

April 2, 2024, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on April 2, 2024, 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. Logue, Mr. Aaron, Ms. Roberts, and President Lapinto. Mr. Averill and Ms. Schmader were absent. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Chief Peck, Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present.

When everyone looks out tonight, President Lapinto pointed out he/she may see an empty chair for Janice Horn, who passed away. Ms. Horn has done so much for this community. President Lapinto called for a moment of silence to honor Ms. Horn. A service will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the March 5, 2024, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There was none.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson proclaimed April as Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month and encouraged all Pennsylvanians to visit the Pennsylvania 811 website at www.pa1call.org for information about digging safety, which was presented to Daniel Nemanic, Damage Prevention Liaison for Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the appropriations for the month of April, was carried with a vote of five yea.

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

President Lapinto announced the second meeting, if needed, will be held on April 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. Right now, it does not look like it will be needed.

President Lapinto commented the next two resolutions are necessary to deal with PennDOT so the Borough can get the cameras up on the poles.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue, approving Resolution #2024-489, authorizing the President to sign the agreement to authorize electronic access to PennDOT (TSAMS) and the Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary to attest to the same, was carried with a vote of four yea with Mr. Aaron voting no.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to approve Resolution #2024-490, authorizing the President to submit future modifications to the attached agreement, and submit future applications for traffic signal approval either in writing or via electronic signature to the Department of Transportation and to sign the same on behalf of Clarion Borough.

Mr. Garbarino thinks this motion makes less sense than the first one and inquired if it gives Council authorization to change anything that PennDOT wants at their leisure?

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated no. Anytime the Borough would apply for a Green-Light-Go or any PennDOT grant, it must be completed through PennDOT's electronic system. The Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, which is the second resolution, is anytime maintenance is done to a signal in the Borough; for instance, when light traffic bulbs are changed, a representative for the Borough is to go in and notate that in the system. This came to light when the Borough asked PennDOT for permission to put the cameras on the light poles. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston intended to bring these resolutions and agreements to Council in January and February, but, with everything going on, forgot to do so. Both agreements indicated in the motions were already submitted to PennDOT for approval. However, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston feels it best to approve these resolutions in case PennDOT requests them. By doing these now will eliminate the need to wait until May for a formal meeting and avoid further delay.

President Lapinto verified this is necessary if the Borough applies for any grants.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated that is correct. Dan Tyger from PennDOT stated the application's first question is if the electronic agreements are in place. If that is answered no, you will not be able to go any farther.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

President Lapinto commented there is nothing to report other than the next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Administrative Building.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue reported there will be a meeting by the end of the month.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

Mr. Jim Crooks reported Mayor Fulmer Vinson hosted a meeting of all the different organizations, which was well attended.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated most organizations were present and apologized if anyone was missed. It was a pretty good turnout.

Mr. Crooks feels it was a very productive meeting. Everyone got along and had an opportunity to share what his/her organization did.

Before Mr. Crooks reported on, President Lapinto asked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston to give an update on the meeting held with the Alley Cats.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported Mr. Colosimo received notification from Nancy Womeldorf indicating the Alley Cats' plans for May. A meeting was held in March, including Ms. Womeldorf and Ms. Sharon Guth, President Lapinto, Mr. Preston, Mr. Colosimo, and herself just to discuss the upcoming season and to make sure everything would be in order for May. The Borough's skid steer is currently down, which is used to lift the planters. After discussion, a specific date for the Public Works Department to assist the Alley Cats at C & A Trees is set. The skid steer should be back by that time. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston thought it was a good meeting.

President Lapinto also informed everyone that a meeting has been scheduled with Eric Funk, Clarion County Economic Development Corporation, to discuss a \$50,000 grant for the Alley Cats, which the Borough may have to be the applicant.

Mr. Crooks thinks a wish list was provided on what the Committee would like to see and to continue working on the beautification of town. The downtown has been cleaned up, and everyone is being encouraged to help out with that as well. Mr. Crooks stressed the vision is that a clean, pretty town will make a difference.

Mr. Crooks noted Ace Hardware is the newest retailer on Main Street, which is bringing a lot of traffic into town. Mr. Crooks is very excited for that business on Main Street.

PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the proposal from Tri-County Industries to supply dumpsters for Clean-Up Day to be held Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 6 until 11 a.m.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Preston if it will be handled the same way?

Mr. Preston commented it will be. Residents can pull up, and the employees will unload the items.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

Mr. Aaron announced Spring Leaf Collection will be Monday and Tuesday, April 29th and 30th and May 6th and 7th. Leaves must be at curbside by 7 a.m. No limbs or brush can be taken. There is no need to call. Mr. Aaron asked residents to keep the leaves on top of the curb not in the parking stalls or street so as to save a little bit of maintenance on the storm water system.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson reported the Board will be meeting this Thursday at Noon.

HOUSING AND ZONING

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue, approving the request from Pennsylvania American Water – Clarion Wastewater for permission to close the sidewalk in the Clarion Fruit area along Route 322 longer than 14 days, beginning March 25, 2024, with the fee to be collected after the project is completed, was carried with a vote of five yea.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Just a quick announcement for Recreation, Mr. Colosimo received word late this afternoon from Delta that the Toby Boat Launch application has been submitted to DCNR.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson had nothing additional but will also miss seeing Janice at the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 21 South 7th Avenue, mentioned trees.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

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

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary