

November 7, 2017, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on November 7, 2017, in the Clarion Borough Offices. 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. Noto, Mr. MacBeth, and President Lapinto. Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Chief Peck IV, Mr. Preston, Solicitor Marshall, Mayor Parker, and Ms. LaVan were also present.

On a motion Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto to go into an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining unit. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

The Executive Session consisted of all Councilmembers, Mayor Parker, Treasurer Colosimo, Secretary LaVan, and Solicitor Marshall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

President Lapinto called the meeting back to order at 7:24 p.m.

Solicitor Marshall asked the record reflect that after the Executive Session, it is anticipated official action will be taken.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. MacBeth, approving the October 3, 2017, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of six yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto to approve the appropriations for the month of November.

Treasurer Colosimo asked Council to include an invoice received yesterday from U. S. Municipal in the amount of \$23,513 for the stainless steel bed of the new 2017 Public Works truck, which the Borough took delivery of yesterday.

Mr. Zerfoss and Mr. Noto both agreed to amend the motion to include payment to U. S. Municipal in the amount of \$23,513. The motion 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 review.

After discussion with the Solicitor, President Lapinto stated permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG funds to reimburse the General Fund for several expenses can be one motion.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to drawdown CDBG funds, as follows: reimburse the General Fund for Todd Colosimo's CDBG wages from February 25, 2017, through October 21, 2017, in the amount of \$1,620.58; reimburse the General Fund for advertising expenses for 2015 Program Mod Notice in the Clarion News in the amount of \$635.10; and reimburse the General Fund for postage expenses for IDIS documentation to DCED in the amount of \$4.49, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto commented next Council would like to present the proposed 2018 Budget. It is a balanced budget, and the good news is there is no tax increase. President Lapinto announced everybody on this Council worked to prepare the Budget and asked each Chair or Committee member to briefly discuss his/her department.

Mr. Aaron reported the total Public Safety budget is \$1,047,320. Most of that is for the police department at just over \$920,000. In addition, is parking meters expenditures at \$36,845; housing and zoning, which Dr. Sanders Dédé will discuss; and emergency management at \$1,000. The Police Department includes a 3.5% wage increase for 2018. Staffing is the police chief, 7 officers, and a full-time secretary. The 2018 budget includes a regular part-time officer to begin hopefully in April; new vests at an estimated \$11,000, which the Borough is anticipating 80% grant coverage; 2 computers for the police cars that do not have them now; 1 camera for the car to work with the integrated system; 4 printers for the police vehicles; and an interview room, which should be minimal cost and include a couple doors and a camera system. Mr. Aaron asked Chief Peck to discuss the 4 printers.

Chief Peck explained the printers are to enable printing citations that are issued from the car. Eventually it will be compatible with the District Court and will be transmitted to the court system, saving on data entry. It's the move of the future.

Mr. Noto, speaking on behalf of Public Works, commented it consists of 6 major funds/departments: General Fund Public Works, Highway Aid/Liquid Fuels Fund, Street Lighting Fund, Fire Equipment Fund, Library Fund, and Capital Projects Fund. The Public Works Department is the biggest with 4 full-time employees and expenditures budgeted at \$360,000, or 17.6% of the General Fund Budget. It's anticipated Highway Aid will receive \$160,000 in revenue and spend about \$123,000. Street Lighting Fund is 1.10 mills, Fire Equipment Fund is 1.63 mills, and Library Fund is .975 mills, no change in millage in any of them. Mr. Noto stated this will allow the Borough to buy a lawn mower, bucket truck, and complete different repairs at the fire department and library. This should all fit in without raising taxes.

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the biggest expense in Housing and Zoning is a chair for Mr. Sharrar. Total 2018 budget expenditures will be \$88,055, which is 4.3% of the overall budget. The major expenditure is the professional services, which will be for Bureau Veritas, the Borough's 3rd party inspection agency that handles all the building inspections and reviews them for the Borough. In 2017, the Borough is expected to receive \$80,000 in building permits, but the Borough paid out over \$72,500 to have the permits monitored for compliance. Dr. Sanders Dédé commented in 2018 \$20,500 is expected in building permits. As a reminder, Sheetz will be remodeling in the summer of 2018.

Ms. Roberts announced the Recreation Fund has a projected total budgeted expenditure of \$60,675, comprised of the Borough Pool, Paul A. Weaver Community Park, and the Toby boat launch. No change in millage is anticipated. The pool startup cost will be \$17,500 and include patchwork for the pool floor and walls and painting, which is imperative in order to open for the summer, making a spill containment for the chemicals to lead them out of the building and into a holding tank if it occurs, and relocating the electrical panels. Ms. Roberts stated the net operating cost to run the pool is expected to be \$33,850. The park is expected to cost \$7,400 and the boat launch \$1,825.

Hearing no more comments, President Lapinto thanked everyone for their participation. It was a very long day, but a good budget.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. MacBeth to give permission to advertise the 2018 Proposed Budget. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry's special event request for holiday season-free parking for Monday, November 20 (Customer Appreciation Day), Friday, November 24 (Black Friday), and November 27 through December 26 (holiday shopping season), was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to approve the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry's special event request for the Christmas Parade to be held Monday, November 20, 2017 (line up at 5:30 p.m. and parade step-off at 6 p.m.).

Mr. Zerfoss asked how anyone could vote against Santa Clause.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto asked Secretary LaVan for comments on the resolution authorizing the disposing of Borough records.

Secretary LaVan commented the last time records were destroyed was in 2015. The records are listed by department and follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records set forth in the Municipal Records Manual. A copy of the resolution is kept on file forever. All items listed are in accordance with the rules and regulations.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto, approving Resolution #2017-407, a Resolution disposing of Borough records, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto stated the next four motions are in regards to the pension plans. The resolutions are reducing the contributions per plan. Council plans to adopt revised Minimum Municipal Obligations due to the actuarial study reports that are completed. These were approved in September but can be amended any time before the end of the year.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. MacBeth to approve Resolution #2017-408, a Resolution reducing the Police pension contributions from 5% to 0% for the year 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth, adopting the revised 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan to zero, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto, approving Resolution #2017-409, a Resolution reducing the General Employees' pension contributions from 5% to 2.5% for the year 2018, carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to adopt the revised 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the General Employees' Pension Plan in the amount of \$16,331. The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

President Lapinto commented there is a list of boards and commissions in which the terms expire at the end of 2017 and asked Secretary LaVan to call each one to see if he/she wishes to serve another term.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported there is a Blueprint Meeting tomorrow at 4:30 at the Borough Office to discuss how to spend or encumber some money that is available before the end of the year. The plan is to have a holiday or pre-holiday concert. The Committee reached out to the high schools but didn't get a response. Therefore, Dr. Sanders Dédé stated some individuals in the community are going to be chosen that the Committee feels the community will come out to enjoy. Tomorrow night's meeting will be to finalize the plans. Posters and announcements will be going out shortly. Dr. Sanders Dédé invited anyone interested to come to the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss reminded everyone leaf pick up is every Monday and Tuesday of each week from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Last pick up will be November 21, 2017. After that, the truck will be used as a snow plow. Also, Mr. Zerfoss reminded everyone the winter ordinance begins December 1st, and the streets are posted on which nights he/she can park.

Mr. Zerfoss asked Mr. Preston to handle the next item.

Mr. Preston thanked Francis J. Palo Inc. for loaning the Borough a front-end loader and M and B Redi-Mix for donating cement barriers for Autumn Leaf Festival event. This was a change this year for safety issues. It was very much appreciated.

Mr. Noto agreed it was very helpful to get the job done. Without the equipment and barriers, it would have been costly.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto, approving the 2018-2021 Public Works Contract, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto asked for an update on the Center Place Storm Water Project.

Mr. Colosimo stated the service proposal has been completed with T3 Global Strategies, and they will be able to complete the Borough's impervious surface data collection and mapping with aerial imaging. The next step is to meet with the authority set up attorney on the leasing and servicing agreement between the Storm Water Authority and the Borough.

Mr. Noto reminded everyone T3 is the company the Borough contracted with to be able to provide the aerial overview, data, and mapping.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron had nothing to report.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto had nothing to report.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented the Housing and Zoning Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

PARKS AND RECREATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the agreement between Clarion Borough and Clarion Area School District for use of Paul A. Weaver Community Park. The motion carried with a vote of six yea with Mr. Noto abstaining since he's employed with the School District.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan reported she is trying to schedule an ALF wrap-up meeting and will keep everyone posted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Parker had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Cindy Miller, Greenville Avenue, asked if anything can be done about jake braking in town. She brought this up one time before, and the answer was the Borough didn't think anything could be done or enforced. Ms. Miller doesn't think that's correct. Going through a lot of towns,

there are jake braking signs up in many of them. In discussion with a police officer in another town, he relayed you can't enforce it if it is dangerous. However, Ms. Miller doesn't believe not using jake brakes in Clarion would cause any danger. The reason she stated this is she approached a gentleman at the board factory and asked if this could be discontinued. For 2 months, there was no noise and it seemed to work. However, jake braking started back up again in the summer. There was a truck every 20 minutes using it. Ms. Miller asked everyone how he/she would feel if you worked to have a house and a nice porch to sit on, but you cannot use the porch due to all the noise? For purposes of identification, one particular truck burgundy with a white stripe is the only one that uses it. When there are 3 others running in town that day without using a jake brake, Ms. Miller feels he could as well. Ms. Miller pointed out she cannot leave her doors open in the summer and cannot afford to use air conditioning all year just because truck drivers use their jake brakes. These truckers are not stopping for college students in the crosswalks and are speeding. Ms. Miller commented if a police officer does come to patrol speeding in that area, as soon as the first truck driver sees one, they call everyone else and it stops at that time. You can hear jake braking on Main Street, and there is no need for this to be occurring. Common courtesy is all that's being asked for. Unfortunately, people don't do what's right or courteous without a law, which is a shame. Ms. Miller asked Council to at least consider doing something about the jake braking throughout the Borough or look into if anything can be done. If other communities can have signs posted prohibiting jake braking, Clarion Borough should be able to as well.

Chief Peck reported there is nothing in the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code that prohibits jake braking and will review it again to make sure. If anything, it would probably have to be a local ordinance to enable Clarion Borough to enforce that.

Mr. Aaron noted the Public Safety Committee will look into this matter.

Mr. Ron Wilshire, reporter for exploreClarion, inquired if there was any more detail on the 2018-2021 Public Works Contract, such as the amount of increases and how many employees are covered?

Mr. Zerfoss informed everyone there are 4 full-time employees and each got a \$1 per hour per year increase during the 4-year contract.

Mr. Wilshire asked Dr. Sanders Dédé how much money the Blueprint Committee has for the concert?

Dr. Sanders Dédé believes there is \$1,500.

Mayor Parker commented about \$1,100.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. MacBeth, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Linda M. LaVan, Borough Secretary