

December 20, 2022, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on December 20, 2022, 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 Mr. Aaron, Mr. Montana, Ms. Schmader, and President Lapinto. Dr. Sanders Dédé participated by phone. Mr. Garbarino and Ms. Roberts were absent. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Himes, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Chief Peck, Mr. Sharrar, Solicitor Marshall, and Mr. Preston were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

President Lapinto asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the fiscal year budget.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving Resolution #2022-472, approving the fiscal year budget, was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve the 2023 Budget, Tax Ordinance #2022-840, and fee schedules.

Mr. Ron Wilshire, ExploreClarion, asked if there was a tax increase?

President Lapinto stated there is no tax increase. This was all discussed at the last meeting.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving the 2023 Salary Schedule, was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve Pete Bauer from an alternate member to member to a 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board to expire at the of 2025. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader, reappointing Barry Sweet to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission to expire at the end of 2026, was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, reappointing Karen Grosch to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission to expire at the end of 2026, was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to reappoint Barry Sweet to a 3-year term on the Police Pension Committee to expire at the end of 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to reappoint Barry Sweet to a 3-year term on the General Employees' Pension Committee to expire at the end of 2025, carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, reappointing Simon Aristeguieta-Trillos to a 3-year term on the Library Board to expire at the end of 2025, was carried with a vote of five yea.

President Lapinto stated the amount in the next motion for a pay request for Terra Works, Inc., has changed to \$51,764.58 and asked for a motion to approve the request and authorize the County to drawdown the funds to pay Terra Works, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving Terra Works, Inc., Pay Application Number Two in the amount of \$51,764.58 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 \$51,764.58, carried with a vote of five yea.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sanders Dédé had nothing to report.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN REPORT

There was none.

PUBLIC WORKS

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Mr. Aaron to change the status of Keaton MacBeth from probationary Public Works Laborer to regular Public Works Laborer, retroactive to December 16, 2022, contingent on obtaining CDL and Pesticides Certificate.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Himes for any comments.

Mr. Himes stated Mr. MacBeth is going for his CDL test next Friday, working on his pesticides, and doing a great job.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé to approve to hire Terry Blair, Clarion, as a part-time Public Works employee up to 29 hours per week at \$13.50 per hour, contingent on pre-employment physical and CDL query/testing and background check.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Himes why the employees would like to do this?

Mr. Himes stated the Department is down to one part-time employee that can help with snow removal when it gets really bad. Mr. Himes commented Mr. Preston, Mr. Sharrar, and he know Mr. Blair personally and he has his CDL license already and is retired. All the part-timers are retired and older, but they are good workers.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston added a third-party company performs the pre-employment CDL testing and is not sure how long it will be to get Mr. Blair on board.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Aaron announced Bryan Smith's resignation was accepted by the Stormwater Authority Board December 8, 2022, and effective that same date.

President Lapinto asked if Council needed to accept it as well?

Mr. Aaron stated no, but Council will need to find a replacement for the vacancy with the term to end 2026.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Aaron had nothing to report.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated the Board is getting close to posting the position for Library Director.

HOUSING & ZONING REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary reported Dan Gatesman did not want reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board at this time, and Mr. Bauer agreed to move from alternate member to member. Therefore, anyone interested in being an alternate to complete his vacant term that would expire at the end of 2024 should contact the office.

RECREATION

There was none.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson just wished everybody a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Ron Wilshire, exploreClarion, verified the Library Director resigned?

Mayor Fulmer Vinson agreed his last day was in October; however, he worked part-time until he moved in December to the Lycoming County area. The Clarion Free Library Board has been working with the Clarion County District Library Board in getting a job description together. It is getting close to posting that job.

Mr. Randy Bartley, reporter with The Derrick, doesn't believe it's been formally stated or not, but is the Borough going to appeal the last census.

Mr. Colosimo agreed the Borough is going to file a case, mainly for the Community Development Block Grant, and are not really challenging the survey but to ask for a reconsideration of the population at that time. The decennial 2020 is based on where you were on April 1st.

Mr. Bartley understands to be an entitlement community 4,000 is the population number.

Mr. Colosimo stated yes. The Borough is under 4,000 by 69. The official appeal paperwork will be turned into the Department of Commerce.

Mr. Bartley inquired if they would need to accept the Borough's appeal?

Mr. Colosimo commented yes and believes the State would also have to accept it; Department of Community and Economic Development. The thought is the students were no longer in the area as of April 1st and had been sent home for COVID, resulting in a lower number.

President Lapinto believes that is all host communities, including State College. Everybody's numbers were down. In Clarion County, there were only 2 CDBG-eligible municipalities; Clarion Township and Clarion Borough. The Commissioners thought that they would receive a lot more money, but that did not happen.

Mr. Bartley asked when the appeal has to be filed?

Mr. Colosimo stated by June 30, 2023.

Mr. Bartley inquired if the appeal is accepted, then if the Borough will go public and solicit what participate can be done here?

Mr. Colosimo does not know for sure. If accepted, the next step would be through the State to somehow get the entitlement reinstated. At that point, if the Borough gets the program back, public meetings will be set up.

Mr. Bartley asked when and what the amount of the last allocation for CDBG was?

Mr. Colosimo stated the last allocation was in 2021 and was roughly \$107,000.

Mr. Wilshire noted it's been \$100,000 quite a few years.

If the Borough doesn't get it back, Mr. Colosimo reported it would depend on the following decennial census results. If it is reinstated, it would probably be 2 years after that to get it up and running.

President Lapinto commented it would be a possible loss of \$1 million.

Mr. Wilshire asked what agency this would go to?

Mr. Colosimo stated the census is under the Department of Commerce and that is who the Borough would petition.

Related to this question, Mr. Wilshire understands the Borough's population mandated curbside recycling pickup and asked if the Borough would continue that?

Mr. Colosimo noted that population is 5,000.

President Lapinto stated the Housing and Zoning Committee has been discussing this. Like Mr. Colosimo stated they can't cut the population and take away the Borough's entitlement and yet mandate us to continue this program.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston believes the contract is in place until 2024 and is almost \$40,000 per year.

President Lapinto understands from research communities that are going out to bid, specifically Warren, went up 80%.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Mr. Aaron, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary