

November 1, 2021, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on November 1, 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 Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. MacBeth, Ms. Logue, and President Lapinto. Mr. Garbarino was absent. Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Chief Peck, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, Mayor Whitling, and Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Ms. Schwabenbauer was absent. Mr. Sharrar and Mr. Preston left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. for a fire call.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the October 5, 2021, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of five yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent from the meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

Mayor Whitling presented a Proclamation to Cathy Keefer, proclaiming the week of November 7-13, 2021, as National Practitioners Week, and asked everybody to recognize and honor the countless contributions Nurse Practitioners have made over the past half century and will continue to make on behalf of the health and well-being of citizens in Pennsylvania.

President Lapinto called for an Executive Session for personnel, including Councilmembers, Mayor Whitling, Solicitor Marshall, Chief Peck, and Secretary LaVan-Preston, beginning at 7:04 p.m.

President Lapinto called the meeting back to order at 8:08 p.m.

Solicitor Marshall understands that there will be official action taken as a result of the Executive Session and should be handled now.

Mr. Aaron made a motion to approve the resignation and retirement for Shawn Zerfoss, effective November 30, 2021, contingent upon results of November 2, 2021, election and use of vacation, sick leave, and payment of unused sick days.

Mr. MacBeth seconded the motion.

President Lapinto asked for any discussion.

Mr. Aaron pointed out to Council that in its current state the way the letter is written it does not follow Borough policy for payment of sick time. That time is not able to be paid in advance only vacation time.

Upon a request of Ms. Roberts, President Lapinto asked for a roll call vote.

The motion was denied after the following roll call vote, Ms. Roberts, no; Dr. Sanders Dédé, no; Mr. Aaron, no; Mr. MacBeth, no; Ms. Logue, no; and President Lapinto, no.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, accepting the resignation from Emerson Hartle from Meter Enforcement Officer, effective October 25, 2021, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to approve the 2022-2025 Public Works Contract.

Mr. Aaron thanked everyone for another hardworking contract.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

President Lapinto announced the second meeting for the month scheduled for November 16, 2021, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library may be held depending on how far along Council is in the budget process.

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the special event request from the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry for Christmas Parade to be held Saturday, December 4, 2021, was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. MacBeth to approve the support letter for the Miles Brothers, LLC Application for Pennsylvania Industrial Sites Reuse Program (ISRP) Funds.

President Lapinto fully supports everything the Miles Brothers' are doing but commented it just seems that Council has to hurry up and approve things. Council's just not being given respect.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the initial engineering and groundwork on the site has been completed for the year. It has been seeded and grass will be there. No more work will occur until the spring. If people want to play football or throw Frisbees on this property, Dr. Sanders

Dédé commented Theron Miles relayed that would be fine. If anyone has any extra money, Dr. Sanders Dédé asked he/she donate it to the Committee.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN:

Mr. Jim Crooks passed out a request for free parking during the Christmas season, which was not on the agenda. It is hard to get a consensus on parking with the various business owners. The Committee would like consideration for free parking as follows: November 22nd, Customer Appreciation Day; November 26th, day after Thanksgiving; and December 1st to December 24th. The Committee would bag the meters the same as last year with a note stating 'Happy Holidays from the Clarion Borough Council, Free 2-hour Parking' from December 7th until the 24th. This is a total of 20 days of free parking; 2 in November and 18 in December with 13 days with bags. If Council meets in the middle of the month, Mr. Crooks asked for consideration of approval.

Mr. Crooks informed everyone the Committee will be decorating 30 wreaths with new 4" commercial-grade red balls and 18" commercial grade ribbons, which are weather and fade-proof. The wreaths are going to be back-to-back on the poles at the intersections of Main Street at 7th, 6th, 5th, and 4th Avenues with the goal of putting the snowflakes in between the wreaths. Having them back-to-back, Mr. Crooks commented motorists will see them regardless of which direction one is traveling down Main Street. The Committee will be meeting this Thursday to decorate the wreaths. Mr. Crooks asked for community support of \$100 per wreath to help with the supplies ordered to make them. Mr. Crooks understands the new poles may not have electricity at the top, so the wreaths may or may not be lit for the season. However, the wreaths will still be beautiful during the daytime. IF the electricity is not there, the snowflakes will not be placed on the poles but will be displayed inside merchants' windows in addition to the businesses that already put them on the outside of his/her buildings so that the full Christmas atmosphere is present for Downtown. Mr. Crooks noted it would be awesome if the electricity is available.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo to give all members of Council an update on these poles?

Mr. Colosimo reported the Borough has the materials except for the electrical outlets for 48 of the 50 poles. In discussion with the vendor, the remaining 6 LED bulbs and globes were to be on their way but have not been received. Everything else is supposed to be coming shortly.

President Lapinto thinks the Public Works Department should take a road trip to the vendor in Medina, Ohio to pick all the necessary items up. If this project isn't completely paid by the end of the year, the Borough will have to reimburse the County \$75,000. This is a top priority. Also, President Lapinto stated the poles have to be straight.

If there is extra money available, Ms. Roberts inquired if new globes can be purchased for all the street lights that were not replaced as those globes are yellow. It is very noticeable.

Speaking for Council, President Lapinto again stressed this is a top priority.

Ms. Roberts added it would be fantastic if the wreaths and snowflakes could be lit up.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Roberts reminded everyone leaf pick-up will be every Monday and Tuesday, through November 26, 2021. Leaves should be placed curbside. No limbs or branches can be taken.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Aaron reported the Board is moving forward and trying to resolve an issue on 3rd Avenue. At the request of the homeowners and also following solicitors' advice, barricades were placed around the open area.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth to give permission to advertise for part-time meter enforcement officer for 29 hours per week at a rate to be determined. The motion was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue, giving permission to hire Taylor Smith as a Probationary Police Officer at the starting base rate of \$20.40 per hour (70% of base rate), contingent upon passing the psychological exam and physical exam, was carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto asked if Council wishes to act on the free parking request.

Secretary LaVan-Preston asked if Council can since it wasn't on the agenda?

Solicitor Marshall understands Council is allowed to act on diminimus issues and, in his opinion, this would fall into that category. Council can pass it this evening if he/she wishes.

Mayor Whitling excused himself, as the fire department, needs back up for the wreck on 80, leaving at 8:20 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. MacBeth, approving the request from Destination Clarion Downtown for free parking for Christmas Season for November 22nd, Customer Appreciation Day; November 26th, day after Thanksgiving; and December 1st through 24th; and using bags from December 7th on as was done last year.

President Lapinto asked Chief Peck if he has seen the request.

After reviewing a copy of the request, Chief Peck stated it's fine.

President Lapinto asked if there was a problem last year with tape on the meters.

Mr. Aaron commented that was the year before. Now the merchants place bags on the meters in the Downtown district with a sign saying it's free 2-hour parking.

Ms. Roberts commented every year the request comes in and it will be beneficial for the businesses.

Secretary LaVan-Preston suggested Council keep the revenue that is deposited into the meters instead of giving it away and also thinks it is good for the community.

Ms. Roberts feels a lot of people put money in the meters that are not covered, because he/she doesn't realize it's free parking.

President Lapinto stated it's 13 days of free parking and will help the business owners.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

There was no report.

HOUSING AND ZONING

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

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary LaVan-Preston announced budget meetings will be held this month probably on November 4th. If Council doesn't meet on November 16th, there will still be time to give permission to advertise the budget at the December 7th Council Meeting with adoption at the second meeting of the month on December 21st as long as there is a quorum. That is usually the problem in December not having enough members.

President Lapinto commented the new Mayor and any new Councilmember can also be asked to attend with the budget preparations.

MAYOR'S REPORT

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

President Lapinto commended Ms. Roberts, Mr. MacBeth, Mr. Aaron, Dr. Sanders Dédé, and the employees with two great contracts and thinks it's important to point out that there were no legal fees involved. Everyone involved should be commended for that.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary LaVan-Preston read a thank you letter from Clarion County Republican Committee for their donation of \$345 to the Police Department for their assistance for their 2nd Annual Patriot Ride

On a motion by Mr. MacBeth with a second by Mr. Aaron, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Borough Secretary