

December 6, 2022, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on December 6, 2022, in 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. Garbarino, Ms. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Montana, Ms. Schmader, and President Lapinto. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Preston, Chief Peck, Officer Lewis Armstrong, Mr. Sharrar, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston.

Before starting, President Lapinto called for a moment of silence for Solicitor Marshall on the passing of his dad last month; Julie Dunlap, the Borough's long-time police secretary, whose father was buried today; Paige Harrigan; and former Mayor Andrea Maitland's mother who passed away. May he/she rest in peace.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the November 1, 2022, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving the appropriations for the month of December, carried with a vote of seven yea.

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

President Lapinto announced the second Council Meeting will be held on December 20, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. The main purpose will be for adoption of the 2023 Budget.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Mr. Aaron to adopt and give permission to advertise the 2023 Proposed Budget.

For the media, President Lapinto pointed out this will be the 8th year without a tax increase, which is really remarkable considering the Borough is only 25% taxable. President Lapinto stated one of the main items included in the budget are new doors for the fire hall, which she showed the press a picture that he/she can get before leaving tonight. Other items are, as follows: the pavilion at Paul A. Weaver Community Park is in bad condition and will be replaced; major purchase of a police car; miscellaneous computer items, one being a laptop for Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston; and some new chairs. President Lapinto stated all of Council and the Mayor were involved in the preparation of the budget and asked anyone for additional comments.

Mr. Garbarino thanked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston for the

phenomenal job on this budget, which other Councilmembers agreed with.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston thanked everyone but stated it would not be possible without his/her help.

President Lapinto commented she did a tremendous job in putting everything together.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

For new Councilmembers, President Lapinto explained every year the Borough gets proposal for a Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000 just in case there is a revenue shortfall before taxes come in.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, giving permission to seek request for proposals for 2023 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Aaron to give an update on the Administrative/Stormwater Assistance Vacancy.

Mr. Aaron stated more discussion needs to be done with the Committee about the candidates, which will be done before the end of the month.

President Lapinto commended Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston and Police Secretary Dunlap for doing an outstanding job in picking up the slack and keeping it in order.

President Lapinto called on Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston to discuss the cleaning position.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported two individuals applied and were showed the Borough Office and Public Works Building, and, at this time, recommended Deb Himes of Clarion, be hired to fill this position.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve to hire Deb Himes, Clarion, to clean the Clarion Borough Buildings at the rate of \$390/month. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, approving Resolution #2022-471, a resolution disposing of Borough records, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto stated there is a list of boards and commissions to expire at the end of 2022 and commented each will be contacted to see if he/she wish to be reappointed.

President Lapinto stated next is to approve the proposed 2023 Council Meeting dates. Most of the regular meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month, with the exception of the following three

months: July 4th (holiday); Wednesday, August 2nd (due to National Night Out); and November 7th (election day). Council needs to decide to hold the meeting the Monday or Wednesday.

After some discussion, on a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve the 2023 proposed Council Meeting dates, with the following three regular meetings being on held on a Wednesday: July 5th, August 2nd, and November 8th. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

President Lapinto stated Council needs to advertise a public hearing for citizens to come state his/her concerns and issues with the franchise agreement with Xfinity. Council does not have the authority to do anything with the programming. A representative from Cohen Law Group will hopefully be present to answer any and all questions, as the firm negotiated the agreement.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Schmader to give permission to advertise a public hearing to be held January 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Council Meeting to receive public comments on the renewal of the franchise agreement with Xfinity. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, giving permission to approve Change Order #3 to Clarion Borough Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project to add the installation of one (1) 2' x 4' concrete inlet at the bid unit price of \$5,500, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving Change Order #4 to Clarion Borough Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project to add six (6) 4,000 PSI cast-in place inlet risers at \$1,250 each for a total cost of \$7,500, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to give permission to approve Change Order #5 to Clarion Borough Contract 2022-2 South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project to remove Item 7.C 6' diameter manholes all depths from the base bid for a total credit of \$15,000. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Mr. Colosimo added that is a total of five change orders on this contract, with the last one being a credit, resulting in an additional net change to the original contract of \$380.

Since the Borough lost its CDBG eligibility, President Lapinto reported this is the last of the money.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sanders Dédé stated the work is done for the year at the Park. If he/she drive by, the parking spaces are laid out. This has been an excellent job done there. Dr. Sanders Dédé reported the Blueprint Committee anticipates raising more money and getting more grants. The playground equipment will be installed in the spring. The additional money will be used for sidewalks and parking spaces in the next round.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Schmader had nothing to report.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

President Lapinto apologized and called on Mayor Fulmer Vinson to give a report for Destination Clarion Downtown.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated the planters look lovely, and it was great to have them done in time for the Christmas trees along Main Street. A lot of great comments are being received. This is great for the community.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve the 2023 Storm Water Authority Board Budget.

Mr. Aaron stated the Board doesn't necessarily have to prepare a budget each year; however, the agreement with the Borough say one will be done. Everyone received a copy in the packet. The Storm Water Authority Board Budget is prepared in conjunction with the Borough's proposed 2023 budget. Mr. Aaron noted there will be no rate change for 2023.

The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Mr. Aaron reminded everyone that Council will need to reappoint one position on the Board, by schedule, at the January 2023 meeting. Also, Mr. Aaron stated another resignation is coming from Bryan Smith, due to work constraints, but it has not been received yet. Council will need to approve that and appoint a replacement.

PUBLIC SAFETY

First off, Mr. Aaron reminded everyone the Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect through April 1, 2023. Everyone needs to read the signs carefully on where he/she can park and understand that at midnight it changes into the next day.

Secondly and more importantly, Mr. Aaron introduced Lewis Armstrong, the newest police officer that was long-awaited to start and asked Chief Peck for anything to add.

Chief Peck commented Officer Armstrong started mid-last week and has done a couple different things.

President Lapinto welcomed Officer Armstrong home, as he grew up in the area.

Officer Armstrong thanked Council for having him and is very happy to be here.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson reported she is one of 3 Library Boardmembers and 3 County Library System members on a Committee to get ready to advertise for a library director. The first meeting will be next week to finalize the job description.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson encouraged everyone who has not had a chance to meet Rose Slike, the Children's Librarian, to do so. A lot of good comments are being heard.

HOUSING AND ZONING

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, adopting Ordinance #2022-839, an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to add short-term rentals, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to un-table or bring back to the table permission for the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance #2023-841, an amendment to the Rental Unit Ordinance to add short-term rentals. The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

RECREATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, giving permission to approve payment of retainage (final payment) in the amount of \$5,750 to Terra Works, Inc., for Contract 2022-1 PAW Park Softball Field Improvements, contingent upon receipt of executed closeout documentation, including applicable bonding, was carried with a vote of seven yeas.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston again thanked everyone on his/her work on the 2023 budget preparation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson thanked everyone for his/her help and support with this being her first year as Mayor. Councilmembers and Chief Peck were always great at helping and answering her questions.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary