

February 17, 2015, Council Meeting
Minutes

The second meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on February 17, 2015, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Sanders Dédé called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Ms. Roberts, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, and Vice President Sanders Dédé. Mr. Zerfoss participated by telephone. Mr. Bartley and President Lapinto were absent. Chief/Secretary/Treasurer Hall, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, and Ms. LaVan were also present. Mayor Walters, Messrs. Preston and Sharrar were absent.

Since Mayor Walters was absent, Vice President Sanders Dédé will not vote unless there is a tie.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, to approve the February 3, 2015, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the February 19, 2015, Special Council Meeting, minutes, were carried with a vote of four yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

Vice President Sanders Dédé stated the first item is a CDBG drawdown update. Council needs to give permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG funds to reimburse the Borough of Clarion for Section 3 Display Ad related to Park Project in the amount of \$215.84.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG funds to reimburse the Borough of Clarion for Section 3 Display Ad (#3773870) related to Park Project in the amount of \$215.84, was carried with a vote of four yea.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked Mr. Colosimo to discuss the next item to reduce previous authorized drawdown of \$6,699.25 by \$930 in project income from sale of Park Project Plans.

Mr. Colosimo reported last month, Council approved a series of drawdowns that totaled \$6,699.25. At the same time, 16 sets of plans and bidding documents for the Park Project were sold. Each set were \$55-65, depending on how they were obtained. Mr. Colosimo commented the Borough received a total of \$930. The Borough was going to wait and apply that to the project later on. However, Mr. Colosimo was informed by the State that that is program income and it needs to be spent first. Therefore, when the drawdown is completed, the total amount will be reduced by \$930.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to reduce the previous authorized drawdown of \$6,699.25 by \$930 in project income from sale of Park Project Plans. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to adopt Ordinance #2015-805, repealing Ordinance #2014-803, vacating a portion of Jefferson Place.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked for discussion or comments.

Secretary Hall noted this gives the Borough its road back.

Mr. Noto asked what's been happening in between with the parking meters and revenue?

Secretary Hall reported it wasn't relinquished until March 1st.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked Mr. Colosimo for an update on the Blueprint Committee.

Mr. Colosimo announced the Blueprint Committee's graduation date is March 4th in State College. Most of the members are scheduled to attend; or at least the 60% which the Committee's been striving for. After that, Mr. Colosimo stated the implementation of the various projects that the team has come up with will start.

Vice President Sanders Dédé commented application for loans for improvement to the community can begin.

Mr. Colosimo agreed.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss asked Mr. Noto to give the report.

Mr. Noto stated the Committee met and discussed a problem with the front-end loader. However, thanks to Chief Hall and Mr. Preston's ingenuity, a solution was possibly found. Council will be updated as to whether it works. The Department continues to plow, move snow, and asks for everyone's cooperation in this effort.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron commented the Committee has not met yet this month but asked Chief Hall to discuss a couple items on the agenda.

Before the February 3rd Council Meeting, Chief Hall reported Nick Trombetta submitted his retirement letter and it was too late to come to Council. The letter was provided to Council and a motion is needed to accept it.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto, accepting the retirement of Nick Trombetta, with regrets and accommodations, was carried with a vote of four yea.

Mr. Noto asked if the Borough will do something for Officer Trombetta, who served for a long time.

Chief Hall stated that will definitely be discussed at Friday's meeting. Officer Trombetta has worked for the Borough for 21-22 years and will be missed.

Mr. Aaron asked the Chief to explain the amended Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Chief Hall informed Council Public Safety met in early January to discuss a couple proposed changes to the rules and regulations. The Committee's recommendations were then sent to the Civil Service Commission, who met later in the month to review. After discussion, the Commission agreed with the changes and approved them with a vote of three yea. Chief Hall stated the next step is for Council to give final adoption to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which were included in the packet.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts, adopting the amended Civil Service Rules and Regulations as approved by the Civil Service Commission January 30, 2015, was carried with a vote of four yea.

Mr. Aaron commented the last item is the amendment to the fire hall lease agreement.

Chief Hall stated the fire hall lease was for 50-years, which would expire May 4, 2043. After several months of discussion, Item #3 is the only section being amended. The fire department wishes to be able to rent the first floor only, of the building for various purposes for a fee. After discussion with the fire chief, Chief Hall relayed it will not be used for bingo. It might be used for a wedding, meetings, or party. Mayor Walters assured him it wouldn't be used more than 5 times a year. Chief Hall reported the funds will be used for equipment, like turnout gear, oxygen tanks, or anything equipment-related. This amendment has been reviewed and approved by Solicitor Marshall.

Vice President Sanders Dédé asked if there is a base price the Department will charge?

Chief Hall stated they didn't relay that information to him. It may depend on the size of the group.

Solicitor Marshall commented they would be able to decide the amount.

Ms. Roberts inquired if there is a certain amount of capacity?

Chief Hall stated yes. The Housing and Zoning Officer will be able to determine the maximum number of people for the building. Based on the square footage, there is a formula to figure out how many people are allowed in a building.

Ms. Roberts verified the Borough is not getting anything other than 'an atta boy' or asked if Council could change that?

Chief Hall reported it's up to Council if they wish to change anything. As far as he's been told, the money is going to be used for equipment so the Fire Department doesn't have to come to the Borough and asked for money to purchase it.

In answer to Ms. Roberts' question, Solicitor Marshall stated the fire department will also sign this amendment. If approved tonight, Council could not unilaterally change it without the consent or agreement of the fire department. In other words, it would have to be another amendment to the lease that everybody agrees to.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron, to approve the Fire Hall amendment to the Lease Agreement, was carried with a vote of four yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto informed everyone to read; it keeps your brain warm.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Vice President Sanders Dédé had nothing to report.

RECREATION

Mr. Noto reported the Committee met with Bob Good of Pashek Associates to get some information on the pool. It went pretty well. The Committee will discuss this more at the next meeting and bring it back to Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Hall had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Vice President Sanders Dédé stated there was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Scott Seeley, reporter for The Clarion News, asked what the Civil Service Rules and Regulations changes were?

Mr. Noto provided him with a copy of the amended changes.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mark E. Hall, Borough Secretary