

April 7, 2020, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on April 7, 2020, in the Clarion Free Library. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Ms. Roberts, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, and President Lapinto. Due to the COVID-19, participating by teleconference were Mr. Garbarino, Dr. Sanders Dédé, and Ms. Logue. Chief Peck, Mayor Whitling, Solicitor Marshall, and Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Ms. Schwabenbauer were absent.

In an effort to have a quick meeting, President Lapinto reported no committee reports will be given, and Council will do what is really necessary for business.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second Ms. Roberts to approve the March 3, 2020, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the March 14, 2020, Emergency Council Meeting, minutes, were carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the March 18, 2020, Emergency Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

Ms. Janice Horn asked if a date been decided upon for Clean-Up Day?

President Lapinto commented Council is going to see what progresses in a couple weeks.

Secretary LaVan-Preston thinks the date is set with Advanced Disposal for the middle of May but doesn't know the exact date and will reach out to Ms. Horn when it is determined.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the appropriations for the month of April, carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, ratifying Resolution #2020-445, a resolution relating to the Corona Virus outbreak and the health and safety of the Clarion Borough ("Borough") employees and staff, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to ratify the COVID-19 Declaration of Disaster Emergency. The motion was carried with a vote of seven yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron stated a couple of part-time police officer applications were turned in. The last time the job was advertised it was left open-ended to cut down on costs. Especially given what the Borough has going on right now and to kind of keep up on a support list to allow for some officers to be off if that unfortunate thing would occur, Mr. Aaron made a motion to hire William Craddock and Taylor Smith as part-time police officers at the rate of \$15 per hour not to exceed 29 hours in one week, contingent upon background checks and psychological exams.

Ms. Logue seconded it.

Mr. Noto asked if Mr. Craddock was a former state police officer?

President Lapinto agreed.

Mr. Noto noted this is a good hire.

Mr. Aaron asked Chief Peck for additional comments as he reviewed the applications.

Chief Peck informed Council Trooper Craddock is retired from the State Police with over 20 years of service and was in the military. Chief Peck has known him for the past 12 years and feels Council couldn't find a better guy. Mr. Smith works part-time in New Bethlehem and is just starting out his career. Chief Peck checked into him and has no qualms about hiring him.

Mr. Aaron added he is a good local kid.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto commented Secretary LaVan-Preston provided everyone with information on CARES, which is Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security, for entitlement communities. In Clarion County, there are three; Clarion County, Clarion Borough, and Clarion Township. Not a lot of information is known at this point and things are sketchy. However, Mr. Colosimo seemed to think that the Borough could be entitled to \$50,000. Commissioner Heasley held a meeting through teleconference today with County staff and the Planning Office, so more information may be available. One possibility is providing grants to the small business people. President Lapinto stated the Borough needs to respond by the 17th that it would like to participate in the allocation of funds and would be prudent to do. After checking with the Solicitor, it is best to do this in the form of a motion. President Lapinto read into the record the following statement from Mr. Colosimo: 'It's an allocation of funding under the recently approved federal CARES act will be made available to CDBG grantees for the purpose of responding to the coronavirus/COVID-19 emergency. Specifically, these funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Economic assistance for local businesses is a potential eligible activity. In lieu of a possible joint response involving the Clarion County, Clarion Borough, and Clarion Township utilizing these funds, or a separate Borough response

using the funds, the following motion could be made'. President Lapinto asked Mr. Noto to make the motion.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the Borough's participation in the CARES Act funding allocation, and approval for staff to complete necessary tasks to effect use of the CARES Act funding.

Ms. Roberts knows that someone contacted Mr. Colosimo about combining the three entities to get a bigger project and asked if this motion will exclude the Borough from doing that as the information stated response using funds separate now?

President Lapinto reported when it first came out Ms. Kristi Amato suggested doing a joint project for a clinic. However, that was not feasible due to the way the CDBG program works and having to benefit certain criteria.

Ms. Roberts agreed the clinic was thought about in case the hospital became over run.

President Lapinto understood that DCED stated it could not.

Dr. Sanders Dédé doesn't understand what the money can be used for?

President Lapinto reported it's very questionable and unsure at this point. The guidelines are not completed yet. The Borough is basically saying that if possible, the Borough will participate.

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented there's no obligation from the Borough but if it becomes available, then the Borough can use it?

If it's available, Ms. Logue agreed the Borough could apply for it. Ms. Logue does have some information that the County received from U. S. Senator Bob Casey on a quick guide of eligible activities, which she will email to Dr. Sanders Dédé.

President Lapinto verified that it will not cost the Borough anything. Guidelines were received today from Leroy Kline from Delta Development, but this was a different part of the program than what U. S. Senator Casey sent out. There are a lot of questions, but the Borough at least has to respond.

Ms. Logue commented what Ms. Amato has sent on is from her grant writer on what the County could go by now.

By doing this, President Lapinto feels the Borough will not lose the money and is taking precautions to see if an eligible project comes up it can be used.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto stated there is a couple housekeeping items to bring up for the media. Right now, building permits cannot be issued and asked Secretary LaVan-Preston for additional comments.

In discussion with Mr. Sharrar, Secretary LaVan-Preston commented any plans that are required to be reviewed by Bureau Veritas, the Borough's third-party agency, will not be able to be issued. Currently, they are unable to work. Until the plans are reviewed, nothing can be approved. Secretary LaVan-Preston checks with Mr. Sharrar as calls are coming into the office. If it is a zoning permit, Mr. Sharrar is trying to handle them over the phone and will issue the permit at a later date when the office is open. Individuals seeking permits will be notified if anything changes.

President Lapinto announced the Public Works Department is now working 10-hour shifts, 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and will be off Friday. If something happens on Friday, the Department will respond. It would be a great time to paint the crosswalks, but it's not warm enough.

President Lapinto stated the office will be closed on Friday in observance of Good Friday.

President Lapinto informed everyone that the office staff will be off on Mondays but will work Tuesday through Friday. If anyone needs to reach Secretary LaVan-Preston, he/she have her cell phone number.

President Lapinto asked about leaf pick-up?

Secretary LaVan-Preston stated a call was received about spring leaf pick-up. As soon as the dates are determined, the press will be notified to get it announced and out to the public. This does not need approved by Council. Last year, Secretary LaVan-Preston believes it was the last Monday and Tuesday in April.

President Lapinto asked if anyone from the press has any questions?

Mr. Chris Rossetti, exploreClarion, asked the amount the Borough could receive from the CARES funding?

President Lapinto stated it's not certain, but Mr. Colosimo seemed to look at the formula and estimated it would be \$50,000. That is not a firm number. Again, this is the CARES Act through CDBG entitlement.

Mr. Rossetti verified basically all Council approved is if it becomes available, the Borough would like to participate.

President Lapinto agreed and stated there are only three entities; Clarion Borough, Clarion County, and Clarion Township.

Mr. Rossetti also clarified the Public Works Department will be open from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, the secretaries will be off on Monday, and inquired what their hours will be.

President Lapinto stated that's correct. The girls will work 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Mr. Noto pointed out the Public Works Department will be working, but the building will not be open.

President Lapinto asked for anything else?

While it is tempting for people to take their dogs to the Paul A. Weaver Community Park, Mr. Aaron pointed out not to allow the dogs to run in the fenced in area. It is not a dog park or a place to let them run loose just because it's fenced in. Actually, Mr. Aaron added dogs are not permitted on the ballfields. A lot of work has gone into the fields.

President Lapinto also announced the playground equipment has been roped off and is not to be used.

Secretary LaVan-Preston added the pavilion is as well.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary