

March 7, 2016, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was cancelled on March 1, 2016, due to the lack of a quorum. The re-scheduled meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on March 7, 2016, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. In the absence of President Lapinto, Vice President Sanders Dédé called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, and Mr. Noto. Chief/Secretary/Treasurer Hall, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Ms. LaVan were also present. Solicitor Marshall left the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mayor Walters was absent.

Since the Mayor is absent, Vice President Sanders Dédé announced she will not vote unless there is a tie.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the February, 2, 2016, Council Meeting, minutes, were carried with a vote of three yea with Mr. Noto abstaining as he was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

Since the meeting could not be held last week, on a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto, ratifying payment of the appropriations for the month of March, carried with a vote of four yea.

Vice President Sanders Dédé stated the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are in the packet for everyone's review.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to approve the March of Dimes' special event request for walk fundraiser to be held April 30, 2016. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto, approving Delta Zeta's special event request for Delta Zeta Turtle Trot 5K to be held April 23, 2016, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the Clarion Area Chamber of Commerce and Clarion River Brewing Company's special event request for Friday night's block party to be held May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, August 5, August 19, and September 2 from 4-10 p.m.

Mr. Noto asked about insurance coverage?

Chief Hall commented it will be supplied by the Chamber and Clarion River Brewing.

Mr. Noto inquired if it will require any more officers?

Chief Hall reported no. It will require instructions, which Ms. Andrea Estadt is aware of from a previous event that alcohol has to be done on her property and not on the sidewalks or the street, because that is public property.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto to approve Clarion University Foundation, Inc.'s, special event request for "Blue & Gold Color Run" to be held on June 5, 2016.

Vice President Sanders Dédé believes there are only certain locations they can do color.

Chief Hall agreed. The Borough's biggest concern was that residents' cars didn't get covered with the color that is thrown at the runners. It will be done on University property and down Grand Avenue where there are no cars.

The motion carried with a vote of three yea with Mr. Zerfoss voting no.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to give permission for the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance #2016-815, LGUDA Ordinance in re Front-End Loader.

Mr. Noto verified this is the front-end loader that's been discussed and is included in the budget?

Secretary Hall stated that is correct.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto, giving permission for the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance #2016-816, LGUDA Ordinance in re Police Vehicle and Equipment, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission to advertise a Special Council Meeting on March 14, 2016, at 8 a.m. at the Clarion Borough Offices to adopt Ordinance #2016-815 and Ordinance #2016-816. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to attend the annual CDBG Conference at the end of April, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission for Mark Hall to attend the PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania from June 5-8, 2016. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Vice President Sanders Dédé reported the Committee is continuing to work on the sign project, which the money has been received. Some of this is being done in conjunction with Nick Cherico. Mr. Colosimo has given the Committee some information to look at, which is still being reviewed. Vice President Sanders Dédé announced the Committee is looking at holding a public meeting about a grant for Wi-Fi and Broadband.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission to transfer the \$1,000 Blueprint Application refund less Borough costs of \$133 (solicitor/incorporation fees) in the amount of \$867 to Clarion Blueprint Inc., was carried with a vote of four yea.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss commented the Department is out patching potholes created by the salt, which not much was used this year.

Solicitor Marshall left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Zerfoss asked Secretary Hall to explain the hiring of an employee.

Secretary Hall informed everyone President Lapinto, Mr. Preston, and he conducted several interviews for the part-time Public Works position and recommend Council hire Steven Burris as a part-time employee at the rate of \$12.50 per hour.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission to hire Steven Burris of Shippenville as a part-time Public Works employee at the rate of \$12.50 per hour. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto stated permission is necessary to hire HRG, Inc. (Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic) as the engineer for the Storm Water Authority in association with Lee Stinnett, who presented the proposal to Council. Attorney Stinnett prepared a nice presentation, which seems to make a lot of sense as far as the lay out that they want to be able to do and provide for Clarion Borough. Mr. Noto asked Secretary Hall for anything additional.

Since the Borough appointed Attorney Stinnett as special legal counsel, Secretary Hall reported 20 other communities have contacted him interested in doing this, too. This shows it's going to be seen more and more throughout Pennsylvania.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss, giving permission to hire HRG as the engineer for the Storm Water Authority in association with special legal counsel Lee Stinnett, was carried with a vote of four yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to adopt Ordinance #2016-814, amending Chapter 205 titled "Vehicle and Traffic" adding no parking to Penn Avenue, Second Avenue from Wood Street to South Street on the west side, and North Fifth Avenue from Ridge Avenue to Liberty Street.

Mr. Noto stated it seems like the Borough is making a lot of no parking lately and understands why but this results in fewer places to park.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

Mr. Aaron asked Chief Hall to discuss the hiring of a part-time meter enforcement officer.

Chief Hall commented President Lapinto and he conducted interviews and recommend Council hire Joni Curran of Strattanville at an hourly rate of \$9.23 per hour.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto, giving permission to hire Joni Curran as a part-time meter enforcement officer at the rate of \$9.23 per hour, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto to give permission to sell the 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Car to the Clarion County Sheriff's Office for \$10,000.

Ms. Roberts asked if the Borough will wait until the new car arrives so the Department isn't down a car?

Chief Hall stated the new police car will be here tomorrow.

Mr. Noto asked if it's equipped and ready to go.

Chief Hall commented yes.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto stated the Library has started a program called Friends of the Library to try to help with fundraising for the Library to continue into the 21st Century. The idea is to find people to donate money and time to help the Library. Mr. Noto pointed out the Library Board has made the conscious decision that it's important to try to continue to operate as long as possible,

because it's recognized as a great resource for the community. The Library is feeling the same budget crunch that everybody else is.

Before the meeting, Ms. Roberts passed out to each Councilmember a Friend Your Library pamphlet and introduced Kristine Lewis, Vice President and one of the volunteers of the organization. Ms. Roberts thanked Council for providing a building to have a library and hopefully much needed revenue will be raised to help with what the normal budget cannot support.

As soon as the meeting is over, Ms. Lewis stated she and Ms. Roberts will put up posters upstairs and people will start seeing them throughout the community to bring in more volunteers and also to help raise money.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Roberts commented the Committee met on February 22, 2016, and discussed the following: rental licenses for 2016, old dormitories that are ready to be demolished, a sidewalk encumbrance extension of the permit in front of the new suites, and tickets issued for snow removal on public sidewalks.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Roberts reported the Committee met on February 22, 2016, and stated Chief Hall and she are going to be working with the YMCA on updating and signing a pool contract for this year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Hall announced the Borough will be celebrating its 175th birthday on April 6, 2016. That's from 1841 to 2016. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs plans to attend one of the Borough meetings in the relative near future to give Council a plaque to that fact.

Mr. Noto stated that's a pretty good thing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Mayor Walters, Vice President Sanders Dédé had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Jill Johns, 17 Still Drive, commented she along with Randy Cyphert live in University Manor Sub-Division and are present to voice their displeasure at the amount of no parking signs that have been put up this year in their development. Twenty-five No Parking from December 1st to April 1st signs relating to the Snow Removal Ordinance have been placed in University Manor.

In that development, Ms. Johns stated there are 35 houses and probably 1 mile of road. All the utilities are underground, except for the basic traffic signs, street signs, lights, mailboxes, and now these 25 no parking signs. None of the residents were aware there was a problem nor where they notified of this concern. Ms. Johns feels the neighborhood looks cluttered now and the parking problem could have been remedied in a different manner. Ms. Johns asked how much money was spent on the signs and posts?

Secretary Hall believes a post is about \$60 and the sign was \$15.

If anyone would like to see some pictures of the residents' concerns, Ms. Johns has some available to show. If there is any way the number of signs could be reduced, that would be greatly appreciated. Some of the signs were placed right in front of peoples' houses. Some residents were home at the time and asked the Public Works employees to place the sign on the property line. Ms. Johns repeated the neighborhood is cluttered and it could have been done in a cheaper manner.

Secretary Hall commented the biggest situation were cars and trucks parking along the roadway, causing the Public Works Department having difficulty not being able to plow the streets.

Ms. Johns asked if he/she could have just been notified to address it on his/her own?

Secretary Hall stated no. Without an enforcement sign, the Borough doesn't have any recourse. A sign must be posted before tickets can be issued. It was probably the Borough's fault in the 1990's when the development was first put in. Signs should have been erected at that time.

Ms. Johns inquired if one on either side of the street couldn't accomplish the enforcement in the Development. Twenty-five signs seems excessive.

Secretary Hall reported all boroughs/townships/cities have to post signs along every block so that people can see it. If the signs were just posted as he/she enters the Development, he/she could park way up where the Burns' live and get out of the ticket in court, because signs weren't properly posted. Placement of the signs was up to the Public Works employees, and they use the example set in the downtown, which is every block so people notice them.

Ms. Johns asked if the signs posted in front of a house could be relocated so it's on the property line?

Secretary Hall cannot guarantee that can be done but will definitely go up to see if any can be removed.

Many years ago when the Snow Removal Ordinance was adopted, Mr. Zerfoss informed everyone a sign was placed dead center of his property along his street. No other residence has

a sign posted in their yard. Clarion Borough wasn't picking on any one individual but is simply placing the signs so enforcement is possible.

Secretary Hall asked Ms. Johns to provide her contact information after the meeting and he will call her after looking into the issue.

Mr. Randy Cyphert, 18 Still Drive, stressed it seems excessive. The residents in University Manor try to maintain his/her property and signs just seem to create clutter. A few years ago, it was several stop signs being posted, which is a safety ramification, and is understandable.

Secretary Hall pointed out this is the first year that Clarion Borough encountered a problem there. Residents have 20' driveways and sometimes double driveways, so the question is why are people parking on the street?

Mr. Cyphert understands Council's concern but feels if notice would have been given to the residents, the problem would have been eliminated.

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 132 South Seventh Avenue, asked if the vacancy on Council was filled?

Secretary Hall commented no, it will be handled at a meeting Monday, March 14th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library.

Because the Council Meeting was cancelled last week due to lack of a quorum, Mr. Noto reported the 30-day limit is over.

Secretary Hall added it's out of the hands of Borough Council so the Vacancy Board will be conducting this meeting to appoint a member.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Mark E. Hall, Borough Secretary