

June 16, 2020, Council Meeting
Minutes

The second meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on June 16, 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, Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Ms. Logue, and President Lapinto. Mr. Noto was absent. Chief Peck, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Sharrar, Mayor Whitling, and Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Preston and Ms. Schwabenbauer were absent.

Before starting the meeting, President Lapinto called for a moment of silence for Earl Zerfoss and Fred McIlhattan.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

President Lapinto commented everyone received a handout today with a motion for the CARES Act and asked Mr. Colosimo to briefly explain.

Mr. Colosimo reported the CARES Act is an allotment of funding going through the CDBG Program for Clarion Borough. It is approximately \$64,000. A preliminary public hearing was held last month on the matter. What Council was given tonight were the activities that everyone would like to pursue with these funds.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the following activities for inclusions in the Clarion County 2020 CDBG-CV Application: procurement of personal protective equipment for the Clarion Fire and Hose Company No. 1 and Borough facilities and assistance for Clarion Borough businesses in responding to the effects of the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto announced the first public hearing for the 2020 CDBG Program will be held Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarion Borough Administrative Office and asked Mr. Colosimo for any comments.

Mr. Colosimo noted that is the Borough's regular annual CDBG program. The application is due October 28, 2020, which is a month earlier than usual. The amount is \$105,591.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

A couple years ago, Dr. Sanders Dédé reminded everyone Janice Horn addressed Council with a Neighborhood Park Project idea. Ms. Horn received money and was trying to figure out what to do with it. Earlier this year, the Blueprint Committee decided to look into this idea. On behalf of the 15-member Board of Directors of the Blueprint Committee, Dr. Sanders Dédé announced the Committee signed an agreement of sale for the property on Second Avenue. The

agreement is between Second Avenue Development Corporation and the Blueprint Corporation for the purchase of the land for development of a neighborhood park. Dr. Sanders Dédé thanked Ms. Horn for all the hard work and also noted Ms. Horn donated the majority of the money. Also credit is due to the Miles Brothers for contributing the initial \$10,000 that was necessary as escrow for the purchase. The final purchase and closing will be signed in October. Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the total purchase price of the property is \$153,00; again with the majority coming from Ms. Horn, a pledge or donation of \$30,000 from one of the sellers, and the Miles Brothers chipping in as well. The Miles Brothers have developed a 3D presentation of how the park will look, consisting of a water fall, a place that will turn into a skating rink, tennis court, basketball court, a walking area, a seating area, a couple little buildings, restrooms, and water fountains. Dr. Sanders Dédé will ask the Miles' if she can provide a link to Blueprint that could be placed on the Borough's website so people can look at it.

If another Community Breakfast is held, President Lapinto suggested the Miles' might be an excellent presenter so everyone could see what is planned.

Dr. Sanders Dédé agreed and stressed the one thing that is going to be needed is money. The Blueprint Committee will be busy writing grants and asking for donations to be used for matching grants. Dr. Sanders Dédé stressed the main part is there is an agreement signed to purchase the land.

President Lapinto asked how many acres this is?

Dr. Sanders Dédé stated 2.5 acres. This property is located by cemetery on 2nd Avenue. The 3D rendering of what is going to be there is beautiful. Dr. Sanders Dédé informed President Lapinto she will get her splash pads.

President Lapinto commented little kids will love them.

PUBLIC WORKS

There was none.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

There was none.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron extended a big thank you to the Clarion Borough Police Department for their assistance last Thursday at the Vigil for Unity and Peace and making sure that anything that the group that was there needed was taken care of and it stayed a nice civil community demonstration of what our community was about. It was not necessarily a protest, but a demonstration that the community cares.

Dr. Sanders Dédé thinks all the comments were positive and even received some from Texas, Florida, and some other places as she somehow by mistake posted on her Facebook page.

LIBRARY REPORT

There was none.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Roberts reported Secretary LaVan-Preston provided everyone with a request submitted by Bryan Smith, the owner of Clarion River Brewing Co. in reference to tables on the sidewalk. The Housing and Zoning met to discuss the request. Also, Council received a sheet with the provisions the Committee discussed with Mr. Smith for Clarion River Brewing to allow the tables on the sidewalk. This document is attached to the Official File Copy of these minutes.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to give permission for Clarion River Brewing Co. to place tables on the sidewalk in front of their building at 600-604 Main Street with the stipulations listed. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Relating to the same topic and with Council granting permission to Mr. Smith and Clarion River Brewing, Dr. Sanders Dédé suggested that all other people on Main Street wishing for tables be requested the same way Mr. Smith did.

Ms. Roberts agreed and reminded anyone on Main Street if he/she is interested in placing a table or seating outside of his/her business, the Housing and Zoning Committee would ask for a written request with his/her proposal so that the Committee can meet to discuss it. Then the business owner will be asked to join the Committee to answer any questions or concerns. This is the way the Committee wants to handle all the seating that will be placed on Main Street at this time.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts regretfully informed the community that the Borough will not be opening the pool for the 2020 season. In working with the YMCA to prepare for the opening, due to the COVID-19 restrictions along with the shortage of lifeguards, it is impossible to open this pool season. Ms. Roberts stated Council is very saddened by this news, but it is just not feasible at this time.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Just to follow up Mr. Aaron and Dr. Sanders Dédé's comments, Mayor Whitling thanked Chief Peck and the rest of the Borough police force for coming out and just being there to protect the community and to serve and just be there for them. Mayor Whitling also thanked everyone that attended the vigil and showed his/her support and understands that not everybody supports the movement right now. Also, a thank you to those that attended or may not have attended just to be respectful enough to let those that did have peace.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary