

February 7, 2023, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on February 7, 2023, in 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, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Montana, and Ms. Schmader. President Lapinto participated by telephone. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Preston, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Chief Peck arrived at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Sharrar was absent.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving the minutes of the January 3, 2023, Public Hearing, was carried with a vote of five yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé and Mr. Aaron abstaining as they were absent.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve the January 3, 2023, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea with Dr. Sanders Dédé abstaining as she was absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

Vice President Aaron asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Clarion Little League, Gina Hetrick, who should have been on the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to add Clarion Little League, represented by Gena Hetrick, under Citizen Comments: Agenda Items Only. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Ms. Gena Hetrick, newly elected treasurer for Clarion Little League, stated registration has started. Early bird special runs until mid-February for anybody that would like to sign up. If anybody has an issue affording registration fees, the T-Mobile Grant Program is again ready this year. Ms. Hetrick commented there are also funds available if adjustments are needed outside the T-Mobile Grant. Clarion Little League wants to try to get as many people as possible out playing Little League, softball, and baseball so that the League can have more activities with youth. Ms. Hetrick stated the memorandum that was provided to Councilmembers this evening, which is attached to the Official File Copy of these minutes, indicates when the practices will begin at Paul A. Weaver Community Park and also opening days, which is the same as picture day. The only dates not shown are for the junior and senior league baseball and softball teams. Clarion Little League wants to see how many people sign up. If there are 3 or more teams, it can be played local. If not, the teams will have to travel around the County. Being aware of the softball field renovations, Ms. Hetrick reported arrangements are being set up and finalized for using the County Park. Other than that, Clarion Little League wishes to thank Clarion Borough Council for his/her continued support, the community, and all the employees. Ms. Hetrick asked for any questions?

In the past, Ms. Garbarino recalls Clarion Little League has had difficulty finding coaches and asked if that needs to be advertised?

Ms. Hetrick announced volunteers are always welcome to be coaches, umpires, concession stand workers, or whatever else would be needed. Clarion Little League did put a call out to the local softball and baseball teams for umpires. Anyone willing to volunteer will be no means be turned away. Individuals can reach out to member of Clarion Little League to find more information out. If anyone has any questions, Ms. Hetrick asked him/her to feel free to reach out.

Vice President Aaron informed Ms. Hetrick and Clarion Little League not to hesitate in contacting the Borough as well.

#### ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, approving the appropriations for the month of February, carried with a vote of seven yea.

Vice President Aaron reported the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are in the packet for Council's review.

Vice President Aaron announced the second Council Meeting will be held February 21, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, appointing Darren Frederick to fill the vacant position on the Storm Water Authority Board to expire the first Monday of January 2026, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Schmader to give permission to seek proposal for fire hall doors at the Clarion Fire and Hose Co. #1.

Mr. Garbarino verified these will be the glass doors that Council was shown during the budget?

Mr. Preston agreed.

Ms. Roberts thought somebody was going to paint on the doors so it looked like there were windows.

At one point, Vice President Aaron suggested that idea.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Vice President Aaron commented next is to give permission to hire an Administrative/Stormwater Authority Assistant and asked for that name?

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated Rebecca Ferringer. Ms. Ferringer interviewed very well. It will be for 35 hours per week.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve to hire Rebecca Ferringer as the Administrative/Stormwater Authority Assistant at the rate of \$15 per hour, contingent upon successful results of pre-employment checks.

Once Council approves to hire, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston will prepare an offer letter indicating all the specifics of the job. The Chief will conduct the background check after the acceptance; and, then go from there.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to give permission to approve giving Hope Rising Church forgiveness for 85% of Borough taxes for years 2021 and 2022 for a total amount of \$3,053.78.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston explained the Church dropped off the letter that was included in the packet the last week of December. Due to miscommunication, the Church did not make a deadline for appealing their taxes for those years. The Church is asking the Borough for forgiveness for 2021 and 2022, which amounts to \$3,053.78. Megan Kerr, Director for Clarion County Tax Claim Bureau, relayed that both the County and School District have approved the request of the Church. If Council approves this request, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston will send this in writing to Ms. Kerr.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Terra Works, Inc., Pay Application Number 3 in the amount of \$45,922.50 for Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project and to authorize Clarion County to complete a CDBG Program drawdown and payment to Terra Works, Inc., in the amount of \$45,922.50.

Mr. Garbarino inquired if this is the work going on between Elss and Boundary?

Mr. Colosimo stated yes.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving Terra Works, Inc., Pay Application Number 4 in the amount of \$73,049.77 for Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project and to authorize Clarion County to complete a CDBG Program drawdown and payment to Terra Works, Inc., in the amount of \$73,049.77, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving Change Order Number 6 to Clarion Borough Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project to add installation of 238 lineal feet of 4-inch perforated underdrain piping behind the concrete curbing on the east side of South Sixth Avenue along with associated aggregate backfill for a total cost of \$2,974, carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve Change Order Number 7 to Clarion Borough Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project and add installation of

an additional 232 square yards of flexible road base and 174 square yards of road overlay materials for a total cost of \$1,292.

Ms. Roberts asked if the contractor didn't anticipate some of this work being done?

Mr. Colosimo reported this is actually an add-on to the original specifications for the project. PA American also did work in the Borough's project zone, and so their company will be restoring the road along with the Borough. Mr. Colosimo pointed out that's why the Borough only has to pay the small amount of \$1,292. PA American dug a trench right up through for sanitary sewer, installed pipe, and will restore the pavement, which the Borough is piggybacking on to make it more of an improvement.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving a revision to the 2021 CDBG Program transferring \$2,500 from Administrative Funds to Project Funds for the South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project and authorizing Clarion County to submit the revision to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve an amendment to the agreement between Clarion Borough and the EADS Group, Inc., for professional services for the South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project dated September 7, 2021, adding an additional \$2,500 for surveying and creation of control points for restoration paving. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

#### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sanders Dédé had nothing to report.

#### DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson reported the Committee is just starting to gear up for the springtime.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Schmader had nothing to report.

Vice President Aaron thanked the Public Works employees for keeping up on the little bit of snow.

#### STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Vice President Aaron welcomed Darren Frederick, the new Boardmember, and Rebecca Ferringer, the new Administrative/Stormwater Authority Assistant.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving to purchase a 2023 Dodge Charger from Tri\*Star Motors in the amount of \$35,914, which is through the Co\*Stars Program, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Valero Service to complete

outfitting of 2023 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$9,176.65. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving Clark Vinyl Graphics to install graphics on the 2023 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$1,475, carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader to give permission for Todd Colosimo to request for proposals from the banks in the amount of \$46,567 for the purchase of the 2023 Dodge Charger and equipment. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson commented some applications have been received for the Library Director position and interviews should be scheduled before the end of the month.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

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

Chief Administrator Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reminded all landlords that have not paid his/her rental unit invoice for 2023 to get it in as soon as possible. Second and final notices will be sent next week before any further action is taken.

#### RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated she is working on the annual reports and getting things together for the 2022 audit.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson had nothing to report.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer inquired what is going on out at the Borough office with all the equipment in the yard?

Mr. Preston stated sewer work is being done.

Ms. Fulmer just wondered if the Borough was taking out trees or something.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

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

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary