

May 1, 2018, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on May 1, 2018, in 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, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, Ms. Logue, and President Lapinto. Dr. Sanders Dédé was absent. Chief Peck, Mayor Parker, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Ms. LaVan were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the April 3, 2018, Council Meeting minutes. The motion carried with a vote of five yea, with Mr. Noto abstaining as he was absent from that meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

Ms. Sarah MacBeth informed Council she is seeking Council's guidance on forming a group to clean up Clarion Borough; for example, painting the parking meters, trash cans, and cages around the trees on Main Street. Those items do not look very good. However, since that is Borough property, Ms. MacBeth questioned what the volunteers could do to improve the cosmetics of Clarion to make it look a little better?

President Lapinto stated some of the dead trees have been removed. Once Mr. Colosimo has the environmental review completed for the CDBG Grant, the project will include new trees and trash cans. President Lapinto asked Mr. Preston to address the parking meters.

Mr. Preston commented the Zion Baptist Church used to volunteer to paint the meter poles. The Borough would buy the paint, and then the volunteers would come in on a weekend to paint them. If this group would want to do that as well, there would not be a problem.

Ms. MacBeth noted several other people are interested in making the Borough more attractive and no one is complaining or asking the Borough to do this. The volunteers just want to make sure it is okay to proceed with the work.

President Lapinto suggested that Ms. MacBeth and she meet to discuss what the Borough has planned in the CDBG Grant. Then Ms. MacBeth could come up with a list of things they are interested in seeing completed and go from there.

Ms. MacBeth agreed with that idea and will probably form some sort of association in order to collect donations to be able to buy paint to do projects. There are a lot of people in Clarion that want to participate in this type of trash group.

Mr. Noto reminded Ms. MacBeth Clean-Up Day is May 19th and that would be an avenue to get rid of items.

Ms. MacBeth already has some people together to clean up trash and will definitely take the bags to Public Works that day to get rid of the items.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto, approving the appropriations for the month of May, 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 Mr. Noto to approve the Protective Services Interagency Agreement with Clarion Area Agency on Aging Inc. (same as in past years). The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo to comment on the PennVEST Application Letter of Responsibility.

Mr. Colosimo reported the letter is basically an all-inclusive statement of assurances that the Borough is certifying to many items in order to apply for the grant. It's pretty standard.

President Lapinto asked for the amount that was to be given this evening prior to approval?

Mr. Colosimo commented the final application amount is \$1,908,700.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto to approve the PennVEST Application Letter of Responsibility in the amount of \$1,908,700. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

In the absence of Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mayor Parker, announced this resolution is to authorize the Council President to sign on behalf of the Borough for an application to the USDA for a grant for signage in the Borough and way finding signage throughout the Borough. The hope is it will attract visitors who are passing through the area, along Interstate or outlying areas, to bring him/her into the Borough; and then once he/she is here, help him/her around the Borough and to find things of interest. Mayor Parker stated the Borough will receive the funds, and then Blueprint Committee will be in charge of putting the signs up.

President Lapinto asked if this grant is for \$25,000?

Mayor Parker verified that is correct.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue, approving Resolution 2018-418, authorizing Council President to sign on behalf of Borough a USDA Grant for Signage, was carried with a vote of six yea.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss announced Clean-Up Day is May 19, 2018, and will include the businesses as well. All items must be taken to the Borough Public Works Department that day between the hours of 6:30 and 11:30 a.m. and show proof of residency. If someone needs help to get his/her items out, he/she should contact the Public Works Department or Borough Office to make arrangements.

Mr. Zerfoss reported the Spring Leaf Collection will be one day only on May 21st from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Residents do not need to call. All leaves must be raked to the curb by 7 a.m. After that, residents may take his/her leaves to the Public Works Department at the drop-off location.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto to give permission to advertise the 2018 Paving Project.

Mr. Zerfoss commented the following streets are included this year: Grant Street from 5th Avenue to Jefferson Place, Merle Road from Jefferson Place to 4th Avenue, Merle Road from 4th Avenue to 3rd Avenue, Merle Road from 8th Avenue to a Point, Penn Avenue from Frampton Street to Corbett Street, and Penn Avenue from the Tie In Intersection to Frampton Street. Bids will be due June 5, 2018, at 10 a.m. and opened at 10:15 a.m. Hopefully, everything will be in order and action can be taken at the Council Meeting that night.

For informational purposes, President Lapinto asked how many of the streets will be completed with the County Highway Aid money the Borough received?

Ms. LaVan stated the County provided funding for Grant Street from 5th Avenue to Jefferson Place, Merle Road from Jefferson Place to 4th Avenue, and Merle Road from 4th Avenue to 3rd Avenues. The parking stalls along Grant Street will also be included.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Mr. Zerfoss reported the Public Works Report is included in the packet and asked Mr. Preston for anything additional.

Mr. Preston stated the Department was able to get hot mix today to fill some potholes. The plants are finally open. Also, they are mowing and pulling trees from Main Street. There are a couple more that need pulled; however, the employees will have to come in earlier in the morning due to their location.

Mr. Zerfoss commented the bucket truck and new mower were received.

Mr. Noto asked Mr. Preston to relay the good news on the mower.

Mr. Preston informed everyone the dealer was not charged for shipping and, therefore, that amount was removed from the bill, meaning the Borough received the mower cheaper than what was quoted.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to appoint Tom DiStefano to fill the vacancy on the Board with a term to expire at the end of 2018. The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto welcomed Mr. DiStefano, who was in the audience, to the Board.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue to approve to change the status of Evan Maxwell from probationary police officer to regular full-time police officer as of May 2, 2018, with an increase in pay from \$18.71 to \$21.38 per hour (80% of the contract's standard base rate).

Now that Mr. Maxwell is a regular officer, Mr. Zerfoss feels the Borough no longer has a good cop but a great cop.

Chief Peck noted he is very pleased with Mr. Maxwell's work in the last year.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Aaron announced the week of May 15th is Police Officer Police Week this year and asks everybody to take time to show appreciation of some sort for everyone serving in blue giving their lives to protect ours.

Chief Peck reported there was a lot of activity with heroin in the month; an overdose that led to three arrests with one gentleman visiting from Buffalo. Chief Peck thanked the State Police Vice Unit and the Clarion State Police for their assistance the day of the arrests. It would have been a lot harder for the Borough Police to accomplish what they did without them.

President Lapinto thanked Chief Peck for what he does as well.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto thanked the Presbyterian women who weeded and mulched the flower beds. They did a great job.

As everyone came in tonight, Mr. Noto pointed out he/she probably noticed the doors were stuck kind of hard, which is due to some shifting. This is just being brought up to keep it close in people's minds.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Roberts reminded everyone a public hearing on the Miles' res-zoning request will be held June 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. with possible action at the Council Meeting following at 7 p.m.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts asked for reimbursement to the Recreation Fund for \$2,000 for the cost of the soil for the Paul A. Weaver Park from the \$10,000 CD.

President Lapinto asked if this needs to be in the form of a motion.

Ms. LaVan stated Council usually does so when the CD money is used.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to reimburse the Recreation Fund \$2,000 for the cost of soil for the Paul A. Weaver Community Park.

Mr. Noto doesn't understand and asked if this means the Borough will break the CD?

Ms. Roberts commented once it matures.

Mr. Noto asked when that would be?

Mr. Colosimo stated the end of the year.

If more money is necessary in the middle of the year for the pool or some other recreational use, Ms. LaVan reported it could be broken at that time. As a reminder, this \$10,000 is from the sewer authority proceeds that different entities can ask for. Last year, Council gave permission to use some of that money for pool repairs to be able to open it for the season. Ms. LaVan pointed out this motion will earmark \$2,000 of that being used for soil reimbursement.

Mr. Noto favors this but wanted to make sure everyone was clear on what was being done.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

With the weather finally getting nice, Ms. Roberts reported the pool will be drained, the major cracks will be filled in, and the pool will be painted. The opening date is not known at this point but will be forwarded to the media as soon as it is to get the word out.

Ms. Roberts pointed out a new recreational opportunity in the Borough itself, the Clarion Loop Trail, which is down by the University parking lots, and actually takes you right down to the River. Ms. Roberts attended the opening day, and it was really great. This trail was partially funded through the North Country Trail Association as well as two students that worked on it as a University project. More funding is being sought to enhance the trail; some bridges are needed. Ms. Roberts stressed this is something inside Clarion Borough that is a fantastic opportunity for families to take advantage of.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan had nothing to report.

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. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Linda LaVan, Borough Secretary