

October 5, 2021, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on October 5, 2021, as advertised, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. Vice President Aaron 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. MacBeth, and Ms. Logue. President Lapinto participated by telephone. Dr. Sanders Dédé was absent. Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Chief Peck, Mayor Whitling, and Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Ms. Schwabenbauer were absent.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. MacBeth, approving the September 7, 2021, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the September 21, 2021, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

Vice President Aaron called for an Executive Session for personnel, including Councilmembers, Mayor Whitling, Solicitor Marshall, Chief Peck, and Secretary LaVan-Preston, beginning at 7:02 p.m.

Before leaving, Mr. Rodney Sherman, The Clarion News, asked what kind of personnel.

Solicitor Marshall stated police personnel.

Vice President Aaron called the meeting back to order at 7:55 p.m.

Solicitor Marshall understands Council will be taking action on the Police Contract.

Vice President Aaron stated it will be handled under the Public Safety Report.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. MacBeth, approving the appropriations for the month of October, was carried with a vote of six yea.

Vice President Aaron stated the Treasurer's Report and Budget Analysis are included for Council's review.

Backing up to the Appropriations Report, Secretary LaVan-Preston pointed out the Borough received the State Aid for the Minimum Municipal Obligation for both plans and also the Foreign Fire Relief Funds, which are being paid this month. Also, the paving project is included.

Vice President Aaron stated the second Council Meeting will be held October 19, 2021, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if necessary.

Vice President Aaron reminded everyone the November Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 1, 2021, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, due to Election Day.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving the contract with Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC to extend the audit services for the years ending December 31, 2021, 2022, and 2023 at the price of \$10,765, \$10,980, and \$11,200, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the Clarion Borough Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Statement of Goals for FFY 2021. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. MacBeth to approve Resolution #2021-460, approving the Clarion Borough FFY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and attached three-year Community Development Plan (CDP).

Mr. Colosimo stated this is the standard process for the Borough's CDBG application. It designates a Borough representative for the application and allows Clarion County to submit the application on behalf of the Borough to the State. It also outlines the Borough's allocation.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving submission of Clarion Borough's FFY 2021 CDBG application by Clarion County to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) by or on October 28, 2021, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue to approve Change Order Number One for Clarion Borough Contract 2021-1 Clarion Free Library Boiler Replacement, extending the time of completion from October 4, 2021, to October 29, 2021.

Mr. Colosimo stated the boiler for the library project has been installed. This extra time allows the inspection to be scheduled with the Department of Labor and Industry, which may take place on the 14th. The State is going to allow the contractor to power the boiler up on the 13th and then there should be heat in the building.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Change Order Number Two for Clarion Borough Contract 2021-2 Clarion Free Library Building Improvements, extending the time of completion from September 4, 2021, to December 24, 2021.

Mr. Colosimo commented this is more time for the interior and bathroom doors, which are going to be late. This should be completed, and everything done by Christmas Eve.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

There was none.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN:

Mr. Jim Crooks reported Autumn Leaf Festival is in full force. A meeting was held to discuss how the merchants could show people that are coming to Clarion that Clarion is the friendliest town around. The Committee decided to do stickers, which Mr. Crooks passed out to all Councilmembers, the Mayor, for the employees, and everyone present. The sticker states 'Clarion everyone's hometown. #DestinationClarion Downtown'. When individuals wear the stickers, participating stores will be offering a discount or special. FL Crooks and Co. will be giving \$5 off a \$30 purchase.

Ms. Jennifer Vinson stated there were will 15% off at Fulmer House, no cover charge on Friday at Infusion, happy hour discount at CRB, 25 cents off a coffee at Michelle's Café, and many others. Destination Clarion Downtown thanks Clarion Rotary for stepping up and doing a lot of cleaning, weeding, and neatening up of the tree areas and along Main Street to help the Committee's mission that everyone actually cares about keeping the town look nice. It was really appreciated.

Mr. Crooks also mentioned the Committee appreciates all that Public Works has done. Tom Spence, representing Rotary Club, came up with the idea to clean up some of the buildings that are vacant and being neglected. It's really very nice and humble when people from the community say 'hey, we can do this'.

Mr. Crooks reported the Committee is working on Christmas and discussing wreaths and the number to purchase for this year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Roberts stated the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

Ms. Roberts announced leaf pick-up will be every Monday and Tuesday, beginning October 11, 2021, through November 26, 2021. As a reminder, place leaves curbside and no limbs or branches can be taken.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Vice President Aaron commented the next meeting will be held November 14th at which time the Committee will discuss the alternate of the PA Small Water and Sewer Project with a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Colosimo issued the notice of award for the base bid, which includes the projects for Boundary Street and Tippin Drive. Once the paperwork is in order, the contractor will have until June 30th of 2022 to complete it. The project can be completed through winter; however, there may be a material issue with this project as well.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Vice President Aaron informed everyone trick-or-treat hours for Clarion Borough will be October 31, 2021, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate should leave his/her lights on. Vice President Aaron asked if the fire department will be doing anything?

Secretary LaVan-Preston thinks the firemen are doing the parade.

Mayor Whitling agreed, and candy will be given out at the fire hall.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Logue to approve the 2022-2026 Police Contract.

Vice President Aaron stated the negotiations went really smooth this year and thanked the Officers. The Committee worked through the officers' small asks and what the Borough could do for them for the community. It went very civil, which resulted in a pretty quick agreement.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Logue to give permission to advertise for a full-time police officer eligibility list.

Mr. Sherman, The Clarion News, asked what that means?

Solicitor Marshall stated for civil service.

Mr. Sherman verified the Borough isn't hiring somebody just giving permission to develop a list of candidates.

Vice President Aaron agreed and added the current list, which has one name remaining, is good for a year. However, with upcoming retirements possible, the Borough would like to be prepared.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Whitling had nothing to report.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Logue stated the Housing and Zoning Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts stated there is no report on the Paul A. Weaver Community Park Softball Field Improvements at this time.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to approve an Agreement with Go Paddle PA for a kiosk to be located at Toby Boat Launch to offer canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards, as well as life preservers and paddles, with the recommended changes by Solicitor which everyone received earlier today.

Vice President Aaron thinks this is a fantastic idea down there and a good idea for the community. Hopefully, it spurs more.

Mr. Tom Switzer, owner of Go Paddle PA, thanked him for his comments.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the Borough's estimated Liquid Fuels Allocation for 2022 is \$147,046.66, which is \$2,245.49 less than this year's.

At Committee meetings this month, Secretary LaVan-Preston asked members to bring his/her wish list items for next year's budget. This information will be passed onto the financial consultant. Council will then meet on November 16th, the second Council Meeting, to give permission to advertise the proposed 2022 budget with adoption expected at the December Meeting. Secretary LaVan-Preston stated this will allow Councilmembers, the new Mayor, and any new Councilmembers to participate in the discussion of the budget prior to the presentation for adoption.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Whitling verified that the Halloween Parade line up will be at 5:30 p.m. in front of Immaculate Conception, and Clarion Fire will be handing out candy.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 21 South Seventh Avenue, stated trees.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary LaVan-Preston read a thank you note from Cub Scout Pack 51 for allowing them to have the Cub Scout Recruitment Carnival in the Park. It made such a success adding to the Pack.

Vice President Aaron thanked the Cub Scouts for having that for the community.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. MacBeth, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary