

February 6, 2024, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on February 6, 2024, in the Clarion Free Library. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Before starting, President Lapinto called for a moment of silence as Linda's sister passed away this morning and commends her for her dedication to this Borough for showing up at tonight's meeting. Councilmembers present were Mr. Garbarino, Ms. Logue, Mr. Aaron, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Schmader, and President Lapinto. Mr. Averill was absent. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Chief Peck, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Solicitor Marshall was absent.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the January 2, 2024, Organization Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the January 2, 2024, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the January 16, 2024, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of five yea with Ms. Logue abstaining as she was absent from that meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

Mr. Patrick Crooks, 525 Liberty Street, which is between 5th and 6th Avenues, understands everyone has been discussing the Noise Ordinance in town and wanted to provide his perspective as someone that lives very adjacent to the center and really the heart of town. Growing up on Wood Street, Mr. Crooks knew when he moved back 3 years ago, he wanted to live in a walkable community and loves walking to the coffee shop and the library. With that, comes noise. Mr. Crooks' residence is next to a big parking lot, resulting in vehicles as well as businesses doing live music events and festivals. Noise is part of living in town. Over the last 2 years, however, there have been many issues with noise on the weekends, particular between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., from a local night club. This is when noise is very difficult to deal with as it affects his ability to sleep in his own home. Mr. Crooks supports the businesses and college students having fun, but ultimately, wants to be able to sleep after 10 p.m., which is when he usually goes to bed. After reading Chapter 128,, it does not indicate a timeframe, even though a lot of people in town say it's 10 p.m. until 6 p.m. As Council begins to discuss the ordinance, Mr. Crooks asked the member to figure out what's best for the Borough, the residents, and the businesses and consider the time to meet. It's not just about the decibel level of the noise. Clarion Borough has Autumn Leaf Festival, live bands and music, and other great things happening in the community. The reason questions are when is this noise occurring and is the noise affecting somebody's quality of life. Mr. Crooks just wanted to share his personal experience living in the heart of town and encouraged Council to think about the timeframe if anything is adjusted in Chapter 128.

President Lapinto asked Ms. Roberts for any comments?

Ms. Roberts thanked Mr. Crooks for bringing this up. When the Committee discusses the ordinance, when and if there would be a change to it, this input will be considered.

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

President Lapinto stated the second meeting may be held on February 20, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if necessary. At this point, there is not.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Resolution #2024-487, a resolution approving, adopting, and placing into immediate effect the Emergency Operations Plan of Clarion County.

President Lapinto reported the Borough normally approves the County's Emergency Operations Plan. If not, municipalities have to come up with one on their own.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving the special event request for Wreaths Across America Ceremony to be held on December 14, 2024, at Noon on 2nd Avenue, with the insurance to be provided prior to the event, was carried with a vote of six yea.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

President Lapinto asked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston and Mr. Sharrar, who both attended the meeting in January, if there was anything to report.

Mr. Sharrar commented there is nothing new to report.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Clarion County Administrative Building located on Main Street in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

President Lapinto and Ms. Logue had nothing to report.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

President Lapinto stated there was none.

PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Aaron stated the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving termination of Joi Barkdoll-Pflugh as part-time Meter Enforcement Officer, effective January 11, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve the resignation of Frank Remmick as a part-time Police Officer, effective January 11, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve to hire Derek Holt as a probationary full-time Police Officer at an hourly rate of \$22.62 (70% of the standard base rate). The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron made a motion to request the Civil Service Commission to review the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

President Lapinto asked Chief Peck for any additional comments.

Chief Peck reported it's a very competitive pool out there and not too many applicants. Clarion Borough's Civil Service Rules and Regulations contain a lot of restrictions that limit the amount of applicants.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson commented the Board is getting an overall view of what needs to be done at the building. The library director is looking into some grants in anticipation to get the repairs done and hoping to work with the Borough.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Schmader had nothing to report.

RECREATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve Delta Development Group, Inc., to complete and submit a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) Grant Application for the 2024 Toby Boat Launch Project for a total cost of \$10,000.

Mr. Aaron stated a better explanation will come later on what the plans will be.

Ms. Roberts informed everyone the hope is to improve the area through the possibility of a grant.

Mr. Aaron agreed. Depending on how much money is received, Council can figure out how to spend it.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve The EADS Group, Inc., to provide application development and cost estimating services in support of the 2024 Toby Boat Launch Project for a total cost not to exceed \$5,000. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated she is in the process of getting the annual reports completed and hopes by mid-month the accounting can be closed. If so, the information can be prepared and provided to the financial advisor for the audit.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson welcomed Ace Hardware to Main Street and believes they have done an amazing job in there. This is quite an asset to Downtown.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson also welcomed Mr. Preston back and noted it's nice to see him.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer stated trees and spring is coming.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Logue, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary