

January 5, 2021, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on January 5 2021, as advertised, 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. Garbarino, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, Ms. Logue (participated by phone), and President Lapinto. Dr. Sanders Dédé was absent. Chief Peck, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Preston, Mayor Whitling, Mr. Colosimo, and Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Sharrar and Ms. Schwabenbauer were absent.

Mr. Aaron made a motion to amend the agenda under Public Works to remove the item regarding applications for a full-time Public Works Laborer. Mr. Noto seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second Mr. Aaron to approve the December 1, 2020, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

Mr. Jim Crooks, representing Destination Clarion Downtown, made a Declaration of Appreciation to the members of the Clarion Borough Council and the Clarion Borough Mayor and wanted to let each know how much the owners appreciate his/her hours of service with meetings, phone calls, research, ideas, and tough decisions. Each have taken criticisms, been told off, and even hunted down, and all this is done without any compensation, not a dime for his/her time, experience, knowledge or even gas or parking tickets. The Committee recognizes he/she does this because of his/her love of the hometown-Clarion. The business owners are with each Councilmember and the Mayor in the efforts to build the community even better. Mr. Crooks stated words are nice, but so are presents, and stated the merchants have put together a basket for each member to show his/her gratitude. At this point, Mr. Crooks asked for a round of applause. A copy of the entire Declaration is attached to the Official File Copy of these minutes.

President Lapinto thanked the Committee and stated this has to be a first. Main Street is one of her priorities and fully supports the merchants in everything he/she tries to do. President Lapinto commented someone from Council is now attending the Destination Clarion Downtown meetings.

Councilmembers thanked the Destination Clarion Downtown for his/her basket.

ADMINISTRATION

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

President Lapinto stated the Treasurer's Report and Budget Analysis are for Council's review.

President Lapinto commented next is Resolution #2021-455, approving the proposal from First United National Bank for the 2021 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000 at the rate of 1.25%. The results are included in the packet.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve Resolution #2021-455, approving the proposal from First United National Bank for the 2021 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000 at the rate of 1.25%.

Mr. Aaron asked the likelihood of using it this year?

President Lapinto feels it may be likely, and this is done every year just as a safeguard.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, re-appointing Kristin Clark to a 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board to expire at the end of 2023, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Aaron to appoint Keaton MacBeth to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board to expire at the end of 2022.

Secretary LaVan-Preston stated this vacancy was created by Ryan Miles last month, as he moved out of the Borough.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, appointing Jack Troese to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission to expire at the end of 2024, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Ms. Roberts to appoint Brett Whitling to a 3-year term on the Library Board to expire at the end of 2023. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, moving Ron Kopko from an alternate member of the UCC Board of Appeals to a member status, was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Aaron to appoint Ryan Miles and Scott Hannold as alternate members of the UCC Board of Appeals. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto announced that the Clarion Borough FFY 2020 CDBG allocation has been increased by \$19. The amount is roughly \$105,000.

Mr. Colosimo agreed.

Because of that increase, President Lapinto stated Council has to approve using it for the FFY 2020 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Activity.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, to approve using the additional FFY 2020 CDBG funding of \$19 for the FFY 2020 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Activity. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto to appoint Susquehanna Accounting Consulting as the Borough's financial consultant for 2021 at a rate of \$190 (same as 2019 and 2020).

Ms. Roberts asked if the motion should be clarified that it's \$190 per hour?

Mr. Aaron and Mr. Noto agreed to a rate of \$190 per hour. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto reminded everyone Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC will complete the 2020 audit at the price of \$10,554. This is the final year of the audit.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

There was none.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Noto stated the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review and asked Mr. Preston for anything else?

Mr. Preston reported potholes are starting to show up. As soon as the weather is nice, the Department will try to address them.

Mr. Noto thanked the employees for doing a good job of plowing as the Borough got hit with some snow and reminded everyone this is why there is a parking ordinance so that the streets can be cleaned.

Mr. Aaron thanked the guys as well. It is nice to wake up Christmas morning and for it to look pretty, but it was very appreciative to see a Borough truck going down the street as well.

STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Noto reported there was a vacancy on the Storm Water Authority Board that will expire January 2023. One letter of interest was received from Brian Luton.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron to appoint Brian Luton to fill the vacancy on the Storm Water Authority Board to expire January 2023.

Mr. Aaron thinks Mr. Luton will be a great addition to the Authority Board and has knowledge of projects and working with water issues.

The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, appointing Zach Garbarino to a 5-year term on the Storm Water Authority Board to expire January 2026, was carried with a vote of six yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino to give permission to seek request for proposals from banks in the amount of \$42,252 for the purchase of a 2021 Dodge Charger and equipment.

Mr. Aaron stated this was to be purchased last year and was held off.

Chief Peck commented he is happy with the charger and possession will not be taken until May this year.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, giving permission to purchase the 2021 Dodge Charger from Clarion Ford, CoStars Program, in the amount of \$28,343, was carried with a vote of six yea.

In 2015, Mr. Aaron informed everyone a number of national organizations came together to create another national days. It was decided January 9th was going to be National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, which is this Saturday. Mr. Aaron voiced he is grateful for all the law enforcement professionals in the community, which represents one-quarter of 1% of the populations nationally. It's a very small amount of people willing to run towards danger. Mr. Aaron again expressed his appreciation.

President Lapinto thanked everyone as well and stated this echoes all Council.

LIBRARY BOARD

Mr. Noto had nothing to report.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Roberts stated the Committee did not meet, but the report is in the packet for review.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston read a letter from PennDOT dated December 30th informing the Borough that starting January 2021 through April 2021, several vendors will be collecting data on municipally-owned roads with Clarion. This data will be utilized by the Department to complete a statewide network screening and prioritize locations for potential safety improvements. The traffic counters are not being set for any road project or speed trap.

MAYOR'S REPORT

First, Mayor Whitling thanked the merchants for these baskets. It is very appreciative and was very sweet.

For the record, Mayor Whitling also thanked the Maintenance Department for cleaning up all the snow, very specifically the Saturday before Christmas. After receiving a call from someone in the community concerned with how much snow was in the parking spaces, Mayor Whitling drove down Main Street and was also concerned but then noticed it was cleaned before Saturday, which was impressive. It was a job well done.

Mayor Whitling stated he is very excited about being on the Library Board.

President Lapinto added the merchants were concerned that the parking be cleared and thanked Public Works as well.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Noto announced this would be his last Council Meeting as he is going to resign from Borough Council and step away from doing things. Over the 10 years of having the privilege to serve the citizens of the Borough of Clarion, Mr. Noto commented he/she has been wonderful. Mr. Noto has really enjoyed and learned a lot in this position but thinks it's time to focus on things he needs to do. Mr. Noto thanked the Police Department and noted the Borough is lucky to have the wonderful experienced police officers, the Public Works Department comprised of 4 guys to keep the entire Borough running and have an incredible array of skills, and everyone at the office for what he/she did, and thinks the best resource is Linda LaVan-Preston, who is a wonderful asset to this Borough. Mr. Noto thanked everyone very much for the wonderful experience.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve Mr. Noto's resignation from Council, with regrets. The motion carried after the following roll call vote: Mr. Garbarino, yes; Ms. Roberts, yes; Mr. Aaron, no; Mr. Noto, yes; Ms. Logue, yes; and, President Lapinto, no adding she told him she'd vote no.

President Lapinto commented Mr. Noto will be missed and thanked him for everything he has done. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

As an update, President Lapinto reported Council has 30 days to appoint someone to this vacancy. This will only be for an 11-month term, because when Council appoints an individual to Council, he/she has to run in the next general election, which is this year.

Solicitor Marshall added he would also miss Mr. Noto.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary