

March 3, 2015, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on March 3, 2015, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Mr. Aaron, Mr. Noto, Mr. Bartley, and President Lapinto. Mr. Zerfoss participated by telephone. Ms. Roberts and Dr. Sanders Dédé were absent. Chief/Secretary/Treasurer Hall, Mayor Walters, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Preston, Mr. Sharrar, and Ms. LaVan were also present. Mr. Preston and Mr. Sharrar left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Aaron to approve the February 17, 2015, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of four yea with Mr. Bartley abstaining as he was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the appropriations for the month of March, with a vote of five yea.

President Lapinto stated the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis. According to the paper, President Lapinto noticed there will be a delay in the tax notices and asked if that will hurt the Borough.

Secretary Hall stated the Borough should have enough money in the reserve account until the revenue starts coming in. The Borough should not have to use the tax anticipation note.

On a motion by Mr. Bartley with a second by Mr. Noto to approve the First Baptist Church's special event request for Vacation Bible School to block off the street between Church and McDonald's on Seventh Avenue the week of July 13-17, 2015. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

President Lapinto asked Secretary Hall to discuss a couple more items.

Secretary Hall commented the Borough just received the March of Dimes special event request for the March for Babies Walk event to be held May 2, 2015. The route has changed slightly by beginning at the Gemmell Center at the University instead of the High School parking lot. The participants will still use the sidewalks so there will not be a problem with traffic control.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the March of Dimes Babies Walk to be held May 2, 2015, was carried with a vote of five yea.

Secretary Hall asked Council to give permission for two employees to go to training, which the information was received after the packets were prepared. Both were budgeted. First is for Todd Colosimo to attend the CDBG Conference in State College on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$450.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Noto to give permission for Todd Colosimo to attend the annual CDBG Conference in State College on March 30 and 31, 2015, at a cost \$450. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

Secretary Hall stated the next one is for Scott Sharrar to attend the International Property Maintenance Code Update course in Wilkes-Barre on March 26, 2015. The cost is \$120 plus mileage. This will count towards Mr. Sharrar's required UCC continuing education credits.

On a motion by Mr. Noto with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission for Scott Sharrar to attend the International Property Maintenance course in Wilkes-Barre on March 26, 2015, at the cost of \$120 plus mileage, was carried with a vote of five yea.

#### DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

President Lapinto announced the Blueprint Community Committee's graduation will be held tomorrow in State College.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss referred to Mr. Noto to give the report.

Mr. Noto asked the status of the front-end loader.

Secretary Hall stated the Borough purchased the parts for \$550, which were installed locally for \$455.

Mr. Preston commented it's working right now.

Mr. Noto reported it's good that it was able to be fixed for less than \$1,000. The Department continues to plow and haul snow. A total of 217 tons of salt has been used up to February 19, 2015.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Bartley reported the Borough needs to replace Nick Trombetta since he retired. The Committee would like to ask permission to advertise for a full-time police officer. Mr. Bartley asked Chief Hall to provide more details.

If permission is given tonight, Chief Hall stated it will be advertised in the newspaper. Then the Civil Service Commission will conduct the Chief's Association's standard test. Chief Hall commented the hope is to have a recommendation for the May Council Meeting.

President Lapinto thinks it's a very important position and that all Councilmembers should try to attend the interviews for a police officer.

Mr. Bartley agreed once it's down to the final three.

President Lapinto stated the University generally allows the Borough to use a room for the testing. It's been a long time since the Borough has hired.

Chief Hall stated Scott Robinson was the last one to be hired.

On a motion by Mr. Bartley with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission to advertise to hire a full-time police officer. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

Mr. Noto encouraged everyone to keep reading; it's Read Across America Week.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

Mr. Zerfoss had nothing to report.

#### RECREATION

Mr. Noto announced the Recreation Committee met with Bob Good of Pashek Associates a few weeks ago. Discussion took place on the areas that need looked at at the pool and how to achieve certain things. Mr. Good recommended that the feasibility study be updated, and a proposal was included in the packet at a total price of \$5,500. Mr. Noto stated one of the benefits in sitting down and being able to talk about these things with Mr. Good is the Committee specifically relayed the Borough wants to know what it's going to cost to do what needs done, what order it needs to be done, and how long the Borough can get out of the existing things. Mr. Good understood that very well and will be able to provide the Borough with some good information. Doing this plan, the Recreation Committee will be able to go to the pool, ask some questions, and get a definitive answer. Some of those questions are is it economically feasible for the Borough to continue the pool the way it is, can it become more profitable, or does the Borough have to take another course. Mr. Noto feels \$5,500 is a deal.

President Lapinto questioned if he has to analyze the management and lifeguard procedures?

Mayor Walters voiced concern that the Borough prepared a budget in December and doesn't recall this being set aside. During the budget process, there are wish lists and then a decision on what will and won't be included. This was not. So, here it is March, and the cost of \$5,500 is being discussed. Mayor Walters doesn't have any idea where that will come from. This is a major concern.

Mr. Zerfoss feels this report is going to tell the Borough the same thing it has for the last 10 years. The bottom line is the Borough doesn't have the money to do it. The Borough can use that \$5,500 to keep the present pool open for another year. Mr. Zerfoss stated a plan needs

developed to build a new pool at Paul A. Weaver Community Park, which is where it should be. Since the Borough owns that land, the pool would be eligible for CDBG money. Currently, it is not eligible, because the School District owns that property.

Mr. Noto thinks the study would provide good information to say why the pool is being shut down if that's where it ends up. The report will state it is not economically viable to continue. If Council's worried about \$5,500, Mr. Noto doesn't know how a new pool would ever be built out at the Park. This study will help Council make a decision that has been skirted for several years. Mr. Noto asked if the pool is just going to be run until it drops.

Mayor Walters commented that's kind of been the mentality or philosophy to run it until it can no longer be run. Agreeing with Mr. Zerfoss, Mayor Walters stated the \$5,500 can be spent in doing that. The Borough doesn't know what major items or issues are going to come up.

Mr. Noto stressed that's the reason to do this study to find out and see how long the Borough has.

Mayor Walters questioned why it wasn't included in the budget in December. If it was, it wouldn't be an issue. This is the biggest concern. It's March; where is the money going to come from?

President Lapinto doesn't believe Item #2 needs done, which would reduce the proposal by \$1,300. The YMCA already handles the management.

Mr. Noto doesn't have a problem deducting that if it can be done and doesn't recall what Mr. Good stated about that item.

Secretary Hall doesn't recall either and added it wasn't specifically discussed.

President Lapinto asked if anyone thinks she's off base with that item.

Mr. Bartley agrees with her idea. That would bring the cost down to \$4,200.

Mr. Noto made a motion to give permission to appoint Pashek Associates to complete an updated swimming pool feasibility study, eliminating Item #2 reducing the fee from \$5,500 to \$4,200.

President Lapinto asked for a second.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Mr. Bartley asked Mr. Noto to contact the group to submit a new proposal without Item #2. By removing that, it may eliminate other costs.

Mr. Noto commented that makes sense.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Walters congratulated the Clarion Area girls' basketball team for being runner ups in the District. That's a great accomplishment.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Mr. Bartley, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Mark E. Hall, Borough Secretary