

May 7, 2019, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on May 7, 2019, 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. In the absence of the Mayor, President Lapinto stated she would only be voting in the case of a tie. Councilmembers present were Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, Ms. Logue, and President Lapinto. Chief Peck, Mr. Preston, Mr. Colosimo, and Ms. LaVan-Preston were also present. Solicitor Marshall arrived at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Sharrar and Mayor Parker were absent.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the minutes of the April 2, 2019, Council Meeting, carried with a vote of six yea with Mr. Zerfoss abstaining as he was absent.

President Lapinto welcomed Mr. Zerfoss back.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the appropriations for the month of May, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

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

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the Blueprint Committee held a successful workshop on April 27th. Twelve people were present, including representatives from the Housing Authority, the Commissioners, Clarion Area School District, Janice Horn, and 4-5 Blueprint members. A lot of helpful information was received.

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented the Committee will meet tomorrow at 5 p.m. and will address an aggressive agenda, because there are several things that need to be done in order for the Committee to get dollars to help revitalize the community.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss reminded everyone Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2019, for Borough residents and businesses to bring his/her items to the Public Works Department to dispose of unwanted items and asked Mr. Preston for the hours?

Mr. Preston stated the hours are 6:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Zerfoss informed anyone that may not be able to get his/her items to the Public Works Department and need assistance to contact the Department before the 17th so the items can be picked up and put in the dumpster.

Mr. Zerfoss stated the Committee would like permission to advertise the 2019 Paving Project, which will include milling and paving of the following areas: Arnold Avenue from Wood Street to S.R. 322, Fourth Avenue from Liberty Street to S.R. 322, Campbell Avenue from Marronee Street to Barber Street, Fern Street from Shady Avenue to Miller Place, and Fern Street from Miller Place to S.R. 1007. Mr. Zerfoss asked Secretary LaVan-Preston when the bids will be due and awarded?

Secretary LaVan-Preston reported the bids will be due on June 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., opened at 10:10 a.m., and awarded at the Council Meeting that evening.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto to give permission to advertise the 2019 Paving Project as discussed above.

Dr. Sanders Dédé agrees with the project but inquired when Wood Street will be handled?

Mr. Noto reported the water company will be taking care of Wood Street as that is their project, and it should be done within the next couple of weeks. They will do the whole surface.

Ms. Roberts asked if Elss Street will be completed by the water company as well.

Mr. Preston agreed.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to give permission to advertise for Administrative/Storm Water Assistant at the rate of \$14.50 per hour.

Mr. Noto stated it will be advertised both online and in the newspaper.

President Lapinto asked for the deadline?

Mr. Noto commented May 28, 2019, by 3:30 p.m.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Bison Construction's third pay request in the amount of \$273,802.90 for work on Center Place Project.

President Lapinto asked how many more payments will be submitted for this project?

Mr. Colosimo estimated two more.

On the plus side, Mr. Noto pointed out Bison is making good progress and is done with the installation of pipe for the project.

The motion was carried with a vote of seven yea.

For those that don't know, Mr. Noto announced the Borough had another collapse in the storm water system on Second Avenue. For some time, a barrel has been on top of the area, but the Borough is in danger of losing the barrel it is getting so deep.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to authorize the EADS Group, Inc., to design the 2019 Second Avenue Storm Water Repair Project and complete a cost estimate for construction.

Dr. Sanders Dédé feels it would be appropriate as the Committee is going through with organizing all the storm water problems to inform the citizens that this is why the Borough is going through with this Storm Water Authority. So many comments on social media are unsure what this is all about. This is a prime example to try to get that point across.

Mr. Noto agreed this is the reason the Borough is doing this.

If the problems aren't addressed sooner than later, Dr. Sanders Dédé pointed out his/her house could fall in. This is a good example to pass around.

Mr. Noto agreed.

Ms. Roberts asked if this project was on the map for a future project?

Mr. Noto commented no.

Mr. Aaron doesn't recall it being a higher priority.

Mr. Noto asked Mr. Preston to verify that part of this pipe along Second Avenue has already been repaired and this will more and likely have to be repaired the entire way up as it's all the old corrugated pipe.

Mr. Preston agreed. The Borough fixed from Wood Street down to Merle Road along Second already. There is another hole starting at the end of Merle Road towards 322, but the one above Wood Street is sinking worse. This particular section is on Second Avenue from Church Road to South Street.

Mr. Colosimo added that is about 250' of pipe at this time.

Mr. Noto stressed Dr. Sanders Dédé is exactly right that the Borough has to have a mechanism in place to be able to pay for these projects or the Borough is going to be in trouble. If the news media wants a quote, there's the quote.

The motion was carried with a vote of seven yea.

Solicitor Marshall arrived at this time of the meeting and apologized to Councilmembers as he was out of town at a meeting and got held up.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, approving the financing from the First United National Bank at 3.00% interest rate for 36 months for the purchase of 2019 Dodge Charger and equipment. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the Debt Statement pursuant to Section 8110, Local Government Unit Debt Act, as of April 30, 2019.

Secretary LaVan-Preston meant to bring the form tonight for everyone's review. However, the Borough's financial consultant that prepares the fourth page was on vacation and is working on that now. Secretary LaVan-Preston believes Council can take action and will be part of the resolution to this State and asked Solicitor Marshall if that is correct?

Solicitor Marshall stated that is correct, but this will not need to be sent into the State. Whenever a capital purchase is made for a project, which the charger does classify as a vehicle, as long as a municipality doesn't have \$125,000 or more in this small debt borrowing, it is not necessary to file a formal review. The important part on the Debt Statement is that the Borough's small borrowing at the top of the form does not come close to the \$125,000 limit. Solicitor Marshall stated that is the purpose of the statement to advise Council that he/she is acting within the limits of the debt act. The back page can be provided at a later date.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Resolution #2019-430, in re Dodge Charger and equipment.

Solicitor Marshall commented this is the Resolution that will authorize the small debt borrowing, which attached is the form of the note. Once approved, the Borough is able to proceed with financing and closing of the loan whenever desired. Again, Solicitor Marshall pointed out there is no requirement to advertise the Resolution.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Dr. Sanders Dédé preferred to bring up an item that is kind of Old Business but also falls under Public Safety and relates to Mr. Wise's request last month. Either Friday or Saturday, while leaving commencement services, Dr. Sanders Dédé was stopped at the light going west on

Wood Street and noticed a man turn right by Wendy's heading the wrong way on Wood Street. That gentleman drove all the way to Seventh Avenue before he turned onto Seventh. Sitting at that light for two cycles, there are no signs saying one-way. Dr. Sanders Dédé suggested putting signs up on the back of the signs there stating it is one-way or do not enter to help eliminate that problem.

Living on Wood Street, Mr. Noto notices that all the time as well.

President Lapinto questioned if the Borough could put up signs on a PennDOT highway?

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported it's not, it is Wood Street. There is nothing on Greenville Avenue stating that is a one-way street and people are driving the wrong way.

Secretary LaVan-Preston observed that as well on Wood Street. Two girls in a truck drove by the fire hall on Wood Street to Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Noto feels not having signs may be the problem.

Mr. Aaron asked if there is a sign on Greenville Avenue that says no right turn?

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented there isn't. If you are driving north, there is nothing indicating that is a one-way street, do not enter, or wrong way.

After some discussion, Chief Peck stated he and Mr. Preston will check into it tomorrow.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto commented the Storm Sewer Project is completed and can't wait until it rains to see if it actually works the way it's supposed to work. It is a lot nicer outside with new concrete, and the back garden looks really nice.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Roberts reported the Housing and Zoning Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

RECREATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission for the Committee to execute the Pool Management Agreement for 2019 season between Clarion YMCA and Clarion Borough, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

Mr. Noto asked if there is an opening date yet.

Ms. Roberts commented the Saturday after school is out, which is June 15, 2019.

Secretary LaVan-Preston commented the Department has been painting the exterior of the building and it looks a little better.

Ms. Roberts announced a lovely group of women were able to purchase new chairs for the pool through their fundraising efforts. They will be meeting again at Michelle's Saturday asking for donations to sponsor chairs. Ms. Roberts stated the Committee thanks them for all of their help.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Mayor Parker, President Lapinto had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary LaVan-Preston read a letter from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority, in re 2018 Multimodal Transportation Fund, relaying that unfortunately Clarion Borough was unable to act favorably on the request at this time. Competition for 2018 MTF funds was very strong and the demand exceed the available funds. Even though the Borough's project is worthwhile, it was determined not to be competitive with projects that were awarded funding this year.

Secretary LaVan-Preston read a thank you note from representatives from Come Together Clarion for the Borough's permission to hold their event and expressing appreciation for the Borough's continued support.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary