

March 3, 2020, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on March 3, 2020, in the Clarion Free Library. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lapinto stated Ms. Schwabenbauer is going to be Secretary LaVan-Preston tonight and asked for roll call. 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 Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second Mr. Aaron to approve the February 4, 2020, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

Mayor Whitling presented a Proclamation to Kirk Kirkpatrick, representative of PA 1 Call System, proclaiming April 2020 as Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month and encouraging all excavators and homeowners to dial 8-1-1 at least 3 business days in advance of an excavation project in order to avoid injury, protect the environment, prevent millions of dollars in damages, and to remind excavators that three business days' notice is the law for safe digging.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the appropriations for the month of March, 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.

President Lapinto announced there is a possibility the second Council Meeting will be held March 17, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library. The purpose would be to approve the grant application for the library. Everyone will be notified if there will be one.

President Lapinto reported next there is a request from the Clarion Christian Preschool for a closure of Church Road between Sixth Avenue and Ditz Place to hold a St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon on May 1<sup>st</sup>, which is new, and asked Chief Peck if he reviewed it.

Chief Peck stated he did and prefers they close the road down for safety.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving Clarion Christian Preschool's special event request for a street closure of Church Road between Sixth Avenue and Ditz Place to hold a St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon on May 1, 2020, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto commented next is a request from PASSAGES for a special event for Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes using Clarion University and Borough sidewalks, on April 6, 2020, from 5-6 p.m. This is a new request.

Chief Peck reported no special services are being requested from the Borough.

Secretary LaVan-Preston added this event was held in the past; however, last year was the first time anyone notified the Borough. Anytime an organized group uses Borough sidewalks, a special event request must be submitted and approved by Council. This was relayed to the individual. Also, the insurance information will be submitted prior to the event.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve PASSAGES, Inc.'s, special event request for Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes using Clarion University and Borough sidewalks on April 6, 2020, from 5-6 p.m. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto commented Councilmembers were hand-delivered two resolutions this evening in conjunction with the grant application for the Library.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Resolution #2020-443, a resolution to ensure the undisturbed use of the Clarion Free Library for 50 years. The motion was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving Resolution #2020-444, a resolution to authorize the submission of the 2020 Keystone Grant for Public Library Facilities Application. The motion was carried with a vote of seven yea.

#### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé announced the Blueprint Committee will be meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Borough Office and then will move to the Seifert Mooney Building at 4 p.m. The Committee is continuing to try to upgrade the community that everyone lives in by adding more things. Working committees have been set up to handle certain projects. Dr. Sanders Dédé reported one of those committees is working on Janice Horn's park project. Contrary to what is being stated on the street declaring it is a go, it is not a go but work is continuing on it. This park will not be there tomorrow, but the Committee is trying to get the funding for the park. Dr. Sanders Dédé stressed this is a project of the Blueprint Committee. A couple meetings were held, but the important thing is the Committee needs to have the land. Theron Miles has been helping with this project. Dr. Sanders Dédé feels it is going to be a go, but just not yet.

Ms. Janice Horn stated she understands that.

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the Blueprint Committee has a very active committee and is changing their by-laws so it is a living document that reflects the work and what their strategic plan is.

President Lapinto asked Dr. Sanders Dédé to give a report on the training she attended recently.

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented on February 21 and 22, 2020, she attended a Newly Borough Elected Officials Workshop, which was very, very worthwhile. After being on Council 11-12 years, Dr. Sanders Dédé discovered Clarion Borough is not as behind times as one may think. The Borough has an official time keeper, which it recommended; follows Robert Rules of Order, which some people don't; and the instructors stressed the importance of ethics and integrity in what he/she do and how he/she does it. Dr. Sanders Dédé reported it is recommended to begin the budget process in July, which Clarion Borough starts no later than August to begin work on. Clarion Borough is pretty good with the organization structure as far as special meetings and the way the meetings are announced. Other attendees were from smaller boroughs and townships. Dr. Sanders Dédé highly recommends this training to anyone else.

Mr. Noto asked where it was held?

Dr. Sanders Dédé stated it was held at the Holiday Inn Express on Perkins Road in Clarion. Breakfast and lunch were provided and were very good. People that traveled had the benefit of staying at the hotel as well.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Noto reported the Public Works Report is in the packet for review.

Mr. Noto commented the Borough received a request from Elk Township Supervisors to purchase a cutting edge blade from the Borough for the amount of \$431.50, which is roughly what the Borough paid for it. The Borough does not need or use it.

Mr. Preston added the Borough does not have the front-end loader that it was purchased for and it is just sitting around.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts, accepting the request from Elk Township Supervisors to purchase a cutting edge blade from the Borough for the amount of \$431.50, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

Mr. Noto commented next is to award the Fire Station Man Door Replacement Project. The results were hand-delivered this evening. Two bids were received; one from CBF Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$20,274 and the other from Fred L. Burns, Inc., in the amount of \$24,465.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to award the Fire Station Man Door Replacement Project to CBF Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$20,274.

President Lapinto asked for any questions?

Mr. Aaron inquired how many doors?

Mr. Colosimo reported this is for 6 man doors that need to be replaced.

Mr. Aaron inquired if this was budgeted for this year?

Mr. Noto agreed it was and asked Mr. Colosimo for additional comments?

Mr. Colosimo noted this is a reputable firm.

Ms. Elizabeth Fulmer asked if these are women doors as well?

Mr. Noto verified yes and stated they probably should be called person doors.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

#### STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto had nothing to report.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron had nothing to report.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto had nothing to report.

#### 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. Garbarino, approving Resolution #2020-442, a resolution approving, adopting, and placing into immediate effect the Emergency Operations Plan of Clarion County, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

#### RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston reported the 2019 books have been closed. All the information is being passed onto Sam Lynch, the Borough's financial consultant, in order to prepare for the information for the audit.

Secretary LaVan-Preston informed everyone that last week an audit for the Borough's pension plans for years 2016-2019 began.

Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the Borough already received the Liquid Fuels Funds in the amount of \$160,804.04, which is less than last year's.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Whitling reported he is part of the Census Bureau Complete Count Committee and noted there are only a few more days for individuals to apply to be an enumerator or census worker. Individuals will be paid \$16 per hour and is part-time only (3 day a week).

Mayor Whitling voiced excitement about community projects coming into town. The C-93 Concert Series will be held on Sixth Avenue. Also, Brian Hoover from the University is starting through the University and also with the Blueprint Committee a Clarion Community Band. Two concerts are scheduled for the Park this summer. If anyone knows anybody that plays an instrument, Mayor Whitling asked that he/she contact Mr. Hoover as he needs musicians.

As a follow-up to Dr. Sanders Dédé's report that the Borough is doing so well, Mayor Whitling feels this is encouraging to hear and encourages more people to submit his/her ideas and carry a pride of where he/she live.

Back to the enumerators necessary for the census count, Dr. Sanders Dédé asked Mayor Whitling how important is this, what should he/she do for it, and what does the count do for the Borough?

Mayor Whitling commented every person that the census counts is a potential \$2,100 that can be brought into the Borough, County, schools, and public utilities. One area most in need of workers in the Borough is in the vicinity of Clarion University. If people work in the demographic area that he/she is most familiar with, the people answering the doors would be more likely to listen to him/her since they know who they are. It's very important and is a great opportunity to be able to accurately count how many residents live in Clarion Borough.

Dr. Sanders Dédé thinks the general public needs to know why the census is so important and what an accurate count does for the Borough, County, and other entities.

Mayor Whitling stated it is important everyone is counted and repeated it can bring a potential \$2,100 into the area for all these entities.

Dr. Sanders Dédé added federal funding could also be increased. Number of representatives that an area has as far as drawing the lines to hopefully eliminate gerrymandering. It's very important to the Borough, County, and State relating to dollars received and how the funds are received. It is important to be accurately represented and funded.

If someone were inclined to procure one of those jobs, Mr. Garbarino asked how he/she would go about doing that?

Mayor Whitling commented he/she could go to the actual website, which is [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs).

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non Agenda Items

Ms. Elizabeth Fulmer stated trees.

Back to the resolution about the library and the grant, Dr. Sanders Dédé stressed to hurry up and do what needs done to get it; the bathrooms are horrible.

President Lapinto questioned when the grant is due?

Mr. Colosimo announced April 10<sup>th</sup> with an award date sometime this summer.

Unfortunately, Mr. Noto reported the Borough cannot move forward until officially awarded the grant.

President Lapinto commented the Borough only budgeted for the boiler and sidewalk. When this grant came up, the idea was to add the doors and restrooms.

Mr. Noto stated this is a great example as to why everyone needs to participate in the census. A grant like this provides the opportunity to go from replacing the boiler and fixing the sidewalks to also replace the bathrooms and basement doors for the library. It increases the power of doing four things instead of two.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary