

May 5, 2015, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on May 5, 2015, 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. Bartley, and President Lapinto. Mr. Noto was absent. Chief/Secretary/Treasurer Hall, Mayor Walters, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Preston, Mr. Sharrar, and Ms. LaVan were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the April 7, 2015, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of five yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 132 South Seventh Avenue, asked if there was going to be more publicity about Clean-Up Day and noted there are a lot of people who are still unaware the items will not be picked up at the curb.

President Lapinto stated yes.

Secretary Hall commented Rodney Sherman is putting it in the Clarion News, it will be on Explore Clarion, and the radio.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Bartley, approving the appropriations for the month of May, carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto stated the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are also in the packet for review.

President Lapinto asked Chief Hall to discuss the special event request from the Clarion Area High School for a ceremonial bonfire to be held August 27, 2015, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Secretary Hall reported this is an identical request as School District has done in the past. The District understands there is a height requirement and the fire department must be present.

On a motion by Mr. Bartley with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Clarion Area High School's special event request for a ceremonial bonfire to be held August 27, 2015, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked who will review the height and inspect the pile for safety.

Mr. Bartley stated the fire department will stack the materials, make sure there is a barrier around it with cones to keep everyone back a safe distance, and light it as well.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea with Mr. Aaron voting no making a statement he's a Clarion Limestone alumni.

#### DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Roberts asked Dr. Sanders Dédé to give a report.

Dr. Sanders Dédé announced there will be a Town Hall Meeting tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at the American Legion to present the draft strategic plan for the Blueprint Communities as well as other pertinent information on the Committee. The entire community is invited.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss stated Clean-Up Day is May 16<sup>th</sup> and asked Secretary Hall for additional comments.

Secretary Hall informed everyone a notice is already on the Borough's website and will be advertised, as reported earlier, in the newspaper, Explore Clarion, and the radio.

President Lapinto asked what the Borough plans to do if there are a lot of piles at curbside because people did not see the change?

Mr. Bartley feels people participating will look it up to see when it's scheduled so he/she should notice the change.

President Lapinto commented some people see the date and don't read any further.

If piles remain after Clean-Up Day, Mr. Zerfoss stated Mr. Sharrar will handle it.

Mr. Zerfoss reported the mill head approved for purchase last month should be arriving sometime this week. Then the Public Works Department will be busy the next couple of months fixing potholes the right way. It will take longer to repair, but they will last a lot longer.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

President Lapinto asked Mr. Aaron to report on the next item.

Mr. Aaron stated Council gave permission to hire a full-time police officer to fill the vacancy created by Officer Trombetta's retirement. The Civil Service Commission sent the Public Safety Committee the results listing the order of the candidates. The number 1 candidate was Robert Seyler Jr. of Clarion. The Committee interviewed the top three candidates and feel no reason to go against their recommendation.

Due to an accident, President Lapinto noted Mr. Aaron and she were the only ones that got to participate in the interviews. President Lapinto asked Mr. Bartley for any comments?

Mr. Bartley informed everyone the Civil Service Commission is comprised of three members who handled the written and physical agility testing. They appointed an interview group of 3; 2 ex-police chiefs and 1 current chief. Once the scores were compiled, the Commission then ranked the four applicants and forwarded to the Public Safety Committee. All the candidates were very good. The top 3 applicants were then interviewed by the Public Safety Committee.

President Lapinto pointed out the motion to hire an officer will be contingent upon passing the psychological and medical examinations.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Bartley to hire Robert Seyler, Jr., as a probationary police officer at the starting base wage of \$34,091.20 per year, or \$16.39 per hour, contingent upon passing the psychological exam and physical exam.

Mr. Zerfoss asked for verification that the probationary time is 1 year? Then it will be up to Council to approve to change his status from probationary to full-time officer.

Mr. Bartley agreed.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked if she could see the application and would like to see the kind of experience he has.

President Lapinto agreed and stated he works part-time at the University.

Mr. Aaron added he has worked at the University for the last 6 months, New Bethlehem for 1½ years, and has an associate's degree in criminal justice.

Mr. Zerfoss asked if it would be possible to have Mr. Seyler at the next Council Meeting to introduce himself to all of them.

Chief Hall agreed and added the psychological and physical testing is always done after Council appoints someone, because it costs the Borough to get those tests done.

President Lapinto repeated Mr. Seyler is an outstanding young man, but the tests need to be passed. No veterans' points were involved during this hiring process.

Upon a request by Mr. Zerfoss, the motion carried after the following roll call vote: Mr. Zerfoss, yes; Ms. Roberts, yes; Dr. Sanders Dédé, yes; Mr. Aaron, yes; Mr. Bartley, yes; and President Lapinto, yes.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

There was none.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

Dr. Sanders Dédé had nothing to report.

## RECREATION

Ms. Roberts announced the swimming pool will open June 6<sup>th</sup> and will close August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

President Lapinto questioned if the lines were painted in the pool yet?

Ms. Roberts stated the pool is filled with water so the lines will not be done this year. The individuals that approached her were instructed to contact the Chief and the YMCA to discuss. However, something fell through the cracks on their end. Ms. Roberts thought this would help increase the usage at the pool.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Hall had nothing to report.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Walters reported he participated in the opening ceremony for the Come Together Clarion event. It went well. Mayor Walters congratulated the students for volunteering their time for that event.

Mayor Walters also helped with the opening day of Little League that same day.

Mayor Walters mentioned the National Day of Prayer is May 7<sup>th</sup> and will present a proclamation at Noon at the gazebo in the Park.

Mayor Walters asked Mr. Colosimo for an update on the fire hall project.

Mr. Colosimo stated the notice to proceed has been issued, and the work start date was May 1<sup>st</sup>. F. L. Burns, Inc. is the contractor, who will submit their construction and material submittals this week to The EADS Group. Once EADS agrees with them, they'll be able to begin construction on the façade project. Mr. Colosimo commented the contractor stated it would be about 3 weeks to get the materials and about 3 weeks to finish the actual work. The contractor feels they will be completed by the end of June. Mr. Colosimo stated the completion date is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

## NEW BUSINESS

Back to Old Business, Mr. Bartley asked if the Borough received funds to cover the shortfall for the fire hall project?

Secretary Hall stated some funds have come in but not quite enough to cover it yet. The Borough is still actively soliciting for donations.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Janice Horn, 32 Barber Street, travels frequently between Seventh and Fifth Avenues on South Street. For at least 2 years, there have been several houses being renovated. Ms. Horn asked if the Borough has deadlines for these projects?

Since nothing structural was being done, Mr. Sharrar stated Act 92 does not require a permit. This means the Borough has no control on how long the project takes. All interior renovations are up to Code. Mr. Sharrar reported the owner uses different colors of siding on the houses and then paint it all one color when all sided.

Dr. Sanders Dédé thanked the Borough staff and Council for the get well card and prayers while she was sick but assured everyone she's on the mend.

President Lapinto welcomed Dr. Sanders Dédé back.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

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

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Mark E. Hall, Borough Secretary