

June 6, 2023, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on June 6, 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 Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Montana, and Ms. Schmader. Mr. Garbarino and President Lapinto were absent. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Chief Peck, Mr. Preston, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the minutes of the May 2, 2023, Council Meeting, was carried with a vote of five yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the appropriations for the month of June. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

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

Vice President Aaron stated there is a second Council Meeting scheduled for June 20, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library, if necessary.

Vice President Aaron reminded everyone that the July Council Meeting will be held July 5, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Free Library, due to the Fourth of July Holiday.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry's special event request for the 70th annual Allegheny Toyota Autumn Leaf Festival, Autumn Adventures, to be held September 30 through October 8, 2023, with the only change being the time to close down Main Street on set-up day from Noon to 5 p.m., was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve Immaculate Conception Parish's special event request for road closures of Weaver Place from Main Street to Liberty Street and Madison Road from McDonald's Exit to 8th Avenue for Parish Picnic to be held August 13, 2023.

Vice President Aaron asked if everything looked good to the Chief?

Chief Peck has no problem with this request.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve award of Clarion Borough Contract 2023-1 Fire Department Building Overhead Doors Project to The Ribbon, Inc., dba Overhead Door Company of Franklin/Greater Erie for the base bid of \$91,422 (\$63,000 included in 2023 Budget).

Ms. Roberts inquired where the remainder will come from if only \$63,000 was budgeted.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the fire department was actually going to come up with the shortfall. However, since the demolition of the pool came in less than what was anticipated, the excess money that General Fund was going to transfer to Recreation Fund will be transferred to the Fire Equipment Fund. There is a motion further down the agenda to authorize those transfers. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported there will still be a little money needed to complete the project, which the firemen have agreed to come up with.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve Husted Plumbing and Heating to complete removal and reinstallation of gas heating components and replacement double wall piping at the Clarion Fire and Hose Company No. 1 Building for \$1,950.

Vice President Aaron inquired if that is in regards to the installation of the doors.

Mr. Preston and Mr. Colosimo both verified that was correct.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving to change the following Budget Line Items: increase 492.030.GF – transfer to Fire Equipment from \$63,000 to \$82,000 and decrease 492.880.GF – transfer to Recreation Fund from \$75,000 to \$53,000, carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving Terra Works, Inc., Pay Application Number Seven (Final) in the amount of \$39,365.90 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 \$39,365.90, with payment contingent upon submission of required project close-out documents, certified project payrolls, and other required documentation by Terra Works, Inc., to Clarion Borough, was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving the submission of Clarion Borough's 2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR) Case to the United States Census Bureau, was carried with a vote of five yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Montana informed everyone on May 23, 2023, five Borough Councilmembers attended a meeting in Shippenville with Jeff Smathers and Ed Heasley, which lasted about 2 hours. After their explanation,

it is going to be a very intense process. The County would like everyone to form a committee to go over everything. Mr. Montana provided his email address to 7 or 8 people but has not heard from anyone at this point. It will take at least a year to get everything formulated.

Vice President Aaron added it's really still just in the planning stages. The County presented the municipalities with an example from Ross Township in Pittsburgh. However, what works here may be a little bit different as the County's EMS covers parts of Forest, Armstrong, and Jefferson Counties. Vice President Aaron stated it's going to be a bigger project and pointed out the Rose Township Authority has a much larger population to generate revenue for that fee. At this point, nothing has been set in stone.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sanders Dédé had nothing to report.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN REPORT

Mr. Bryan Smith, representing the Destination Clarion Downtown Committee, publicly thanked the Alley Cats for the work that they've been doing and thinks Main Street looks fantastic with the flowers that have been put out and the upkeep of them.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve Destination Clarion Downtown's request for a \$750 donation for the beautification of the Main Street Project, which was included in the 2023 Budget. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Schmader reported the Clean-Up Day Comparison Chart is included in the packet for everyone's review.

Ms. Schmader stated three bids were received for the paving project, which everyone received a copy of the results tonight.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to accept the apparent low bid for the 2023 Paving Project Option #2 to Hager Paving Inc. in the amount of \$89,276.05, contingent upon successful review of all necessary bonds and insurances. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Aaron had nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron announced again that National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 1, 2023, and encouraged everyone to come out, enjoy and celebrate all the emergency responders, not just the police officers, but the firefighters and all other first responders.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson announced a new library director has been hired and will begin June 19th, which the Board is very excited about. Hopefully, a press release will be out before or right after she arrives.

At this point, Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated there is an opening on the Library Board. If anyone is interested in being on the Library Board, Mayor Fulmer Vinson ask he/she to contact her or send a note to the Library.

HOUSING AND ZONING

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

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts thanked Clarion Township for working with the Borough's Public Works Department to patch the lower entrance to the Clarion Little League and parking lot. Clarion Township had the equipment and were willing to come out and help. It looks great, and Council appreciates all the hard work the Public Works employees do and also having inter-governmental with Clarion Township.

Ms. Roberts asked for an update on the shelter at Paul A. Weaver Community Park.

Mr. Colosimo stated the Borough is looking more towards the Co*Stars Program now with possibly an add-on after construction of electricity.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson shouted out to all the local entities, all the pop-up shops, and all the Downtown businesses that did so much to get the first Summer Fest Weekend kicked off. It looked like it was really well attended. Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated a lot of great things are going on and looks forward to the next one in July and August.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

On June 16th at 11 a.m. in Still Hall at Clarion University, Dr. Sanders Dédé informed everyone the 21st annual Juneteenth celebration will be held. Jeffrey Polley is a prominent civic speaker, who is a graduate of Clarion University, and is a therapist at Clarion Family Therapy. Dr. Sanders Dédé stated this is free and open to all community members. A free lunch will be held afterwards.

Back to the EMS topic, Mr. Jacob Deemer, exploreClarion questioned what the Borough's intention is in regards to joining the County's proposal?

Mr. Montana stressed absolutely nothing has been decided. People have brought forth ideas, but it is really going to be a real pain.

In reference to the Summer Fun Fest weekends and closure of 6th Avenue, Mr. Bryan Smith thought Nancy Hanna and he were on the same page that the request should have included open alcohol containers in the 6th Avenue area. For the remaining two weekends, July 8th and August 5th, Mr. Smith asked for consideration to waive the open container policy on 6th Avenue. The insurance certificate that Clarion River Brewing Company provided covers all the liability, including a liquor liability policy.

Vice President Aaron referred that to the Public Safety Committee for review this month with action at the next Council Meeting.

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer asked if the post census review is a good or bad thing?

Vice President Aaron commented, hopefully, it will be a good thing. The Borough was short 39 people in the last census, due to the effects of COVID, and lost its CDBG entitlement.

Ms. Fulmer also inquired what streets are included in the 2023 Paving Project?

Vice President Aaron commented it includes the milling and paving of portions of Shady Avenue, Third Avenue, Church Road, Sixth Avenue, and Center Place as well as the leveling and double sealing of Robinwood Drive.

Ms. Fulmer verified nothing will be done with the big craters around the storm drains on Merle Road behind the Library?

Vice President Aaron agreed.

Mr. Smith pointed out the Public Works Department will still be out patching.

Mr. Preston agreed.

If everyone would have heard the police chase down that alley, Ms. Fulmer stated he/she would have been shocked. Those two state police cars probably had to be replaced.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston read an email received from Pete Bauer, a board member of the Clarion Cemetery Association, requesting Council to repeal the Cemetery Ordinance (Chapter 74 in the Code Book), which was included in the packet along with the Chapter. The Association feels that it levies unnecessary restrictions upon a volunteer organization, which complicates everything with additional rules. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston pointed out that basically does not allow the Association to bury or do any kind of improvements in that area. Mr. Sharrar researched the old minute books to see if there was any kind of explanation, but nothing was found. This was discussed briefly at the Housing and Zoning Committee, but the request to repeal was not known at that point. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston asked Solicitor Marshall what Council would have to do if you repeal an ordinance?

Solicitor Marshall questioned if that is a separate ordinance or part of the Zoning Ordinance?

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston and Mr. Sharrar stated it is a separate ordinance.

To repeal an ordinance, Solicitor Marshall commented Council would basically do the same process as adopting one with advertising and approving.

Vice President Aaron asked the Housing and Zoning Committee to discuss this further and bring it back to Council at the next meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary