *Distracted Driving 2024 Crackdown* from April 1, 2024, through April 30, 2024, in an effort to raise awareness and decrease driver distraction through a combination of enforcement and education; and

WHEREAS, the national slogan for the campaign is UDrive. UText. UPay; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in distracted driving in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township declares its support for the *Distracted Driving 2024 Crackdown* both locally and nationally from April 1, 2024, through April 30, 2024, and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Glaser shared that the Planning Board meeting was canceled on March 18th and will meet on April 1st. The Sewerage Authority will meet this Thursday at 8:30 am. Budget was mentioned with a few items but waited to share the report until the Introduction of the 2024 Budget on the agenda.

Councilman Kochanowski reported that he will wait until the 2024 Budget Introduction to share his report.

Councilwoman Switlyk gave updates on the Green Team and litter cleanup that was canceled due to weather. The litter cleanup will be rescheduled due to needing four cleanups a year. Clean Communities update was given along with updates from the Environmental Commission. Open Space events are being planned and open for registration.

Council President Strauss reported that the Board of Education has a Budget presentation on April 10th and gave explanations of the increase. Historic Preservation Commission met on April 3rd at 7 pm. Public Safety updates were shared and Council President Strauss congratulated Officer Schaefer for graduating the Police Academy. There are a few Fire Department work orders that have been completed, and new ones to come through. A meeting with South Branch Emergency Services was held earlier today and went well.

Mayor Mullay discussed hiring for departments in the Township and personnel matters.

William Close, Acting Township Administrator, mentioned that he is looking forward to the budget introduction tonight and thanked the Finance Committee, C.F.O., Christine Licata, and the Department Heads for their assistance on the budget.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING/ ADOPTION

1. ORDINANCE #1193-2024 – Calendar Year 2024 Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14).

There were no public comments.

Councilman Glaser motioned to adopt Ordinance #1193-2024; Councilwoman Switlyk seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. ORDINANCE #1194-2024 – An Ordinance of the Township of Clinton in Hunterdon County, New Jersey pertaining to deer management and amending article VIII in Chapter 198 of the “Code of the Township of Clinton”.

Councilman Kochanowski asked about coyotes. Mike Aversa, Open Space, addressed Councilman's questions and explained the payment of the deer processing.

Councilwoman Switlyk motioned to adopt Ordinance #1193-2024; Councilman Kochanowski seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2024-80, #2024-84, and #2024-85 were tabled and scheduled to be on the April 10th, 2024 Mayor and Council regular meeting.

1. Resolution 2024-79 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton approving a salary adjustment for Clinton Township Police Officer Connor Schaefer.

Council President Strauss motioned to approve Resolution 2024-79; Councilwoman Switlyk seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION

2024 – 79

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON APPROVING A SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR CLINTON TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICER CONNOR SCHAEFER

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2024, Connor Schaefer successfully graduated from the Morris County Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section XVI.A of the collective negotiations agreement ("CNA") between the Township of Clinton and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 182, new hires who successfully complete their academy training shall advance to the probationary rate NA for one year within completion of the academy and in accordance with the CNA's salary guide; and

WHEREAS, Chief Thomas DeRosa has requested that Officer Schaefer's salary be adjusted to the probationary rate of \$45,910.00 retroactive to March 22, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Effective as March 22, 2024, Officer Connor Schaefer's annual salary shall be \$45,910.00 plus all benefits afforded to other full-time Township employees.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution 2024-80 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton authorizing the sale and consumption on premises for Community Day. – TABLED.

2. Resolution 2024-81 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton confirming the sale of 4 Old Jericho Road (Block 63, Lot 9.03) to the highest bidder from among the abutting property owners pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 *et seq.*

Councilman Glaser motioned to approve Resolution 2024-81; Councilwoman Switlyk seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION

2024 – 81

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON CONFIRMING THE SALE OF 4 OLD JERICHO ROAD (BLOCK 63, LOT 9.03) TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FROM AMONG THE ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 *et seq.*

WHEREAS, the Township of Clinton (“Township”) is the fee owner of a ±1.08-acre vacant parcel of land located at 4 Old Jericho Road and designated on the Clinton Township tax maps as Block 63, Lot 9.03 (the “property”), which property is no longer needed for a public use; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2023, the Mayor and Council directed the property be sold to the highest bidder at public auction pursuant to the Local Lands and Buildings Law (“LLBL”), N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a) (see Resolution #195-2023); and

WHEREAS, the LLBL at N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 states that “[n]otwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, whenever any municipality intends to sell real property which is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and is without any capital improvements thereon, it shall accord the owner or owners of any real property contiguous to such real property the right to prior refusal to purchase such land.”; and

WHEREAS, prior to the property being auctioned, the Township Administrator sent letters to each of the abutting property owners informing them of the Township’s intent to sell the property to the highest bidder at public auction and offering them the opportunity to purchase the property for not less than the property’s estimated fair market value (\$6500.00) and subject to all other terms and conditions set forth in Resolution #195-2023; and

WHEREAS, three of the four abutting property owners indicated in writing their desire to purchase the property on said terms; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2025, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution #2024-56, which authorized and directed the Township staff to conduct a public auction among the abutting property owners, and to convey the property to the highest bidder at said auction, subject to the terms and conditions listed in said resolution; and

WHEREAS, notice of the time and place of the public auction, and the conditions of the sale, was sent to each of the abutting property owners; and

WHEREAS, public notice of the auction was also provided in accordance with all applicable requirements of the LLBL; and

WHEREAS, the auction took place on March 13, 2024 at 11 a.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Township Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, the following abutting property owners attended the auction:

- Richard & Christa Gajda, 68 Grayrock Road
- Wayne Myer, 6 Old Jericho Road; and

WHEREAS, the starting bid was \$6,500.00, as required pursuant to Resolution #2024-56, and proceeded thereafter in \$100.00 increments; and

WHEREAS, the final bid was \$14,600.00, cast by Mr. Myer; and

WHEREAS, there being no apparent irregularities with the conduct of the auction, and Mr. Myer's bid having well exceeded the minimum sales price set by the Mayor and Council, it is appropriate and in the best interests of the public to accept Mr. Myer's bid and approve the sale of the property to Mr. Myer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The sale of 4 Old Jericho Road (Block 63, Lot 9.03) to Mr. Wayne Myer of 6 Old Jericho Road for the total sum of \$14,600.00 is hereby confirmed and authorized.
 2. The sale shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions set forth in Resolution #2024-56 and in the sales agreement executed or to be executed between the parties, which sales agreement has been approved as to form and substance by the Township Attorney.
 3. The Mayor, Township Administrator, Acting Township Clerk, Township Attorney, and all other appropriate staff and officials are hereby authorized and directed execute any and all documents and undertake any and all acts as shall be necessary and proper to effectuate the terms hereof.
 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.
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3. Resolution 2024-82 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton canceling first quarter property taxes for 4 Old Jericho Road (Block 63, Lot 9.03).

Mayor Mullay motioned to approve Resolution 2024-82; Council President Strauss seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION

2024 – 82

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON CANCELING FIRST QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES FOR 4 OLD JERICHO ROAD (BLOCK 63, LOT 9.03)

WHEREAS, the Township of Clinton ("Township") is the fee owner of a ±1.08-acre vacant parcel of land located at 4 Old Jericho Road and designated on the Clinton Township tax maps as Block 63, Lot 9.03 (the "property"); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council has authorized the sale of the property to the owner of 6 Old Jericho Road (Block 63, Lot 9.04) following a public auction (see Resolution #2024-81 adopted March 27, 2024); and

WHEREAS, in light of the pending sale, it is appropriate to cancel the first quarter taxes on the property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The first quarter 2024 taxes in the amount of ±\$47.18 for 4 Old Jericho Road (Block 63, Lot 9.03) are hereby canceled.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

4. Resolution 2024-83– Resolution of the Mayor and Council regarding Clinton Township’s 2024-2025 Deer Management Program.

Councilwoman Switlyk motioned to approve Resolution 2024-83; Councilman Glaser seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2024-84 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton awarding IT Services. – TABLED

Resolution 2024-85 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton awarding audio system in the Courtroom. – TABLED.

AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Mullay opened Resolution 2024-76 for discussion. Councilwoman Switlyk asked about the process with the company and if there was a way that she can be added access the list of grants that are available for herself or other Council Members to help with the Boards and Commissions. Mr. Close mentioned that departments have been using this program and will ask about granting access to the Council for their review.

1. Resolution 2024-76 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton authorizing an agreement for Grant Writing Services with Millennium Strategies, through Bergen Bid Contract #BC-RFP-22-008 (CO-OP), in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Councilman Glaser motioned to approve Resolution 2024-86; Council President Strauss seconded.

Result: Motion passed with unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION

2024 – 76

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES WITH MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES THROUGH BERGEN BID, CONTRACT #BC-RFP-22-008 (COOP), IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.00

WHEREAS, the Township of Clinton finds a need to authorize an agreement for Grant Writing Services with Millennium Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the contract period shall commence on MONTH DATE, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

WHEREAS, the funds are available as evidenced by the Chief Finance Officer's Certification; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, county of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Township of Clinton is hereby authorizing an agreement for grant writing services through Bergen Bid COOP, contract # BC-RFP-22-008 (COOP), in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2024-86 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton consenting to the Mayor's appointment of Dan McTiernan to Regular Seat #4 of the Clinton Township Sewerage Authority.

Councilman Glaser motioned to approve Resolution 2024-86; Councilwoman Switlyk seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION

2024 – 86

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON CONSENTING TO THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF DAN MCTIERNAN TO REGULAR SEAT #4 OF THE CLINTON TOWNSHIP SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Dan McTiernan has served as Alternate #1 member of the Clinton Township Sewerage Authority; and

WHEREAS, there has been a recent vacancy on the Authority; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the regular seat; and

WHEREAS, vacancies are to be filled by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mullay has appointed Mr. Dan McTiernan to serve as regular member in seat #4 for the unexpired term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

The Council hereby consents to Mayor Mullay's appointment of Dan McTiernan to serve as a regular seat member in #4 of the Clinton Township Sewerage Authority for a term beginning immediately and terminating on January 31, 2026.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

2. Introduction of 2024 Municipal Budget.

Councilman Glaser commented on strengthening the Township finances to continue to build it up the rainy day fund. There were increases from the previous year on a few accounts. Mr. Close commented on the budget and the projection for 2024.

Councilman Kochanowski motioned to approve the introduction of the 2024 Municipal Budget; Councilman Glaser seconded.

Result: Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Public Hearing for the 2024 Municipal Budget is scheduled for April 24, 2024, at 7 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton appointing an additional Municipal Prosecutor for the Township of Clinton during calendar year 2024. – Tabled

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes.

Mike Aversa, Open Space Committee, reported on a recent call with the Highlands Water Protection and provided updates from the call. Mr. Aversa suggested other Township Department Heads to potentially join the committee. Mayor Mullay thanked Mr. Aversa for attending the meeting and will organize with Mr. Close.

Wayne Myer, Clinton Township, gave comparisons from when he was on the Recreation Committee and the playground at Field of Dreams from when it was built to present day.

Dan, thanked the Council for their time, work and energy that they spend on Township matters. He wanted an update on Exxon and where the Township is leaning towards when it comes to the opportunities that are in front of them with building, selling, or preserving the land.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor and Council entered into Executive Session at 7:55 pm.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council will now convene in a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The general nature of the subject to be discussed in this session is as follows:

1. Pending or anticipated litigation and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege [N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7)]:
 - a. Labor Counsel briefing regarding police disciplinary matter(s) and litigation

It is unknown precisely when the matters discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public.

Matters concerning litigation may be announced upon the conclusion of any trial or settlement of the litigation. Other matters may be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

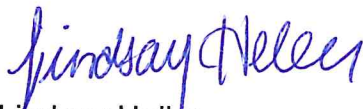
No formal action will be taken after the conclusion of the closed session.

The Mayor and Council came out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lindsay Heller
Acting Township Clerk

Adopted by Mayor and Council: April 10, 2024

