

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ**  
**May 1, 2023**  
**7:30 pm**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Also Present: Salvatore Bonaccorso, Mayor; James F. Ulrich, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith L. 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 HAWK, 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.

Council President Smith: The regular order of business will be suspended on May 15<sup>th</sup> for a proclamation declaring the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

We are also going to have the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls travel basketball teams at the meeting for championship and tournament wins.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

**1. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 279 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK ENTITLED "SEWERS" BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 279-26 ENTITLED "GREASE TRAPS REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED."**

Mr. Ulrich:

- stated that the ordinance was at the request of the health department
  - explained that grease has been found in the sanitary sewer lines of some restaurants
  - further explained that this ordinance will require restaurants to have a capture system and provide additional documentation to aid in inspections

Council President Smith: Will the ordinance make it stricter for businesses?

Mr. Ulrich: Yes.

Councilman Minniti: Does this apply to existing business as well as new businesses?

Mr. Ulrich: All restaurants.

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

**2. TREE REMOVAL REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE**

Discussion:

Mr. Ulrich:

- stated that this ordinance is a state requirement
  - explained that the town has no flexibility in the ordinance
  - further explained that it has to do with the number of trees and who takes them down
  - also stated that the details of what is required are in the ordinance
  - added that this will affect everyone in town

Councilwoman Albanese: Is there a proposed fee charge?

Mr. Ulrich: explained that he will see what the surrounding communities are doing, and that the fees will be in the final version by the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting

Council President Smith: Do we currently have an ordinance regarding tree removal?

Mayor Bonaccorso: Yes

Discussion ensued

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

Mover: Toal                      Second: Minniti

**3. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN LAND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK TO BE SOLD AT PRIVATE SALE IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5) Block 76, Lot 4**

Discussion:

Mr. Ulrich:

- said the property is on Westfield Avenue, going towards Rahway, just past the bridge on the right-hand side.
  - added that the property is vacant and is below the grade of two other properties
  - mentioned that we are looking to sell the property so not to deal with the maintenance of that property
  - also mentioned that (once sold) the property will be the responsibility of the homeowner and will also be adding tax revenue.

Council President Smith: It is an odd sized lot.

Mr. Ulrich: Correct

Council President Smith: Can it be built on?

Mr. Dugan: The lot itself has to be undersized or it could not be sold otherwise. It has to be vacant and cannot have a structure on it. Once it is sold it will be merged, unless the township opts otherwise, to the property owner that bid successfully for it. Then it will become part of that lot. That lot will become that much larger and it gives the bases for a larger structure on the property.

Councilman Mazarella: That property, being undersized is not buildable now, if it gets merged can they decide to build on it?

Mr. Dugan: If they meet all of the other requirements, yes.

Discussion ensued.

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- 4. Seeking approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the amount of \$55,032.00 for the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials Grant

Mr. Ulrich:

- explained that this grant will be used for training, health and safety equipment, and staffing for school education training

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

- 5. Authorizing release of the Performance Guarantees and remaining Escrow to Woodlawn Partners LLC for the 32/34 Ross Street Subdivision

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

Mr. Ulrich: explained that this is a release (recommended) by the engineer

- 6. Council as the Pool Utility authorizing the purchase of tables, benches and litter receptacles for the pool, from Barco Products in the amount of \$17,467.58

Mr. Ulrich: explained this is from capital money and these are the priority items (at the pool) that need to be replaced this year

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

Mover: Smith                      Second: O'Connor

- 7. Award of contract for Brush and Branch Grinding – Proposals will be publicly opened May 11th at 10:00 am

Township Clerk: The requests for proposals went out on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, we are opening on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully we will get favorable prices.

Mr. Ulrich: This is just the standard tub grinding and branch grinding. What I do want to bring to everyone's attention is that we are now separating the branches and the trunks, so this is only the small branches we will be grinding. The problem is when we do the larger pieces of wood, we have to grind it at least twice or three times, it takes longer and there is more wear and tear on the equipment. What we have been doing with the larger pieces is we split them and have them available for firewood for the residents. Not only are we reusing it and making it available to the residents, we will hopefully have less expensive tub grinding this year.

Councilman Hund: questioned where it is stored

Mr. Ulrich: The public works yard. As we get closer to the winter, we will advertise that it will be available.

Councilman O'Connor: asked if we will be delivering the firewood (to residents)

Mr. Ulrich: In some circumstances we may.

Council President Smith: Will our DPW be splitting it?

Mr. Ulrich: The DPW is splitting it...we are trying to save money in different ways.

Councilman Mazarella: commented about the residents appreciating the free mulch.

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

Mover: Mazarella                      Second: Minniti

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

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

Mover: Hund                              Second: Minniti

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

- 9. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of sewer fees in the amount of \$892.84

- 10. Authorizing the Tax Collector to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$10,220.00

- 11. Authorizing the Tax Collector to make the proper adjustments for 100% Property Tax Exemption of Block 102 Lot 16 in accordance with a directive from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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

Township Clerk: said one resolution was added by the attorney

- 12. Authorizing the Mayor and/or Business Administrator to execute an amendment to the Recycling Disposal Agreement with Waste Management to extend the current contract

Mr. Ulrich: explained that this is for year 2 of the recycle agreement

Councilman Hund: questioned if the pricing was changed

Mr. Ulrich: No.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Each person addressing the Council shall first give their name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 5 minutes in duration.

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

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

**MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- thanked Elizabeth Clee for her efforts on the street fair that was unfortunately cancelled (due to rain)
  - mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce was running it along with a production company
  - also mentioned that the township was assisting and hosting the event
  - said there is not a rain date for the event
- reminded everyone that grass pickup has begun
- talked about placing branches out the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month, and the pick-up (of branches) is the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month
- announced that the Memorial Day Parade is this month
- pointed out that police are out with radar enforcing speed limits
- mentioned there is a lot of “action” (police presence) on Skyline Drive

Councilwoman Albanese: no comment

Councilman Hund: no comment

Councilman Mazzarella: no comment

Councilman Minniti: no comment

Councilman O'Connor:

- reminded residents to lock their car doors and utilize their alarm systems

Councilman Toal: no comment

Township Clerk:

- stated that the (Union) County Clerk's Office is mailing out mail-in ballots for the Primary Election
  - mentioned that the (election) Drop Box is now open in Clark and throughout Union County
  - asked the newspaper to publicize (the opening of the Drop Boxes)
  - mentioned that a notice will be placed on our website
  - stated that it is a really good way to have your voice heard

Mr. Ulrich

- talked about traffic safety being a concern
  - said Clark received a grant for four light-up crosswalk signs
  - added the locations of the crosswalks
    - Katheryn Street and Westfield Avenue
    - Kenneth Place and Westfield Avenue
    - by the park on Madison Hill Road
    - Mildred Terrace
- stated that we also received a grant for the library to replace the aged handicap ramp

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- questioned the attorney about the incident in the City of Rahway
  - said someone was videotaping outside of Rahway Motor Vehicle
  - said police were involved
  - questioned (Mr. Dugan) if outsiders were allowed to videotape children at the recreation center and summer camp

Mr. Dugan: no response

Mayor Bonaccorso:

- mentioned the Long Island audit videos were given to the Clark Police Department Captains to pass onto the officers for training purposes
- also mentioned that there will be a briefing on the incident with townhall employees

Mark Dugan: I will look into it and give you an answer right away.

Council President Smith: no comment

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

ADJOURNMENT