

November 3, 2015, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on November 3, 2015, in the Clarion Borough Offices. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, and President Lapinto. Mr. Zerfoss and Mr. Bartley were 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. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the October 6, 2015, Public Hearing, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of four yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the October 6, 2015, Council Meeting, minutes, were carried with a vote of four yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

President Karen Whitney introduced a new colleague, Dr. Susanne Fenske, to everybody. Dr. Fenske joined the University July 6<sup>th</sup> to become the new Vice President for Student Affairs, replacing Harry Tripp, who worked at Clarion University for 21 years and had the audacity to retire in January. After a national search, the University located Dr. Fenske, who was hiding out in Wisconsin at the time at a technical institute in charge of their student development among other things. If any Councilmember has any concerns, he/she should contact her when it's something good and Dr. Fenske when it's something not really good. Dr. Fenske's responsibilities include housing, student activities of volunteers and community service, the Good Neighbor Program, student conduct (student judicial remediation programs) and athletics. Dr. Fenske is joined here by her husband Ron, who is a middle school science teacher and is currently subbing in the area until he can locate an assignment, and two daughters Kathryn and Megan who are 6 and 8, whom are River Sharks. The Fenskés attend Immaculate Conception. Clarion University is very fortunate that Dr. Fenske is here to lead and help in such an important time as its rebuilding the enrollment and try to really strengthen the relationship with the students and their successful graduation. President Whitney asked for any questions or comments.

President Lapinto welcomed Dr. Fenske.

President Whitney thanked everyone who has attended the athletic events. A university is much more than athletics, but it is a lot of fun to have fun and win. The football team is a great group of men being led by an outstanding head football coach and alumni Chris Weible. Currently, it's a 7-2 record. The team plays Slippery Rock on Saturday. President Whitney stated if they beat Slippery Rock, the team could see some post season play, which would be the first time since 1996. Clarion University has other outstanding athletics and student

development. President Whitney also appreciates Borough Council for all his/her support of the new housing and hopes he/she find it to be an asset to the community. Despite some initial worries on how it would look and feel along Main Street, President Whitney thinks the first phase pleased everyone. The second phase is just about done and hopefully most people will find it to be an asset to Main Street as well. President Whitney just left the theater where a program consisting of a lecture and a movie was being held for the community, students, and faculty. This is a good kind of engagement. In January, Starbucks will be relocated to Main Street, the bookstore, and their dining program will open a Denny's on Main Street. The University is doing all these things to enrich the college experience for the current students and with the hope it will help the enrollment grow, which is a top priority.

President Lapinto asked President Whitney to stay for the next part of the meeting where a topic will be discussed later in the meeting.

President Whitney agreed.

Being part of the open house of the first building, Mayor Walters commented he was honored to be part of that event and added the view is truly great and believes that will recruit students here in itself.

If anyone has not seen the building and wish to, President Whitney asked he/she to contact her at [president@clarion.edu](mailto:president@clarion.edu) and one will be arranged. The Mayor's correct. A lot of detail and planning went into the construction of both buildings. If you go up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor, the view down to the river is spectacular. If that doesn't move someone to think this might be a good place for them, President Whitney doesn't know what would. Over 1,000 people attended the open house. Another open house will be scheduled in the spring for the second building, and the community will be invited. President Whitney stressed everything that's on Main Street is purposely meant for everyone; students, university community, and the greater community. Clarion University is going to continue to be very open and welcoming.

Dr. Sanders Dédé suggested another eagle on this side of the building as well.

President Whitney wonders if an eagle or Clarion University sign should be put on that side. Seeing the eagle there now, for the first time, took her breath away.

Dr. Sanders Dédé stated both are good ideas.

Dr. Fenske agrees it is beautiful. It almost puts the marquee to shame.

#### ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the appropriations for the month of November, carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG funds to repay the Recreation Fund \$75,499 from the FFY 2014 CDBG Project Funds for #2015-1 Park Improvements Costs. The motion carried with a vote of five yeas.

President Lapinto noted the additional \$24,025.24 will be repaid to the Borough's Recreation Fund from the FFY 2015 CDBG funds when they become available.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG funds to repay the General Fund \$816.20 for newspaper bills, was carried with a vote of five yeas.

For informational purposes, President Lapinto stated the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis Report are in the packet for everyone's review.

President Lapinto announced Council will hold the second Council Meeting, which is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Library. Two items will be discussed at that time: the Proposed 2016 Budget and the second is to discuss storm water issues, which the aging storm sewer system is one of the biggest problems. For the past 4 years, President Lapinto stated the Borough hasn't been able to do any preventive measures and spent about \$85,000 just this year for repairs and collapses.

Mayor Walters pointed out some preventive measurements were taken to stop the water from flooding South Street to the alley.

President Lapinto commented the Borough doesn't have funds to pave the roads and can just patch them. The Borough has been lucky that a lot of the repairs and work can be done in-house by the Public Works Department. Adding to the problem is storm sewer repair along a state road in the Borough is the Borough's responsibility. However, if this happens in the township, the State pays for it. To address this situation, President Lapinto informed everyone the Borough has two possible solutions. One is to raise taxes 1 or 2 mills and place it into a dedicated Capitals Improvements Fund. The other option, which will be very controversial, is to form a storm sewer authority. Two individuals met with the Administration Committee to explain the process, which would take about a year, and it would impose a rate on every property owner in the Borough, regardless of tax status. The rate is usually calculated from square footage of roof and driveway sizes. For her home, President Lapinto stated it was estimated to be \$50 to \$80 a year. The billing would be done through the Borough. President Lapinto voiced concern that it would affect everybody; the University, County, school districts, and churches. Everybody is struggling right now. Before moving forward with this, a presentation will be given at the Council Meeting. For the remaining Councilmembers. It will be an open meeting where all the residents are welcome to attend and asked any questions.

Mayor Walters stated the law changed to allow this authority when he was Council President. At a presentation in Pittsburgh, a company discussed the process but explained that the fee is figured on parking lots and roof measurements.

Mr. Noto reported there are ways to off-set the fee due to some entities having a disproportional areas compared to others. Off-setting instances are storm water management systems entities may already have in place, green areas, or other mitigating ways to cut the run off down. This way everybody will be paying a more proportional share. Personally, Mr. Noto liked that concept of it. If you just look at it as non-permeable surfaces, that will affect some a lot more than others.

President Whitney commented the University wants to be part of trying to solve the problem and understands it's storm water runoff?

Mr. Noto stated the problem is the aging pipes that are collapsing at an alarming rate. Monthly, the Borough is replacing sections of pipe. In order to do that, the roadway needs dug up and then the infrastructure is replaced to enable it to handle the water. A couple weeks ago, the Borough fixed an inlet. The pipe above it collapsed and pushed all the fill down the rest of the pipe, creating bigger issues than the Department could handle. It's not a matter of enlarging the pipe, it's a matter of replacing the infrastructure due to collapses.

When the system was built in the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's, Secretary Hall reported the infrastructure was either galvanized or terra cotta pipe. It has served it's useful life cycle. The Borough is struggling to replace all of it at 1 time or over a 5-10 year period. This is the same for many other communities.

President Whitney feels the University would call on the appropriate engineering and structural experts to determine to what extent their system contributes to the problem or not. Due to Borough or State System directives, the University has already followed pretty expansive design/engineering specifications. The University would definitely want to confirm or ascertain the extent to which their hard surfaces are contributing to the problem and how it may have been abated already. President Whitney stated Eric Martin, the Director of Facilities, who replaced Ric Taylor, would be the appropriate person to meet with in reference to this project. Secondly, President Whitney appreciates the need to figure out some logical, principled ways to increase revenue but informed everyone since the students pay 76% of the University's operating budget any dollar that the University is expected to pay 76 cents would be paid by the students if not 100%. That will increase the cost of attendance to the University at the very time everyone's fighting to build the enrollment. President Whitney commented that then contributes back to the economic impact to the overall community. If anyone would like to see the power point on the economic impact on the community according to about 5-6 different ways, a report was completed several months ago. Through personal income tax, sales tax, and payments in lieu of taxes, the University makes a sizable contribution. President Whitney sympathizes but wants to be upfront about the pass through affects back to the students.

President Lapinto strongly believes everybody needs to be aware of the consideration before Council would vote to move forward. Now's the time to answer any questions individuals/entities may have to see where it goes from there.

President Whitney feels it's important that Mr. Martin and other engineers should be invited. Clarion Borough is just trying to repair a failing infrastructure system, which is understandable.

President Lapinto stated the estimated figure to correct the problem is \$10 million, which she feels is a little high.

Mr. Tom DiStefano asked if the rate is related to the permeable and impermeable property.

Mayor Walters agreed that's the easiest way to configure a rate is using the square footage of parking lots and roofs.

If his lot is 20% impermeable and another lot has the same square footage but is 50% impermeable, Mr. DiStefano stated the rate would be different?

President Lapinto and Mayor Walters agreed.

Mr. Noto announced there's a formula that the two presenting it to the Administration Committee discussed that the figure is based on his/her lot size and the permeable/impermeable ratio as to what the rate would be.

If a person or entity would have his/her own holding facility or system, Mayor Walters added that would be credited.

President Lapinto stated the Borough cannot use CDBG funds to address infrastructure in the Borough. President Lapinto asked Secretary Hall to explain how this came about.

Secretary Hall reported this is not new. There are 995 Boroughs and 1,200 townships in Pennsylvania. Secretary Hall commented these individuals are in the process of doing 10 of these right now and anticipates it occurring all over Pennsylvania because everybody has an aging infrastructure.

President Whitney appreciates the invite and looks forward to collaborating on this with the Borough.

President Lapinto stated Council received the request for free parking.

Secretary Hall commented the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry is requesting free parking for the businesses downtown as follows: November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Customer Appreciation Day; November 27<sup>th</sup>, Black Friday; and November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas

parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, with lineup at 12 p.m. and parade step off at 1 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the request from the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry for free parking for the Holiday Season as follows: November 23<sup>rd</sup> Customer Appreciation Day, November 27<sup>th</sup> Black Friday, and November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 25<sup>th</sup> Holiday Shopping Season, and the Christmas Parade to be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> with line-up at 12 p.m. and the parade step-off at 1 p.m. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

#### DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Roberts asked Dr. Sanders Dédé for any comments?

Dr. Sanders Dédé announced the Blueprint Committee meets every 2 weeks on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. to work on projects. The incorporation papers have been approved and the Committee is officially called Clarion Blueprint Community Inc. Currently, the Committee is working on the 501c3, which should be finished soon. The Blueprint Committee is identifying partners that they will be working with, with the first one on the list, the University. Dr. Sanders Dédé stated an organization meeting is being planned to introduce Clarion Blueprint Community Inc. with the officers. Also, the Committee was approved for a \$5,000 grant for signage and kiosks on Main Street and in the parking lot on Liberty Street. More small grants are being sought to do group projects.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Backing up to the previous discussion on storm drains, Mr. Noto added the difficulties with the storm drains collapsing is it then causes the roadways to collapse.

Secretary Hall reminded everyone the Public Works Department will continue leaf collection until November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Leaves need to be curbside at 7 a.m. and will be collected every Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Noto received a complaint about the street sweeper going the wrong way on Liberty Street; however, that's the only choice the Borough has to sweep that side of the road.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Preston for anything?

Mr. Preston stated the Domenica Project is completed, but Mr. Colosimo will report more later.

#### CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Mr. Colosimo stated the 6 major projects are winding down for the year. The Fire Department Building Façade Project is completed, retainage has been paid, and it's completely closed out. Contract #2015-3, the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street Storm Sewer Repair Project, was approved by PennDOT. Retainage was paid and it's completely closed out. Mr. Colosimo reported the notice to proceed has been issued for Contract #2015-4, Center Place Storm Sewer Project.

That work will begin in a few weeks. The contractor had to order the boxes, which are non-standard size, for that project. Like Mr. Preston stated earlier, the Domenica Circle Project is done. The contractor restored the pavement and installed the curbs in one day. The Public Works Department laid the storm sewer line up there. Mr. Colosimo commented this project worked out very well. The work on the final project, Contract #2015-6 South Street/South Sixth Avenue Storm Sewer Repairs Project, is completed. Close out is currently underway. Mr. Colosimo asked for a motion that the retainage on that job be paid upon submission and approval of Terra Works Inc.'s close out documentation.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission to pay Terra Works Inc. retainage in the amount of \$1,246.20, upon submission and approval of close-out paperwork and bonds for South Sixth Avenue Storm Sewer Project, was carried with a vote of five yea.

Mr. Colosimo commended Terra Works Inc. and Eagle Contracting for the excellent work they provided during these projects this year. The storm sewer work completed has been good.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto, adopting Ordinance #2015-811, No Parking Anytime on the west side of Second Avenue between West Wood Street and South Street, was carried with a vote of five yea.

Mr. Aaron asked if there's a report on the hiring of part-time police officers?

Chief Hall stated the application deadline was October 30<sup>th</sup> and a few were received. No action has been taken yet.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

Since it gets dark so early, Mr. Noto commented the director of the Clarion Free Library encourages everyone to read.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

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

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Noto, adopting Ordinance #2015-810, a Zoning Ordinance amendment, was carried with a vote of five yea.

#### RECREATION

Mr. Noto reported the pool season was relatively successful. The Borough still ended with a deficit but not as bad as previous years. Attendance was pretty good.

Despite the weather, Secretary Hall added the Borough only lost about \$13,000. Other than a new pool sweeper, no major expenditures were necessary.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Hall had nothing to report.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Walters thanked Council, on behalf of the Clarion Fire Company, for the money given to them. It has been invested and will only be used for new truck purchases.

Mayor Walters attended an ALF close-out meeting, and everything went well this year.

Secretary Hall noted this is the Chamber's close-out meeting; not the Borough's, which will be set up soon.

Since Halloween is over, Mayor Walters pointed out a lot of signs were tore down in his neighborhood on Seventh Avenue. A lot of pumpkins were also smashed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Roberts inquired if Council has decided where the meter revenue during free parking will go this year?

President Lapinto stated that hasn't been discussed yet. According to the budget figures, parking meter revenues are down.

Secretary Hall reported this can be discussed and brought up at the November 17<sup>th</sup> or December 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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Mark E. Hall, Borough Secretary