

December 6, 2016, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on December 6, 2016, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. Vice President Sanders Dédé called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, Mr. MacBeth, and President Lapinto. Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Preston, Mr. Sharrar, Solicitor Marshall, and Ms. LaVan were also present.

Since there is a vacancy in the Mayor office, Vice President Sanders Dédé pointed out President Lapinto will have to act in that capacity until a new Mayor is appointed. Until that time, Dr. Sanders Dédé stated she will chair the meeting. Once a new Mayor is appointed, he will take his place at the table with Council, and President Lapinto can take over the meeting.

Vice President Sanders Dédé announced first on the agenda is to handle the Mayor applicants' presentations and interviews. Clarion Borough received two letters of interest for the vacant position. Tonight, each one will give a 3-minute presentation after which Councilmembers will ask any questions he/she may have. Then Council is expected to appoint a new Mayor, who will be sworn into office by District Judge Duane Quinn. After that, the Mayor may take his seat at Council and participate in the rest of the meeting. Going in order the letters were received, Vice President Sanders Dédé called on Dr. Jamie L. Phillips.

Dr. Jamie L. Phillip commented he's a professor of philosophy at Clarion University and appreciates the opportunity to explain why he's interested in Mayor, what his qualifications are, and why he would be a very good mayor for the Borough. Dr. Phillips desires to serve the Borough, because he cares about the people in it. Living in the Borough for 18 years with his wife, Mary Ann, and two sets of twins, he is very much committed to the area and is interested in trying to bridge the gap between the University and the Borough itself. Dr. Phillips doesn't think there's a positive connection between the University and the Borough and thinks he knows exactly why that it. The University has made mistakes in terms of how to approach the Borough. The University, especially with the local administration, has a certain arrogance, which Dr. Phillips would like to overcome and fix that problem as much as possible. Without being prideful, Dr. Phillips feels he has the respect of the individuals working at the University in terms of the faculty, students, staff, and also the administrators. Dr. Phillips thinks he is well placed to allow the Borough and the University to flourish together and to find common grounds that can be successful. In terms of his qualifications, he is a professor of philosophy and feels that actually makes me a better open-minded person to think critically about all types of situations. Dr. Phillips reported he's also a relatively decent public speaker, has been dedicated to public service, and always has been. Growing up in Missouri in a rural area similar to Clarion Borough, Dr. Phillips grew up very poor from very humble beginnings, joined the military right after high school, and served in the United States Air Force for 4 years, which is where he began his service and continued that service his entire life. Having a lot of people help him with his life, Dr. Phillips relayed he's had a lot of good things happen to him and is very much interested in paying that back. Dr. Phillips would like to help the Borough by being Mayor in a way that is effective and

that represents the Borough very well to constituencies both at the local and a higher level of government.

Vice President Sanders Dédé called on Mr. Daniel Parker.

Mr. Daniel Parker thanked Council for the opportunity to speak this evening and hopes that he is a familiar face to all of you from either his work as your town librarian, as a frequent visitor to Borough Council Meetings, or as the head of the Blueprint Community effort here in Clarion. Mr. Parker understands most of the strengths that are already present here on Council and feels he would be able to compliment those strengths to keep the community going forward. Like Dr. Phillips, he loves Clarion and feels it has been very welcoming. Coming to the area from Oil City 5 years ago to take over the position of town librarian, Mr. Parker felt the community welcome him open armed both personally and at the library, which is his one great love. Because of that, Mr. Parker feels as though he has a debt to repay to the Borough of Clarion and one way to do that is through service. If everyone looks at his resume, he/she will notice a lot of service he's done here in Clarion; heading the Blueprint Community Initiative, which has been quite successful to date, to volunteering his time with Clarion County Community Foundation, the Bridge Builders Community Foundation, and Literacy Council. The Blueprint is a collaboration between the Borough of Clarion and the University, and Mr. Parker thinks the group has come a long way from a broadband grant to helping the Brewery open up. Mr. Parker is very proud of these things and is proud to have had a hand in doing this for the town. The Community Foundation tries to gather the funds necessary to help the community grow and move forward. Most rewarding is being part of the Literacy Council. Mr. Parker questioned what greater calling is there than to help people learn how to read and write and have that stepping stone for a successful life. Mr. Parker is also pleased to be a board member of the Arc of Clarion and Venango Counties, a place that celebrates the disabilities and achievements of people with disabilities and helps them to make their lives meaningful. To repeat, Mr. Parker loves Clarion and wants to give back to the community that has been so good to me. It's important that Clarion to thrive. Mr. Parker feels the Borough can thrive like it was 30 years ago because of the number of unique assets. If those assets are capitalized on, Clarion can be made the community that it once was and can be.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked for any Council questions or comments?

Acting Mayor Lapinto voiced concern with Dr. Phillips' statement about the relationship between the University and the Borough and takes that kind of personal because she has really strived and feels this Council has a great relationship with the University. As Mr. Parker referenced, this Blueprint Community is the first to be a collaboration between a municipality and a university.

Dr. Phillips feels the Blueprint Community is a bridge between the University and the rest of the Borough but voiced concern with the nature of the respect that he sees the University treat at the highest level. The President at the University in relation to the rest of the people at the University and also with the rest of the Borough community is not a positive relationship. As an example, an objective of the Blueprint Committee is to achieve greater cultural events in the

local area, which is necessary. Dr. Phillips doesn't believe that can be achieved unless the University culture departments can be part of this program. The President of the University does not work well with the faculty. The Blueprint grant does not mention the art department or the visual department only Clarion Area High School, which is fantastic; however, the fact that there is an entire art department, music department at the University and they are not even mentioned, is not good. Dr. Phillips stated these individuals need to be working with the Borough in order to make it successful and everyone in that community. It cannot be achieved just with the Borough. Those departments he mentioned do not get the respect that they deserve. Dr. Phillips feels he can be the person to bridge that gap and get the involvement necessary to make this town better. Those departments do not have respect for the administration as he does. Dr. Phillips stressed the problem does not lie on the side of the Borough but lies on the side of the University. This lack of respect, over at least 7 years, is harming the development of the community.

Acting Mayor Lapinto doesn't know what goes on in the faculty member side but personally stated the Borough strives very hard and feels both have to work together for the good of this community.

Dr. Phillips stated absolutely and agrees with that comment totally.

Acting Mayor Lapinto stated that's the next stop for the Blueprint Community is to have concerts.

Dr. Phillips reported in terms of the Music Department, everyone has been fired by the administration and those individuals working in that department are not going to be particularly happy to be involved through the President or David Love. Borough Council needs somebody who's going to be able to help the Blueprint Committee and these individuals, which cannot be done currently because of the administration and the bad relationship that exists.

In dealing with President Karen Whitney, Acting Mayor Lapinto does not see a bad relationship.

Dr. Phillips recognizes that and respects her different perspective than his. Living it each and every day, he sees how clear the relationship is.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked for anything further.

Ms. Roberts asked if she could make a motion.

Mr. Aaron nominated Dan Parker for Clarion Borough Mayor. Mr. Noto seconded the motion.

Acting Mayor/President Lapinto asked if it needs mentioned this will be until the end of next year?

Solicitor Marshall doesn't think so because it's guided by statutory regulations.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked for a roll call vote? The motion carried after the following roll call vote: Mr. Zerfoss, no; Ms. Roberts, no; Dr. Sanders Dédé, yes; Mr. Aaron, yes; Mr. Noto, yes; Mr. MacBeth, no; with President Lapinto breaking the tie by voting yes.

At this time, Vice President Sanders Dédé asked Magistrate Quinn to issue the Oath of Office. As a note, both persons signed an Affidavit of Residency as required by law prior to the meeting.

Before moving on Mr. Zerfoss asked Solicitor Marshall if Ms. Lapinto who is President of Council and acting Mayor in this instance can vote to break the tie for another mayor?

Solicitor Marshall stated yes.

Acting Mayor Lapinto understands that the reason the president of council is to become the mayor is in case there is a tie, he/she would be able to vote in the absence of the mayor.

Solicitor Marshall agreed. The statute states if there is an absence in the office of Mayor, the President acts as the Mayor during the meeting and cannot vote unless there is a tie. In this case, Solicitor Marshall commented there was a tie, 3-3, 3 for and 3 against and the acting mayor then can make the deciding vote.

Mr. Zerfoss disagrees and asked that the minutes reflect that that he's disagreeing with what the statement he heard from both Solicitor Marshall and from the Acting Mayor.

Solicitor Marshall asked Council to continue on with the swearing in.

District Magistrate Duane Quinn issued the Oath of Office of Mayor to Daniel R. Parker, who then took his seat at the Council table.

Dr. Sanders Dédé relinquished her place, and President Lapinto chaired the remainder of the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the November 1, 2016, Council Meeting, minutes, were carried with a vote of six yea with Mr. Noto abstained as he was absent.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Noto to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016, Council Meeting, were carried with a vote of seven yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

Mr. Aaron called for an Executive Session for personnel, beginning at 7:21 p.m., including all Councilmembers, Solicitor Marshall, and Mayor Parker.

President Lapinto called the meeting back to order at 8:07 p.m.

Solicitor Marshall understands action will be taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Over the last month and a half with everything that Council has done with the Secretary/Treasurer and Chief, Mr. Aaron reported four employees had to step up without any question filling in with the extra duties while doing a very good job/jobs for the Borough. There was no extra compensation to taking on these duties, and no expectations to it; however, Mr. Aaron asked Council to approve a one-time payment of \$1,200 each to Linda LaVan, Todd Colosimo, and Bill Peck and a one-time payment of \$600 to Julie Dunlap as compensation for extra duties they've taken on and stated that's in a form of a motion. At the beginning of the year, re-evaluation will be given to each employee as far as anything farther.

Ms. LaVan verified this one-time payment will be issued in the next paycheck, which is the last one for the year.

President Lapinto and Mr. Aaron stated yes.

Ms. Roberts seconded the motion.

Mr. Noto asked Solicitor Marshall if the term used last time this was done was called a bonus just so the language remains consistent with how it was done in the past.

Solicitor Marshall believes Council termed it a bonus for a 1-time salary payment.

Mr. Noto thinks it's a great idea.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the appropriations for the month of December, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto stated the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are in the packet for Council's review.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Resolution #2016-397, approving the fiscal year budget. The motion carried after the following roll call vote: Mr. Zerfoss, yes; Ms. Roberts, yes; Dr. Sanders Dédé, yes; Mr. Aaron, yes; Mr. Noto, yes; Mr. MacBeth, yes; and President Lapinto, yes.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto to adopt the proposed 2017 Budget, Tax Ordinance #2016-821, and Fee Schedules. The motion carried after the following roll call vote:

Mr. Zerfoss, yes; Ms. Roberts, yes; Dr. Sanders Dédé, yes; Mr. Aaron, yes; Mr. Noto, yes; Mr. MacBeth, yes; and President Lapinto, yes.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. MacBeth to adopt the 2017 Salary Schedule.

Mr. Aaron asked the schedule is amendable.

President Lapinto commented yes.

The motion carried after the following roll call vote: Mr. Zerfoss, yes; Ms. Roberts, yes; Dr. Sanders Dédé, yes; Mr. Aaron, yes; Mr. Noto, yes; Mr. MacBeth, yes; and President Lapinto, yes.

President Lapinto reported next is permission to send a memorandum to DCED regarding 2015 CDBG park reimbursement, which Council has been made aware of, and asked Mr. Colosimo for a shortened version.

Basically, Mr. Colosimo informed Council it's a memorandum for DCED outlining the Borough's case for reimbursement of 2015 CDBG funding for Borough funds spent for the Paul A. Weaver Community Park Access Road Project. The Borough did not have enough grant funds during the project and used Borough funds after asking if the Borough could reimburse itself later on.

President Lapinto reminded everyone DCED did send an e-mail to the Borough approving that could be done.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving to send a memorandum to DCED regarding 2015 CDBG Park Reimbursement, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission to seek request for proposals for 2017 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000, was carried unanimously.

President Lapinto announced the following boards and commissions will expire at the end of 2016: Zoning Hearing Board, 3-year term, Deborah Lauer; Planning Commission, 4-year term, Jack Troese; Police Pension Plan Committee, 3-year term, Barry Sweet; General Employees' Pension Plan Committee, 3-year term, Barry Sweet; and Library Board, 3-year term, Myra Bullington. President Lapinto asked Ms. LaVan to contact each member to see if he/she wishes to be re-appointed to another term.

President Lapinto commented the 2017 Council Meeting dates are included in the packet and permission to advertise them is necessary.

Ms. LaVan pointed out the meetings is proposed for the first and third Tuesdays, as in the past. The only one Council needs to determine is July's, because the 4th is a holiday.

Council decided to hold the meeting on July 5th for 2017.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth, approving to advertise the 2017 Council Meeting dates, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto stated a request for the Come Together Clarion event to be held April 29, 2017 has been reviewed by Officer-in-Charge Peck. Sixth Avenue is closed for that event.

Ms. LaVan added this is the same request as last year. The organization will reimburse the Borough for the officer's wages involved with the 5K race.

Ms. Roberts stated it is growing more each year, and the Methodist Church holds events in their parking lot in conjunction with it.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the Advisory Board for Leadership & Engagement's special event request for Come Together Clarion to be held on April 29, 2017. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Mr. Noto, approving the Delta Zeta's special event request for 5K race to be held April 30, 2017, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the next Blueprint Committee meeting is on December 13, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. at the Borough Office. The Committee met with President Whitney a week and a half ago to see if the University and Borough can partner to beautify and make Clarion great again.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss asked Mr. Colosimo to discuss the projects.

Mr. Colosimo announced two projects for Storm Sewer repairs are finished. The Toby Street and North Third Avenue project has been completed, is closed out, and paid in full. In tonight's bills, Council approved the payment in full for M and B Services for the concrete restoration work at Second Avenue and Wood Street. That project started out a little rocky, but it came to a good close. Mr. Colosimo stated it was a good project.

Mr. Zerfoss reported the report is in the packet for everyone's review. Some highlights are the Borough is done picking up leaves for the season, the truck is now going to be used as a snow plow, and one Monday and Tuesday in the spring will be scheduled to collect leaves. Mr. Zerfoss reminded everyone the winter ordinance went into effect December 1st regardless of whether there is snow or not. The Public Works Department needs to plow the snow and clear the roads and cannot predict when the snow will come. Residents need to be careful to park north/south and east/west when allowed or will be given a ticket.

Mr. Zerfoss stated permission is necessary to interview and hire part-time Public Works employees with a CDL-Class B license with ratification at the January Council Meeting. The

Department will be going to two shifts, day and night. Only having four full-time workers, it's necessary to hire some more part-time employees that can use the trucks and help out.

Ms. LaVan is not sure if hiring will be achieved before the January meeting, because the ad was just published and the deadline is the 21st.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Preston if he has anyone to help now?

Mr. Preston stated one that has CDL, if his health holds out.

After some discussion, on a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Ms. Roberts that Council delegates the Public Works Committee to interview and hire part-time Public Works employees with a CDL-Class B at the rate of \$12.50/hour with ratification at the January Council Meeting. The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Zerfoss, in the absence of Mr. Noto, had nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron made a motion to give permission to advertise the part-time police officer with Act 120 required and asked if this ad can be open-ended without a deadline?

Ms. LaVan stated usually the ad lists a deadline.

Mr. Noto asked if it could be until the next meeting and then authorize further.

Ms. LaVan stated a gentleman did come in and fill out an application. He was informed at the time, if it was advertised, the Borough could call him in case he wishes to drop off additional information.

President Lapinto asked if the wage needs included in the motion?

Solicitor Marshall doesn't believe it has to be included because the Committee isn't getting authority to hire just to advertise.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth, giving permission to advertise for part-time police officers (Act 120 required) without a deadline for applications to be analyzed at the January Council Meeting, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto reported the Borough received a repair estimate for the pump for the library for the amount of \$3,051. Fortunately, the Borough is able to repair as oppose to replace as it's much cheaper.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts to give permission for W. C. Weil Company to repair library pump at the cost of \$3,051. The motion carried unanimously.

HOUSING AND ZONING

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. MacBeth to give permission to grant sidewalk and street closing extensions to contractor for CVS Pharmacy for construction purposes.

Mr. Noto asked if the sidewalks are already gone?

Ms. LaVan stated yes but the Zoning Officer can grant up to 14 days.

Ms. Roberts clarified it will be granted 14 days and Council approval is beyond that point.

President Lapinto asked if Borough employees can only do it for so many days?

Mr. Colosimo agreed the Borough employees can issue a permit up to 14 days. After that, the applicant has to seek permission of the Council. The company's current permit started December 5th for the sidewalk and the Merle Road from Weaver Place to Seventh Avenue and will expire December 19th. The company will be on Christmas break around that time, but it will be necessary to apply for another two weeks for these permits. At the end of that time, work should be completed.

President Lapinto initially was concerned about the Chinese Restaurant, but after looking, their business is not affected.

The motion carried with a vote of seven.

Dr. Sanders Dédé welcomed Scott Sharrar back to work.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

President Lapinto inquired if the Committee is still planning to meet with the YMCA?

As soon as the YMCA has all their figures, Ms. Roberts stated yes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Acting Secretary LaVan had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Parker had nothing to report but stated he is grateful that Council put his/her confidence in him and in the community that elected you. Mayor Parker commented he will work hard for the Borough and work very closely with each member to help make Clarion the best it can be.

Dr. Sanders Dédé repeated make Clarion great again!

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding South Street, Ms. Roberts inquired if that street will be repaired better?

Mr. Colosimo informed everyone the contractor basically ran out of time to repair the paving back to good condition. They will return in the spring to redo the work on the road.

Mr. Preston added they just put base down to get through the winter plowing season.

Mr. Noto voiced concern on how it will hold up with the plowing?

Mr. Preston commented the Department already plowed once and will do the best possible in this area.

Mr. Noto verified they are responsible to repair any additional damage that happens, because they ran out of time?

Mr. Colosimo and Mr. Preston agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Mr. Zerfoss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Linda M. LaVan, Acting Borough Secretary