

February 5, 2019, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on February 5, 2019, in the Clarion Borough Offices. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Ms. Logue, Mr. Noto, and President Lapinto. Mr. Zerfoss was absent. Mayor Parker, Chief Peck, Mr. Preston, Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Sharrar, and Ms. LaVan-Preston were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to amend the agenda to include under Administration a special event request submitted January 30, 2019, from Infusion Night Club Grill to close Center Place from Main Street to the end of the Main Street Center Building to be held Saturday, March 16, 2019, for a live band. The motion carried with a vote of six yeas.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, amending the agenda to include under Housing and Zoning a request from Regency Commons submitted February 4, 2019, to grant a sidewalk closure extension until October 31, 2019, which is beyond the 14 days and requires Council approval, was carried with a vote of six yeas.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019, Council Meeting. Mayor Parker stated it lists he was present, but he was absent. Secretary LaVan-Preston discovered that after the packets were prepared, and it has been corrected. The motion carried with a vote of five yeas with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Logue, approving to pay the appropriations for the month of February, was carried with a vote of six yeas.

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

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, adopting Ordinance #2019-832, restating the General Employees' Pension Plan Ordinance, was carried with a vote of six yeas.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the special event request submitted January 30, 2019, from Infusion Night Club Grill to close Center Place from Main Street to the end of the Main Street Center Building to be held Saturday, March 16, 2019, for a live band.

President Lapinto asked Chief Peck, since this is a new request, to discuss with Council.

Chief Peck thinks the owner is trying to increase some activity at his business. After a lengthy discussion, he is requesting to close the alley and to suspend the Open Container Ordinance during the hours of the event. Chief Peck is fine with that as long as Council is in agreement. As far as the noise, it will be regulated and, hopefully, will work out. Chief Peck feels the hours are pretty reasonable as its Noon to 7 p.m. and is not too late. Chief Peck thinks it's worth trying.

President Lapinto understands the Club plans to block the entrances as well.

Chief Peck reported there will be a vehicle at each end, and Public Works will drop off barriers to bring motorists attention to the fact the alley is not accessible. Also, the owner is going to put up snow fence to keep everyone in that area so that the only way he/she will be able to enter and exist is from inside their establishment. Chief Peck also informed Council beer only will be allowed outside.

Mr. Noto asked if they can still have liquor inside?

Chief Peck agreed.

President Lapinto pointed out the original request was for four days; however, the Committee feels it is best to approve one time and see how it goes.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Robert, approving the Clarion County Broadcasting's special event request for their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Clarion River Days 2019 to be held June 8 and 9, 2019, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Hope Rising Community Church's special event request to block Grant Street from Fifth Avenue to Jefferson Place for an event to be held April 20, 2019.

President Lapinto asked Secretary LaVan-Preston for more information?

Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the Church held the event last year but only used the Memorial Park. This year when they approached the County, they thought it would be a good idea to close Grant Street to extend it and also make it safer. The County referred them to the Borough. Secretary LaVan-Preston commented this event is similar to when the Boy Scouts hold their event. The Borough will not incur any costs for this event.

The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue, approving First Baptist Church's special event request for a street closure for Vacation Bible School to be held July 15-19, 2019, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron to accept the Space Needs Study Proposal from EADS Architects, Inc., for Borough Office at a lump sum price of \$4,900.

Ms. Roberts asked what this was for again?

President Lapinto explained the way the office is currently laid out it is not functioning real well. Secretary LaVan-Preston needs a private space where she can work. During budget discussions, the financial consultant actually discussed it with all Committees as well. Rather than piece meal or change something, President Lapinto commented it was recommended to have a complete study of the building.

Mr. Aaron stated there could be a space for public meetings as well. There is a lot of dead space in the building now.

Mr. Noto verified this is for the entire building not just the outer office area?

President Lapinto agreed. There will be a need for a space for a police room and also storm water authority. This is the reason for contacting the EADS Group to get a professional idea of a project.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto excitedly stated next is permission to finally award the benches. A copy of the bid results was given to Council this evening. The apparent low bidder is Keystone Ridge Designs of Butler in the amount of \$23,910.30, which will be paid out of CDBG. President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo how many benches this includes?

Mr. Colosimo stated 28 benches all together.

Dr. Sanders Dédé confirmed this does not include the trash cans?

President Lapinto agreed that will be a separate bid.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Roberts to award the Clarion Borough Contract 2019-1 Main Street Improvement Project (Street Bench Procurement) to Keystone Ridge Designs, Inc., in the amount of \$23,910.30. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission for Linda LaVan-Preston and Todd Colosimo to execute the Notice of Award and Notice to Proceed for

Clarion Borough Contract 2019-1 Main Street Improvement Project, was carried with a vote of six yea.

#### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé announced the next meeting will be Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 5 p.m. at the Borough Offices.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Noto, in the absence of Mr. Zerfoss, commented the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

Moving towards spring, Mr. Noto reminded everyone that there will be a lot of streets in need of work. Wood Street is going to be milled and resurfaced. The Department will also be out as soon as possible to patch potholes. The winter has been tough. Paving projects will be coming up as well.

Mr. Preston commented the Department was out yesterday to patch potholes.

#### STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto reminded everyone the Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority (CBSA) will be holding a Public Information Meeting on February 6, 2019, at the Main Street Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Hopefully, a lot of questions will be answered.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked if there is somewhere people can get information online to explain why the reason this is being done.

President Lapinto commented Mr. Tom DiStefano, the secretary of the Stormwater Authority, does have a Facebook page set up for it.

Mr. Noto doesn't think the minutes are being put online right now but asked Mr. DiStefano if that would be possible?

Once approved, Mr. DiStefano stated the minutes could be posted.

Dr. Sanders Dédé feels this would make the public feel as though he/she is not being left in the dark or that the Borough is trying to pull something over on the residents. That is a concern.

Mr. Aaron stressed the Authority has at least one meeting a month, and it is open to the public. He/she is more than welcome to attend.

President Lapinto thanked Ms. Samantha Beal from The Clarion News for the great article in the paper, which included definitions and was very informative.

Ms. Logue agreed it was a nice article.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron had nothing to report.

Chief Peck reported yesterday one of the police officers was on foot patrol and was struck by a car. He had a very minor injury to his hand, more discomfort than anything. The driver did not stop. After investigating, Chief Peck stated it was determined the driver's actions were reckless if not intentional. The Department took this very serious, and the driver was arrested and arraigned in court. Council will probably see these charges come forward. Again, Chief Peck stated the officer is okay.

## LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto stated the Borough would like to award the contract for the storm water project at the library to the apparent low bidder, which according to the bid tabulations is Terra Works Inc. with a total bid of \$52,250. Work will include replacing the sidewalk from in front of the building down to the back, new underground storm drains, a new catch basin right at the door, redoing the patio and putting a new drainage system into it to connect out to the main line, and connecting the downspouts into that system as well and running it out. Mr. Noto commented it's a fairly extensive drainage project that should hopefully stop the water from coming in under the doors.

Mr. Aaron questioned if the doors themselves will be repaired?

Mr. Noto commented that was not part of the project at this point. The Borough will discuss with the contractor that concrete is put in that area so that when a new set of doors are able to be installed there will be a good area to attach them. The first step was to make sure the project was designed to make the water flow away from the doors.

Mr. Colosimo added that the existing pump station will be retained as a backup system.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Dave Neill from the EADS Group if he had anything to report?

Mr. Neill informed everyone EADS designed the concrete to slope at 1½%, because due to ADA access, it's constrained by the 2% slope. However, it was prepared for both the doors to slope the other way. An 8' long fiberglass trench drain will be utilized in this area with an ADA safe grading. Mr. Neill reported there is a handicapped space behind the library, but there was no access to that space. The project includes cutting the curb and installing a handicap accessible curb. Overall, it should increase the slope of the storm sewer from the front corner of Merle Road and keep all the water away from the building.

As a bonus, Mr. Noto stated the sidewalk will be repaired, which is in very bad condition.

Mr. Neill commented this last week has been very hard on concrete.

President Lapinto asked if Mr. Neill wanted to report on Center Place?

Mr. Neill announced construction on the Center Place project began Monday just up from the Comet plaza. The plan is to continue construction from that point up to Little Lane, then turn and go back down to Comet's Plaza and work through that area. Bison Construction is the contractor for this project and figure it will take about 2 weeks or a little longer to get up to Little Lane. Mr. Neill reported the reason they are doing that is because they want to take the excess excavation material from the parking lot of the Comet Plaza to those areas. The gully and ravine will be removed, and it will be graded off nicely. Mr. Neill stated the Comet parking lot will be restored temporarily with a low strength concrete and then repaved with the final restoration. The tentative plan is 8-12 weeks of pipe work and inlets, meaning into early May. Mr. Neill commented the EADS Group is also the engineer and designer for the Hudson Development along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. EADS is trying to coordinate everyone on tying in the inlets and drains. A pretty significant source of off-slope water was found on that site. It's actually a spring that finds an underground seam and then flows right through the property down to the ditch on the lower side and back into the Center Place storm sewer. Mr. Neill pointed out their contractor will catch that on the upper side and tie into Center Place with an inserted T and then Bison can hopefully reuse that inserted T to reconnect to the new system. Unfortunately, this will be a sloppy mess. Also, the contractors will do their best not to impede traffic in the Center Place area as well as Comet. Bison feels they will be done in the Comet area within a week. EADS has been coordinating with Pennsylvania American. All of their sewer and water work in the Elss Street area is supposed to be completed by the time the Borough gets there. However, the water company was supposed to be done by the end of the year so they are about 6 weeks after the fact. Mr. Neill commented the EADS Group does have a full-time inspector on site. If Council wishes to have weekly reports, Mr. Neill can provide them or just keep them on file in case he/she wishes to see them later. Also, in reference to the Center Place Project, Mr. Neill received the first pay application request that was submitted to PennVEST for review. However, he was unable to open the document as his validation code was not working. This was relayed to PennVEST.

President Lapinto commented it was for about \$197,000.

Mr. Neill reported that was largely all the upfront costs associated with the Storm Water Authority, the legal fees, flight mapping, and then all the surveying and engineering involved with the Center Place Project. As soon as Mr. Neill has a chance to review the numbers, he will process it for the next step.

Mr. Noto appreciates Mr. Neill mentioning the traffic flow at Comet, because that is certainly important to make sure the business can remain open and traffic can flow as it needs to. Mr. Noto asked about the residents on Center Place itself?

Mr. Neill thinks there were two homes that didn't have an alternate access. Mr. Colosimo sent a letter out to inform the homeowners about the project. The contractor is going to work with each as best as they can to get people in and out. It may be once the homeowners get out for

the morning, they are out for the entire day. Bison will try to accommodate everyone as best as possible even if it's just with steel plates for motorists to cross.

President Lapinto thanked Mr. Neill for his report but asked for a motion for the library project.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to award Clarion Borough Contract 2019-2 Library Storm Water Improvements Project to the apparent low bidder, Terra Works, Inc., in the amount of \$52,250, contingent upon receipt of required contract surety, proof of insurance, and executed contract agreement. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the request from Regency Commons submitted February 4, 2019, to grant a sidewalk closure extension until October 31, 2019, which is beyond the 14 days and requires Council approval.

Mr. Neill pointed out detour signs will direct individuals to the two closest crossings during the time of closure. This will be in compliance with the Highway Occupancy Permit and the signage requirements.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

#### RECREATION

Ms. Roberts stated the Committee is going to have a meeting next week with the softball representatives of the school to open up communications for the upcoming season.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

As required by Borough Code, Mayor Parker reported he performed 24 mayoral marriages in 2018. As far as he knows, they are all happily married. If anyone is getting married in 2019, Mayor Parker stated to let him know.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

President Lapinto feels January was a very productive month; the Center Place Project was started, the Library project was bid and awarded, Hudson Group started their project, and best of all, the benches were awarded. This was a very successful month.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary