

February 4, 2020, Council Meeting
Minutes

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

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto, approving the January 6, 2020, Reorganization Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of six yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second Ms. Roberts to approve the January 6, 2020, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, approving the appropriations for the month of February, 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 informational purposes.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Logue, approving Clarion County Broadcasting's special event request for a street closure of Sixth Avenue the first Thursday of the month (June 4, July 2, August 6, and September 3) from 6-9 p.m. for Summer Concert Services, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue, approving Delta Zeta's special event request for 5K Turtle Trot to be held April 19, 2020, at 8 a.m. (annual request), was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the Advisory Board for Leadership & Engagement, ABLE's, special event request for closure of Sixth Avenue between Main Street and Wood Street for Come Together Clarion Event to be held April 18, 2020, for 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. (annual request). The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Noto, appointing Simon Aristeguieta-Trillos to a 3-year term on the Library Board to expire at the end of 2022, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the meeting dates for Blueprint Committee changed to the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be the 19th. The Committee is continuing with the Memorandum of Agreement, looking for grants, and hired a part-time clerk. Dr. Sanders Dédé stated the Committee is moving forward and working with various other groups and organizations to complete projects for the community and for Clarion Borough.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Noto commented it is pothole season and reminded anyone that notices a pothole to report it. The Department is filling them with cold patch at this point. Mr. Noto thanked the employees for patching some on 6th Avenue and Boundary Street, which fixed it up. As the weather warms up, hot patch will be used to make it more permanent.

As a reminder, Mr. Noto cautioned everyone to watch where he/she parks to avoid getting a ticket for snow removal.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto reported the Authority continues to run and try to get the last little bits together to be able to start billing. The lawyer did provide some information to continue to move forward.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron thanked Chief Peck, CNET, and all the agencies for a job well done with the latest bust on Wilson Avenue.

Mr. Aaron asked Chief Peck for any comments.

Chief Peck reminded everyone as well about parking and removing snow from his/her sidewalks.

Mr. Noto agreed residents to keep his/her sidewalk clean.

Though it's not required, Mr. Aaron asked residents to keep the fire hydrant in their area clear from snow as well. It would help the firemen quite a bit if it is already cleared.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto had nothing to report right now.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Roberts stated the Housing and Zoning Report is in the packet for review.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve Resolution #2020-441, a resolution opposing Pennsylvania House Bill 349 of 2019 requiring municipalities enforcing the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code through utilization of third-party agencies to retain two third-party agencies to act on behalf of the municipality.

Mr. Sharrar commented the State is trying to pass a bill that will require all municipalities to have more than one third-party inspector. The Borough already has an inspector. Mr. Sharrar thinks if there is more than one it could create a problem because then the Borough would have to deal with multiple agencies, giving permits and plans, and then making sure everything is done correctly. The Borough is happy with the current company. By adopting this resolution, Mr. Sharrar stated the Borough has the right to stay with one company.

Mr. Noto inquired how many companies do this kind of work?

Mr. Sharrar believes there are 2 or 3 that could potentially do it.

Ms. Roberts added at the Committee meeting, Mr. Sharrar explained it would make more sense to keep it with one. Another reason is the current inspector contacts Mr. Sharrar whenever he notices work being done in the Borough to see what is happening. If there are several different companies that do this work for the Borough, some projects may get lost in the cracks.

Mr. Noto questioned if the Borough has had any issues with the current company?

Mr. Sharrar stated no. Even when the Borough is audited, everything passes.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

RECREATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission for The EADS Group, Inc., to design Safety Netting Project at Paul A. Weaver Community Park and provide an estimate of construction cost, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston informed everyone the Borough received the Liquid Fuels Audit for 2017-2018. If anyone would like to see it, a copy can be sent electronically or he/she could stop in the office to review it. There were no findings. Secretary LaVan-Preston believes this was reported last year; however, the individual that actually checks all the records forwards it on for final review.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Whitling thanked the Maintenance Department for keeping the roads clean in the few snow storms the area's had and also Public Safety and the Zoning Officer for enforcing to keep the sidewalks clean as well.

Mayor Whitling publicly thanked the Commissioners that mentioned at their Work Session today that they are considering to give the Borough a letter of support for the grant application to DCED regarding the storm water projects. It is proposed to be on the agenda for next week's meeting and approved.

Mayor Whitling reminded the public that the Fire Department is holding their Comedy Night February 15, 2020, at the Moose Lodge. Tickets are still available for \$30 each, which includes dinner and a show of two comedians that are very funny.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Sanders Dédé questioned the status of the abandoned station on Second Avenue?

Mr. Sharrar reported the owner cleaned and fixed up everything that the Borough could require them to do. As a municipality, there is only so much that can be done. The owner brought everything into compliance so it's not a nuisance other than it is an empty building. Everything is paid up tax wise.

Mr. Noto confirmed that's as good as it gets for now.

Mr. Sharrar agreed. In his last discussion with the owner, the owner indicated he plans to put a business on the property.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked it be relayed to hurry up.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Janice Horn, 32 Barber Street, expressed appreciation for the Borough deciding to repave Campbell Avenue. There are no longer chunks or bits of pavement in her yard.

Ms. Horn announced this year the League of Women Voters of the United States is celebrating their 100th anniversary. On February 18th, a program provided by Carol Briggs of Brookville will be at Michelle's in the evening.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary