

Town of Clinton
54 East Main Street
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

**Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
Town Hall Rose Room**

In Attendance: Chairman Chris Aniskovich, Carol Walter, Dennis Donovan, Tom Hollinger,
Christine Goupil, Chris Passante and Carrie Allen
Also participated: Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

Chairman C. Aniskovich called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. The council stood for the pledge of allegiance. The meeting can be viewed in its entirety online at <http://reflect-vsctv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/gallery/3?channel=1>

VISITORS

Bruce Lighty updated the council on a meeting that was held last Saturday regarding the establishment of a beautification committee. The following statement was read by Lighty.

The Clinton Streetscape Committee is created to enhance the natural beauty of the Town, with support of citizen volunteers and in coordination with other Town Agencies. The Committee will be responsible for the planning, initiation, and maintaining of various beautification efforts in Clinton. The purpose is to create pride in Clinton and encourage residents and businesses to do the same.

Lighty said the scope and charge of the committee should be up to the council to decide. There are currently 9 people interested in serving on the committee. There was a discussion on funding. This will be on the next meeting agenda to discuss further by the council.

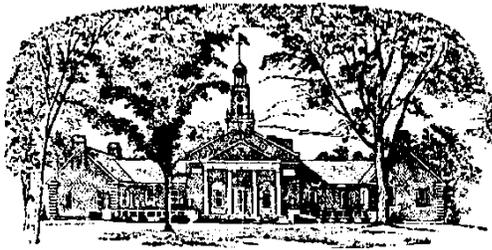
Laurie Jaffe and Tom Shultz read the following statement on behalf of the Human Rights Committee in support of Mayors United Against Antisemitism.

My name is Laurie Jaffe; I am the Secretary of the Clinton Advisory Committee on Human Rights (CHRC). I am here, along with Tom Shultz, the Chair of the CHRC, on behalf of the CHRC, to ask the Town Council to support the Mayors United Against Antisemitism initiative, which is an initiative of the American Jewish Committee and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The Initiative was formed to confront violent acts of antisemitism in our country. According to the FBI 2019 Hate Crime Statistics, American Jews - who make up less than 2% of the American population - were the victims of 60% of anti-religious hate crimes. According to an annual Anti-Defamation League survey, in 2020 there were 185 antisemitic incidents here in Connecticut.

The Proclamation that you will be considering this morning sets forth the language of the Mayors United Against Antisemitism initiative. The Proclamation condemns antisemitism in all its forms; supports national, state, and local government efforts to eradicate antisemitism; and affirms that a climate of mutual respect among all citizens is the basis of pluralistic communities.

To date, 46 cities and towns in Connecticut have signed on to support this initiative, including our neighbors Madison and Guilford, and Chester and Middletown here in Middlesex County. The CHRC hopes that you will vote to adopt the Proclamation. Thank you.



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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2022

C. Walter made a motion to amend the minutes from March 16, 2022 to reflect that she abstained from voting on the March 02, 2022 minutes. D. Donovan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. C. Walter made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan to approve the amended minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

There were no new appointments at this time.

MAYORS UNITED AGAINST ANTISEMITISM PROCLAMATION

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan and unanimously adopted the following Proclamation.

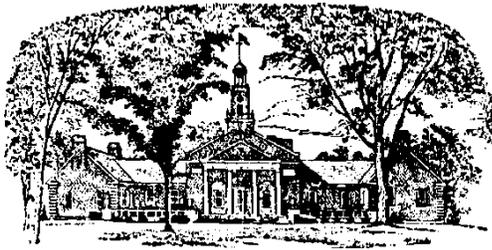
WHEREAS, in creating the Advisory Committee on Human Rights, the Clinton Town Council declared that it is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of Clinton and its inhabitants that differences serve as a source of individual and community strength, rather than as causes of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the county as well as municipal leaders in Connecticut are expressing their conviction that antisemitism is not only an attack on one group but an assault on the core values of any democratic and pluralistic society; and

WHEREAS, in a world of global communications, where anti-Semitic ideas spread rapidly, a concerted and principled response is required to raise awareness, to educate, and to ensure decency prevails.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Town Council of the Town of Clinton:

- Condemn antisemitism in all its forms, including hatred and prejudice directed toward Jews, stereotypes or conspiracy theories about Jews, Holocaust denial or distortion, and denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination and/or the Jewish state's right to exist;
- Support national, state, and local government efforts directed at eradicating antisemitism and preventing extremist indoctrination and recruitment; and support expanded education programs, including Holocaust programs, to counter intolerance and discrimination;
- Reject the notion that opinions about the policies, actions, or existence of the State of Israel can ever justify or excuse anti-Semitic acts;
- Recognize the ever-present need to be vigilant about efforts to prevent and report acts of antisemitism and other hate crimes;
- Affirm that a climate of mutual understanding and respect among all citizens is the bedrock of pluralistic communities; and
- Commit to working within and across our communities to advance the values of respectful coexistence.



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C. Allen asked to table the discussion on the charter to allow for budget discussions. C. Goupil made a motion, seconded by C. Passante to amend the agenda and add 5A – Budget Discussions. The motion failed to pass with a vote of 3 in favor (Goupil, Allen and Passante) 2 opposed (Donovan and Hollinger) and 1 abstention (Walter). There was a discussion on final budget numbers for tonight’s public hearing.

CHARTER REVISION NEXT STEPS

The council held a workshop and recommended some changes to the charter. The council discussed the duration of the commission and membership. There was some discussion on having the questions ready for the November 2023 election. The Town Manager will draft a calendar for the next meeting. There was also some discussion on having 7 members serve on the commission. Anyone interested in serving on the commission can apply on the town’s website.

LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

C. Walter made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to transfer \$2,500 from Public Works overtime emergency account to overtime fields account. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Walter made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to transfer \$10,348 from Park & Rec Track Reseal Restripe to Peters Basketball Court Refurbishment. The motion was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON FUTURE PROJECTS

K. Kilduff reviewed the project log with the council.

- ARPA Spending Plan – Applications are being processed. Need council input on future reporting.
- Pierson School – the attorneys for both parties are coordinating. Initial meeting with AG Office staff on process and court venue.
- Fire Department Facility Plan – Town Council will schedule a workshop.
- Radio Replacement Project – additional funding in proposed FY22-23 budget and ARPA allocation.

A discussion followed on the goals of the council. The council will need to schedule a workshop.

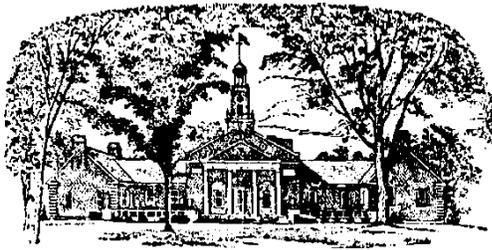
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The chairman had nothing new to report at this time.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

K. Kilduff reviewed his report dated April 06, 2022. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

- ARPA Fund Allocation – 10 applications have been submitted to the Town Manager for review.
- RiverCOG – Trolley will run again this summer with service only on the weekends.



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- Household Hazardous Waste – there will only be satellite locations this year. The first event is in Clinton scheduled for April 23rd.
- Harbor Management Plan – the town was awarded a grant but the proposal cost for the project exceeded the grant amount. The Town manager is working with the consultant to review the scope of work before moving forward with a contract.
- Marina Concession Stand – Liv's is confirmed to open again this year.
- Noise Ordinance – a letter was submitted from a residence asking for the town to establish a noise ordinance. Kilduff asked for policy direction from the council. There will be a follow-up discussion at the next meeting.
- Town Manager and Finance Director had a call with Moody's regarding the town's bond rating. A while back the town was downgraded but after some discussion there was talk about upgrading the town's rating.

TOWN COUNCIL LIASON REPORTS

C. Passante updated the council on the Board of Education meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL, PURSUANT TO CGS 1-200 (6)(A)

C. Walter made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan to enter into executive session at 9:19 AM and invite K. Kilduff and M. Schettino. The motion was unanimously approved. The council came out of executive session at 9:26 AM.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – FINANCE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK, LAND USE CLERK & WPCC CLERK

C. Walter made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to allow the Town Manager to ratify an employment agreement for the Finance Accounts Payable Clerk, Land Use Clerk and WPCC Clerk. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan and unanimously adjourned the meeting 9:29 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino
Executive Assistant
Town Manager

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: April 6, 2022

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- ARPA Funding Applications – As I noted previously, applications for ARPA funding have been submitted by non-profit and arts entities. To-date, ten (10) applications have been received. Every application submitted has been reviewed, acknowledged and additional information has been requested (be it a tax compliance form or the need to clarify the nature of their funding request with more details). As clarifications are provided, we can move forward with releasing funds as appropriate.

As I write this briefing, I am anticipating that other requests will be presented to the Town from non-profit entities. One organization that was in the original review process decided to not pursue funding once the application process was made available to insure funds were accessible to other worthy non-profits.

Additional funding requests were included in the ARPA spending plan which was reviewed with the Council and subject to public comment. Those sending categories were \$50,000 or less and, by Charter, fall under the Council's singular authority to make special appropriations. Motions for those activities will have to be planned for a future Council meeting. My intention for those items was to prepare them after the initial push on ARPA funds have gotten into an established rhythm and the budget has moved forward.

The accounting for disbursements has been set up and the drawdown forms for internal use are ready for use.

- FY22-23 Budget – The monitoring the budget for further changes remains an on-going exercise. Some assumptions have been refined. However, we are still looking at an unpredictable climate for certain supplies, commodities and other needs of the Town. I plan to have additional items for the Council during your special meeting following the public hearing.

2. River COG:

River COG held its regular meeting on March 23, 2022. Highlights of that meeting of local interest included:

- Workforce Alliance – The regional Workforce Alliance presented an overview of how COVID impacted employment, job losses and job gains made as the pandemic abates. The number of

jobs available exceeds the number of applicants seeking work which is making it difficult to fill positions. Additionally, like most recessions, Connecticut is late in recovery with only 75% of the jobs lost during the pandemic have been recovered.

- Hammonasset Trolley – The DOT will fund the operation of the Hammonasset trolley again this year to connect people to the beach. The route will be the same as last year connecting Old Saybrook to Hammonasset via Clinton. The service will only run on the weekends given the low ridership during the week experienced last year.
- Household Hazardous Waste – The schedule for household hazardous waste has been set for the year, with the new model of operating satellite only collections instead of satellite and fixed site collection in Essex. The first event will be in Clinton on April 23.
- Legislative Update – A list of bills being tracked by the COG was circulated for bills of interest or impact on the region. The COG also provided testimony against the bill that would roll back the mill rate cap on motor vehicles. Their testimony advocated providing an income tax credit for paid motor vehicle taxes. As I pointed out previously, the bill as presented is harmful to Clinton as the Governor’s proposal does not make the Town “whole” for the revenue lost by changing the mill rate cap.

3. 9 Town Transit:

The Transit District held a special meeting to respond to recently passed legislation that would provide free transit service. The district approved a motion to suspend fares from April 1 until June 30, 2022 to mirror the statements and legislation approved in Hartford.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Eversource Vegetation Management – As a follow-up to a prior Council meeting discussion, Eversource held a meeting with their arborist and tree contractor to discuss the “vegetation management” efforts to be undertaken in Clinton this year. A significant portion of the town has been identified for tree trimming. The intent of the program this year is to re-establish the clearances that were created in 2018 to maintain reliability for their power lines. Tree owners will be consulted as part of the trimming effort to get their consent. The Tree Warden and Emergency Management Director were also part of the Eversource meeting.

The project is timed to begin in May and will run throughout the year. The first phase of the work will be focused south of Route 1 starting near the Westbrook line.

- Harbor Management Plan – As many on the Council already know, the Town was awarded a grant of \$40,000 from the State Port Authority to update the Harbor Management Plan. After issuing (and then re-issuing) a request for proposals, we have a responsive team of professionals that can perform the anticipated work. The proposed cost of the project is in excess of the grant amount that was awarded. At present, I am trying to work with the consultant team to right-size their proposed approach to fit within the grant budget.

- Landfill – The Town received 3 RFP responses to aid in capping the former landfill. The proposals are under review at present to assess feasibility and our ability to award a contract to one firm.
- Hiring – Hiring across a number of departments is on-going. Filling the Finance Department and Land Use vacancies are on the agenda for Council ratification. We are still in different phases of the hiring process with WPC, Senior Programs and Program Coordinator in Human Services.
- Marina Concession Stand – Liv's confirmed that they are looking forward to opening the concession stand at the marina again this year.