

June 4, 2019, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on June 4, 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. 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, Mayor Parker, Mr. Sharrar, Solicitor Marshall, Ms. Dunlap, and Ms. LaVan-Preston were also present.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, amending the agenda to include three items, one under Administration, one under Storm Water Authority, and one under Housing and Zoning, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Noto to include the following: under Administration a motion to approve the First Baptist Church's request to add one day, July 14, 2019, from 2-9:30 p.m. for a road closure of 7th Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street as part of their Vacation Bible School; under Storm Water Authority a motion to approve Bison Construction's fourth pay request in the amount of \$196,675.35; and under Housing and Zoning a motion to approve a license agreement between Clarion Borough and Northwest Bank, relating to monitoring wells at their property at 730 Main Street. The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

Ms. Kristan Hearst, representing Clarion County Broadcasting, C-93, relayed they are again holding their River Festival at the Toby Boat Launch and are very excited that the Clarion River is one of the rivers of the year in Pennsylvania. Ms. Hearst invited everyone to the event being held Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. It would be awesome to see Borough representatives there. C-93 is trying to grow attention to the boat launch and work on getting some grants and funding that could be used in the area someday. Ms. Hearst added the radio station does something every year for the community and used to do block parties but now are doing this River Fest and thanked Council for allowing them to have it.

President Lapinto inquired the kinds of activities those days?

Ms. Hearst reported there will be kayak demos; local food vendors from Zack's Shack and Smokey B's Smokehouse; a climbing wall for kids and adults; education about animals and conservation will be provided by Exotic Animal Adventures both days; live music the entire time from both local musicians and local bands; as well as yoga, just bring your own mat. Again, the goal is to highlight recreation but include entertainment and educational pieces as well.

President Lapinto thanked Ms. Hearst and C-93 for doing this for the community.

Ms. Hearst voiced they are happy to be serving the community.

President Lapinto called on Brett Whitling as this time as he called in to be placed on the agenda after it was prepared.

Mr. Brett Whitling, 97 South Sixth Avenue, understands there used to be a street light in the vicinity of his house; but, due to some vandalism by college students, it was removed. There is a street light at South Street and Sixth Avenue and Elss Street and Sixth Avenue but nothing in between. It is very dark in this area, making it dangerous. A person cannot see the sidewalk without using a flashlight. Living and operating a business in that area, Mr. Whitling requested Council to check into this to see if a light could be installed and understands other people will be involved.

President Lapinto referred that to the Public Works Committee for review.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the minutes of the May 7, 2019, Council Meeting, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the appropriations for the month of June, 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.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve the Protective Services Interagency Agreement with Clarion Area Agency on Aging Inc.

President Lapinto asked Chief Peck if he had any comments.

Chief Peck stated it's the same as in past years and is a standard agreement.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving Keystone Ridge Designs Invoice No. 0000021159 in the amount of \$23,910.30 for the Main Street benches, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue, authorizing Clarion County to drawdown 2015 Clarion Borough CDBG funds in the amount of \$23,910.30 and pay Keystone Ridge Designs Invoice No. 0000021159 in the amount of \$23,910.30, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the First Baptist Church's request to add one day, July 14, 2019, from 2-9:30 p.m. for a road closure of 7th Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street as part of their Vacation Bible School.

Dr. Sanders Dédé added this is open to the community as well. There will be a bouncy house as well as other activities. It's designed for the public to come and enjoy an afternoon at no charge and food.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé announced on June 12, 2019, there will be a meeting from 5-7 p.m. at the Seifert-Mooney Building, Alumni Building on the University Campus. This is open to the public. Two guests will be present to provide more information on grants that the Committee could apply for to revitalize the strategic plan and to continue to move forward to the quest of making Clarion be the hot spot in Western Pennsylvania.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss stated the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review and asked Mr. Preston for any comments?

Mr. Preston stated the Department has been patching the last two days, but there are still more out and about.

Dr. Sanders Dédé asked if Fourth Avenue from Wood Street to Main Street was addressed yet?

Mr. Preston commented not yet, but it is on the list.

In all defense, President Lapinto stated the weather has not been cooperating. If a pothole is patched in the rain, it will just come out.

Mr. Zerfoss reported last month Council gave permission to bid out the 2019 Paving Project. As a reminder, the following streets will be milled and paved this year: 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. Six bids were received and opened at 10:05 a.m. Everyone received a copy of the bid results this evening. The apparent low bidder was Hager Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$95,230.50. Mr. Zerfoss stated the roads will continue to get worse, and Council has to go ahead with the project.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Noto, awarding the low bid to Hager Paving Inc., in the amount of \$95,230.50 for the 2019 Paving Project, contingent upon all insurances and bid bonds are in good order, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

Ms. Roberts inquired if anyone knows when Elss Street will be resurfaced?

Mr. Sharrar stated that was part of the water company projects, which will be done all at the same time.

Mr. Noto added the answer is just not yet unfortunately.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss, approving Bison Construction's fourth pay request in the amount of \$196,675.35 for work on Center Place Project, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

Mr. Noto stated 11 applications were received for the position of Administrative/Storm Water Assistant and interviews will be set up shortly.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to approve The EADS Group's Invoice 225328 in the amount of \$37,642.28.

President Lapinto asked if this was for their work on the Center Place Project?

Secretary LaVan-Preston agreed it was. Because of the amount, it will be submitted to HRG to drawdown funds from PennVEST before the Borough will remit the payment.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Zerfoss to approve the bidding of Clarion Borough Contract 2019-4 Second Avenue Storm Water Repair Project upon receipt of completed project design and cost estimate.

Mr. Noto commented this line is located along Second Avenue where the barrel is getting swallowed up by the size. It just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

Mr. Colosimo added the design work should be completed with a week.

The motion was carried with a vote of seven yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to accept the resignation letter from Christopher L. Fox, effective June 3, 2019, with regrets. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto asked Chief Peck if the Civil Service Commission will be contacted?

Chief Peck thinks at the next Public Safety Meeting the steps to move forward will be discussed.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto commented the Storm Sewer Project is completed and looks nice.

Mr. Colosimo publicly thanked Tyler Gabler for putting a piece of chain up for the guardrail around the patio, cordoning off the grass, and a couple other items during the course of the project without being asked or receiving any reimbursement.

President Lapinto noticed some of the grass looks like it washed away.

Mayor Parker thinks the problem was also due to people walking through that area and stomping the seed down before Mr. Gabler put the tape up to stop it.

Mr. Noto wondered if extra seed is available to put down.

HOUSING AND ZONING

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Zerfoss, approving a license agreement between Clarion Borough and Northwest Bank, relating to monitoring wells at their property at 730 Main Street, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

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

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts announced the pool opening will be June 15, 2019, at Noon, and is hoping for beautiful, sunny weather.

Ms. Roberts stated a group of women were able to purchase 14 new chairs for the pool through their fundraising efforts.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Parker had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Colosimo reported the Main Street trash receptacles were let for bid today and are due July 1st. Action may be ready by the July Council meeting.

As the 2019 CDBG application season is fast approaching, Treasurer Colosimo quickly noted to Council it would be a good time to start thinking about what kinds of projects Council may want to venture into with that funding. As everyone knows, the Borough has had a change in the LMI rate for this year that is going to force different avenues being involved. Treasurer Colosimo plans to have some options for Council to look at as far as what the Borough can do. The LMI rate for all intents and purposes will be here for the next five application cycles.

Ms. Logue hopes that everybody has had a chance to look at the new Persian Gulf Era Monument at the Veterans Memorial Park. The Clarion County Commissioners will be hosting a ceremony dedicating it on Flag Day, June 14th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and light refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Sanders Dédé announced that on June 14th at 11 a.m. the Juneteenth ceremony will be held at Hart Chapel. The speaker will be State Representative Jake Wheatley, Jr., from Allegheny County. Mr. Wheatley is a United States Marine Veteran in combat operations desert storm. A free luncheon will be served after the program. This year's theme is 400 Years of Resilience. Dr. Sanders Dédé thinks the Clarion Center for the Arts will be dancing.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 21 South Seventh Avenue, wished to address Council on three comments. First off, Ms. Fulmer thanked the Borough for filling potholes in the alley she drives through most often, because it was really getting bad.

Second, Ms. Fulmer mentioned to Mayor Parker that the beautiful project outside the library is not completed. There are no handrails along those slopes, which is very hazardous. Anybody that's been down there in the winter knows how hazardous that is. People that are in a wheelchair find handrails to be very helpful when he/she is going up and down ramps and thinks that must be taken care of, because that's definitely not a safe situation.

Third, Ms. Fulmer stated is trees and questioned if everyone has seen Fifth Avenue lately. It looks pretty sad. Ms. Fulmer asked if there is some way the Borough can use some CDBG funding?

President Lapinto reported there are CDBG funds for trees along Main Street; however, Fifth Avenue would not qualify as it is private property.

After some research, Dr. Sanders Dédé commented the landowners along Fifth Avenue were asked if he/she wanted his/her property returned as it was before construction, meaning with a replacement of a tree. All the owners, with the exception of one, did not want a tree.

Ms. Fulmer inquired if the homeowners or residents were asked?

Dr. Sanders Dédé stated the people who own the property were asked.

Ms. Fulmer asked if the residents that live there wanted one?

Dr. Sanders Dédé doesn't think that matters as it's not his/her property.

Ms. Fulmer added it may matter to the people who live there.

Dr. Sanders Dédé commented then he/she should purchase the property then.

Ms. Fulmer voiced concern that something needs to be done, because it is detrimental to the appearance of the main entrance into Clarion Borough. Trees provide fresh air, oxygen, and all that stuff.

Dr. Sanders Dédé personally feels the property owners need to fix his/her properties up first before being concerned about a tree. Trees will not cover up the appearance of them unless 16' trees were planted.

Ms. Fulmer stated something just needs to be done and has stated it many times before.

President Lapinto announced a new group called Destination Clarion has been in contact with her on if there was any money available for trees for the Downtown area, which there is. After meeting with the Forestry Department last year, there are two different types of trees that must be purchased for Main Street due to lighting and rain conditions. According to Mr. Jim Crooks, several property owners have indicated that he/she would like to purchase trees, which is fine as long as it is the right type of tree for that area. President Lapinto commented the Borough would like to do some raised beds along Main Street, which is still being looked into. However, none of this funding can be used for South Fifth Avenue.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary