

March 7, 2017, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on March 7, 2017, 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. Zerfoss, Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. MacBeth, and President Lapinto. Mr. Noto was absent. Mr. Colosimo, Mayor Parker, Chief Peck IV, Mr. Preston, Mr. Sharrar, Solicitor Marshall, and Ms. LaVan were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth, approving the February 7, 2017, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of five yea with Mr. Zerfoss abstaining as he was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

President Lapinto called for an Executive Session for personnel, consisting of all Councilmembers, Mayor Parker, and Solicitor Marshall, leaving at 7:01 p.m.

President Lapinto called the meeting back to order at 7:28 p.m. and called on Dr. Sanders Dédé.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron that Linda LaVan be moved from Interim Borough Secretary to Borough Secretary with a bump in base salary of \$3,500, effective immediately. The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron that Todd Colosimo be moved from Interim Borough Treasurer to Borough Treasurer with a bump in base pay of \$3,500, effective immediately. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth, giving permission to advertise for a part-time administrative assistant at the rate of \$12 per hour for 29 hours or less per week, was carried with a vote of six yea.

Before moving on, President Lapinto informed everyone Council worked on this decision as a whole and included the financial advisor as far as if the money is in the budget. In fact, the Borough will actually save money.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the appropriations for the month of March, was carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto stated 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, approving the March of Dimes – March for Babies special event request for a walk to be held Saturday, April 29, 2017, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth to approve the Craig E. Fleming Post 66/The American Legion's special event request for traffic control for Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony to be held May 29, 2017,

President Lapinto asked if there was any discussion.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked if that ceremony is down at Toby Bridge?

Chief Peck stated yes.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Student Honors Association at Clarion University's special event request for Color Run for Charity to be held April 22, 2017, (subject to change with Chief's approval).

President Lapinto asked Chief Peck for any comments and asked if anything has changed?

Chief Peck commented that will require one officer for safety purposes. Nothing has changed.

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported this run will occur mostly on the University property.

Ms. Roberts asked if this is the request from the students that attended last month's meeting?

Chief Peck verified it is.

Mr. Zerfoss announced he will be voting no to this request for the same reason as the other color runs approved by Borough Council in the last few years. The police are approving this to be thrown on cars and providing assistance; however, in the summer, when 7 or 8 year old children do this, the officer will cite him/her or the parents. It's just a dumb thing. Mr. Zerfoss added his children have informed him this is modern times, but he doesn't care and feels it's wrong.

Ms. Roberts reported this color run is different than the other ones approved as it's staying on campus and Reinhard Villages.

Mr. Zerfoss stressed no one will convince him this is a good idea and will not change his mind.

Mr. Aaron pointed out, for the record, the Borough is not giving approval for the color to be thrown on vehicles but the runners in the event.

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

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Roberts to give permission for Linda LaVan to attend the 2017 PSAB annual conference May 7-10, 2017, in Hershey, Pennsylvania (registration \$260 (early); hotel approximately \$630 (\$189/night); mileage approximately \$215). The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG Funds to reimburse the General Fund for Todd Colosimo's CDBG wages from July 4, 2016, through February 24, 2017, in the amount of \$1,309.31, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG Funds to reimburse the General Fund for advertising expenses for RFP notice in the Clarion News 2017-2019 CDBG consulting engineer in the amount of \$525.60. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. MacBeth, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG Funds to reimburse the General Fund for postage expenses for IDIS invoice documentation in the amount of \$6.39, was carried with vote six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to give permission for Todd Colosimo to complete an FFY 2015 CDBG Program Modification to allow the addition of a streetscaping for the Downtown Business District.

President Lapinto commented everyone knows she is for the Main Street. By giving Mr. Colosimo permission, this will be a change order of the CDBG funds being used at the Park to be used for trash cans or updating the wiring in the Downtown District.

The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented the Committee meets tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. at the Borough Office to look at some additional planning and some programs that are set forth of the Blueprint Project. Information has been received from Harrisburg that new grants are available, which Dr. Sanders Dédé assumes the Committee will be applying for to upgrade the Borough.

Mayor Parker stated the Cool and Connected Grant site visit to Clarion will be on March 27th and March 28th. A town meeting will be held in the upstairs of the American Legion to discuss current broadband connectivity in the Borough and the area and to receive his/her feelings on how that would affect his/her livelihood.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked the time and if John Stroup has been contacted.

Mayor Parker stated probably 6 p.m. Mr. Stroup has already been included in this event. Since the press is in attendance this evening, Mayor Parker wanted to make sure this was announced. Mayor Parker reported more information will be sent through a press release, social media, and the Chamber email. Everyone is invited to attend.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss reported the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review. The Department is still plowing snow and salting the roadway. Once the snow melts, the potholes will be patched. Mr. Zerfoss asked if the street sweeper will be out in the next couple of week?

Mr. Preston stated yes, as soon as the weather breaks.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

In the absence of Mr. Noto, Mr. Colosimo had nothing new to report at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron made a motion to promote Natale Schmude from part-time meter enforcement officer to full-time at 35 hours per week at the rate of \$9.75 per hour.

President Lapinto asked if there will be a probationary period?

Chief Peck commented 6 months would be fair.

Mr. Aaron agreed and added that to the motion.

Mr. Keaton seconded the motion.

Mayor Parker asked Mr. Aaron if he wished to explain the reason for doing this?

Due to her efficiency at doing her job, Mr. Aaron informed everyone is the biggest reason for doing this because she is paying for herself. Not only is there an increase in the amount of tickets issued since the previous meter enforcement officer, but the meter collections have also increased. The meters are being collected weekly.

Chief Peck added she is doing a fine job and working well in this position. The meter collections are definitely up.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Mr. Aaron thanked the Fraternal Order of Eagles 3807 for their pretty sizable donation to the Police Department.

With the help of Officers Scheckler and O'Neil, Chief Peck stated a proposal was prepared and sent to the Eagles for optics and lighting for the guns. The Eagles were so kind as to donate

\$2,200 towards this project. The equipment has been ordered and will be completed as soon as possible. Chief Peck extended his thanks to the Eagles for their donation.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Parker stated the Library is participating in the "1,000 Books before Kindergarten Program". This program is to get young children to read or be read to 1,000 books before he/she enter kindergarten. It helps children to know how words should sound. Mayor Parker commented it's off to a roaring start.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented the report is in the packet for everyone's review.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, accepting the resignation of Reverend Mark Smith from the Clarion Borough Planning Commission, was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts to appoint Jennifer Vinson to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission with the term to expire at the end of 2017. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, accepting the resignation of Deborah Lauer from the Zoning Hearing Board, was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts to appoint Ryan Miles to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board with the term to expire at the end of 2019. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto asked Secretary LaVan to send out letters thanking the members that resigned for volunteering their time on these committees.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report at this time.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan reported the accounting was closed out in the middle of the month. All the year-end reports have been turned over to Sam Lynch, the financial consultant, to begin preparation for the audit. All information will be turned over to Zelenkosfe Axelrod by April 15, 2017.

Secretary LaVan stated the Industrial Appraisal reports have been completed, and the payment was included in the bills approved this evening. These were provided to Mr. Lynch for the audit purposes as well, who thanked Council for doing this work and providing it to them. It's important to keep the financial values up to date.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Parker had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Zerfoss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Linda M. LaVan, Borough Secretary