

August 4, 2020, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on August 4, 2020, as advertised, in the Assembly Room of 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 Mr. Garbarino, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, Ms. Logue, and President Lapinto. Ms. Roberts was absent. Chief Peck, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, Mayor Whitling, and Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Solicitor Marshall and Ms. Schwabenbauer were absent.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second Mr. Aaron to approve the July 7, 2020, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the appropriations for the month of August.

When Councilmembers look at the Appropriation Report, Secretary LaVan-Preston pointed out one is for the I Love Clarion for the fireworks. In the month of June, Council approved free parking for the month and to donate it to the fireworks. The amount was \$3,781.73, which will be mailed tomorrow.

Dr. Sanders Dédé inquired if that was the amount collected when people were not supposed to be paying the meters?

President Lapinto stated yes and isn't sure if the announcement at that meeting saying it would be donated to the fireworks had any bearing on the amount put in the meters.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto suggested if this is done again the money could be used towards the playground.

President Lapinto reported the Treasurer's Report and Budget Analysis are included for Council's review.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Cub Scout Pack 51 special event request for closure of Jefferson Place on September 20, 2020, from 12 – 6 p.m., subject to the restrictions in place at the time of the event.

President Lapinto commented this is an annual event and asked Secretary LaVan-Preston how many participate.

Secretary LaVan-Preston thinks 75 or so.

The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto reported next Council needs to approve the South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project as the 2020 CDBG activity and verified this is the 2nd year.

Mr. Colosimo agreed and noted one more year of funding will need to be approved for this project, with the start of construction in 2022.

President Lapinto reminded everyone the Borough is backing up 3 years of CDBG money so the project down in that area can be completed. President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo for the figure for this year's allocation?

Mr. Colosimo stated it is \$105,000.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue, approving the South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project as the FFY 2020 CDBG Activity, carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve a revision to the FFY 2016 CDBG Program transferring remaining 2016 admin funds to the 2016 Main Street Improvements Activity and authorizing Clarion County to submit the revision to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo for additional comments.

Mr. Colosimo informed everyone this is a sister revision to the last one requesting a time extension for 2016. This will actually transfer about \$15,000 from administration to the active project.

The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto reported a week or so ago several representatives of the Borough met with the residents of South Sheridan Road, regarding a Bicycle Grant submission and support letter and asked Mr. Colosimo for more.

Mr. Colosimo commented the application was submitted last week and included Council's support letter as well. At the same time, Council indicated the desire to work with the County in the final design of the construction project if that grant is awarded.

President Lapinto stated in discussion with the Solicitor it was okay to do a straw vote from Council and then to ratify it at the meeting tonight.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino to give approval of South Sheridan Road Bicycle Grant submission and support letter. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Before moving on, Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the FFY 2020 CARES-CDBG Application Resolution #2020-449 was skipped.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo to discuss this item.

Mr. Colosimo asked Council to table the action on this until the second Council Meeting for the month on August 18th. Working with the County, it was decided the second public hearing is necessary to cover the allocation of CARES-CDBG for the County, the Borough, and the Township before adopting this resolution. The public hearing will be held next week, and then Council could approve it the following week at the second Council Meeting.

Secretary LaVan-Preston commented this will be August 18, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, tabling action on Resolution #2020-449 in reference to the FFY 2020 Clarion Borough CARES-CDBG Application until the next Council Meeting on August 18, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library, was carried with a vote of six yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the Blueprint Committee met on the third Wednesday in July and is moving forward with the Park Project. The silent fundraising phase for the park is occurring now and internalizing to make sure all Boardmembers and all actively involved with this Committee has pledge or is giving so as when donations are being sought from the public 100% will be committed by the Board already. Dr. Sanders Dédé again thanked Janice Horn for getting this Park Project started.

Dr. Sanders Dédé stated the Committee will be meeting on the 19th of August in the conference room of the hotel at Cozumel's at 6 p.m.

Dr. Sanders Dédé pointed out the 3D representation of the Park is on the Borough's webpage for everyone to see.

If Council approves free parking in the Borough at Christmas, Dr. Sanders Dédé, along with Ms. Horn, asked for the money and noted no one else can claim it now.

PUBLIC WORKS

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve to purchase a sweeper attachment for the skid steer at the cost of \$4,306.96 (paid with liquid fuels funds). The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Mr. Noto asked Mr. Colosimo to explain the Second Avenue Storm Sewer Replacement Project, which came up during another construction project.

While completing work for Pennsylvania American Water, Mr. Colosimo stated Mealy Excavating discovered deteriorated corrugated metal pipe along Second Avenue between Church Road and South Street. The Borough's policy is to go from inlet-to-inlet for replacement rather than to just patch it. In this case, approximately 200' of deteriorated pipe had to be replaced. Mr. Colosimo reported Mealy completed this work while in the area.

Mr. Noto asked if the previous section was completed last year and if this is the last piece of pipe in this area.

Mr. Colosimo commented last year the section from Wood Street to Church Road was completed. This project connected to that one. One more section that will need to be repaired/replaced is from Merle Road to Main Street along Second Avenue.

Mr. Noto noted that's about 450' repaired/replaced.

Since 2013, Mr. Colosimo agreed there have been 4 projects, including this latest project, in that area to get to this point.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving Clarion Borough Contract 2020-4 Second Avenue Storm Sewer Replacement Project for the total amount of \$38,718.80, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve payment of \$38,718.80 to Mealy Excavating and Construction Inc. for completion of Contract 2020-4, contingent upon receipt of contract close-out documents. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto stated the Authority Board met this past month and are working on appeals that were received. Mr. Colosimo and Ms. Schwabenbauer have been going out to the sites to measure and see what the concerns are. The Board will continue to move forward.

PUBLIC SAFETY

President Lapinto, first off, congratulated Chief Peck for all the hard work and time and effort put forth to get these recent convictions (meaning drug), which Clarion Borough appreciates as well as Chief Peck.

Chief Peck appreciates the consideration of the Public Safety Committee in discussions with his ideas up front. Without the Committee being on Board and having the freedom to follow the evidence, Chief Peck stated this wouldn't be possible. Chief Peck thanked everyone.

Hopping on with President Lapinto's comments as well as from an administrative standpoint, Mr. Aaron congratulated and commended everyone involved in all the work on this case. Flipping over as a resident, which he normally does under Non-Agenda Items, Mr. Aaron thanked the Clarion Borough Police Department and other law enforcement that helped out with these cases. As a resident of the community and a father of four, Clarion Borough doesn't have any place for this type of activity in the community. Every bit closer that the Borough police can get to eliminating it from the community is sending a message that it doesn't belong here. Mr. Aaron cannot give enough appreciation to everyone involved.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto had nothing to report.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Mr. Garbarino commented the Housing and Zoning Committee met but had nothing to report.

RECREATION

Mr. Aaron had nothing to report. A meeting will probably be scheduled with Clarion Little League next month to see how the season went. It seemed to go well and give the kids something to go out and do.

Mr. Preston thinks fall ball is going to be held as well.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Whitling had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

In reference to the statement that Council intends to put on record, Dr. Sanders Dédé asked if the Borough could be vigilant and try to maintain animals are kept off Main Street when any public events are going on. The Borough needs to keep the community as safe, clean, and sanitary as possible. No animals are permitted in certain activities, but people bring them anyways and it needs enforced.

If the press could remind everyone that no animals are allowed, Mr. Noto added nobody wants to step in anything.

With COVID-19, President Lapinto stated the Borough became very concerned about certain issues and asked the Solicitor to address. Since he is not here this evening, President Lapinto asked Secretary LaVan-Preston to report..

Secretary LaVan-Preston commented the Borough understands through exploreClarion that the Chamber announced that Autumn Leaf Festival will be held in some fashion and will be different. Not knowing what that means or when the request is coming, as the same article reported the details will be announced on August 17th, which the Borough will not meet before that time, the question was presented as to what exactly would protect the Borough. As everyone knows, Autumn Leaf Festival is a much bigger magnitude than any of the other events that were approved with the disclaimer of following the CDC guidelines in place at the time the event is held. Not knowing if the event will be held in the Borough or not, Solicitor Marshall provided Council on how to approve the event to a condition. Again, not having a request, Clarion Borough chooses to be pro-active at this time and announce the following must be attached as part of their advertising, brochures, posters, radio announcements, etc. to protect the Borough as much as possible. Secretary LaVan-Preston read the entire COVID-19 Warning into the meeting and will provide a copy to the press after the meeting, which is attached to the Official File Copy of this meeting. This will be sent onto the Chamber as recommended by the Solicitor.

President Lapinto feels Council needs to adopt this policy.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Logue to adopt a policy for the Autumn Leaf Festival and all special events held in Clarion Borough to attach the COVID-19 Warning to all advertising, brochures, poster, radio announcements, etc.

Mr. Noto agrees this needs adopted but asked exactly what Council is adopting.

President Lapinto stated this policy will be adopted as a standard policy for all events. United Way is coming up next.

Mr. Noto clarified this would apply to the United Way and the Cub Scouts that was approved earlier tonight.

Dr. Sanders Dédé added the high school would also for their bon fire.

Mr. Aaron commented the statement would be attached to all Borough-approved events.

President Lapinto stressed the Borough needs to protect his/her residents as much as possible.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto stated Council received the United Way of Clarion County request for their 5K and 10K Race and asked Secretary LaVan-Preston to explain. United Way has been very cooperative.

Secretary LaVan-Preston reported Melissa Fulton contacted the Borough to see how to handle the event, which is scheduled for September 26, 2020. When Ms. Fulton originally contacted the office and knowing this event also exceeds 250, Secretary LaVan-Preston asked for more details. The University's policy is no more than 250. After obtaining permission from the University, the United Way was thinking of doing 2 races; one in the morning and one in the afternoon to limit the number of participants. After discussion with Chief Peck, Secretary LaVan-Preston contacted Ms. Fulton to submit the request and stated there may be an issue with police coverage for two races as it's hard sometimes for one. These wages are reimbursed to the Borough by the United Way after the event is held. This request was dropped off yesterday, and there is only one race from 9-11 a.m. following the same route in the past. Also, provided by United Way is an entire 5K/10K COVID-19 Race Precautions, and it is limited to 225 participants with 25 staff/volunteer as well as how they are addressing COVID-19 on their end. Secretary LaVan-Preston prepared the COVID-19 Warning listing the United Way of Clarion County as approved prior to this item. The insurance certificate has been received for this event as well.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Logue, approving the United Way of Clarion County's special event request for their 5K and 10K Race to be held on September 26, 2020, conditioned upon the COVID-19 Warning being part of any advertising, brochures, poster, radio announcements, etc., was carried with a vote of six yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer stated trees.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary