

May 7, 2024, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on May 7, 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. Chief Peck, Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Preston, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mayor Fulmer Vinson was absent, and, President Lapinto could only vote in the case of a tie.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the April 2, 2024, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There was none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the appropriations for the month of May, was carried with a vote of four yea.

For Council's review, President Lapinto reported the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are in the packet.

President Lapinto announced the second meeting will be held on May 21, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if needed. Right now, it may be possible in regards to the grant for the Toby Launch area.

President Lapinto stated the next several items are for special event requests. The first one is an additional request from Clarion Summer Fest to extend the closure of Sixth Avenue from Merle Road to Wood Street on June 8<sup>th</sup>. For safety reasons, Merle Road will remain open to traffic across Sixth Avenue.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving Clarion Summer Fest's request to close Sixth Avenue from Merle Road to Wood Street on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving Clarion VFW/American Legion's special event request for Memorial Day Services at Clarion Cemetery on May 27, 2024, from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m., was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Aaron to approve the Immaculate Conception Church's special event request for road closures of Weaver Place from Main Street to Liberty

Street and Madison Road from McDonald's exit to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to be held August 4, 2024, for the parish picnic.

Ms. Roberts asked if this was previously done?

President Lapinto confirmed it was.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino, giving permission for the Clarion County Economic Development Corporation to pursue \$50,000 "Hometown" Grant by T-Mobile, on behalf of Alley Cats as well as the Borough, for 9 planters between Haskell House and Main Street, 6 self-watering planters between the Post Office and the Chamber on both sides of Main Street, as indicated on the drawing included in the packet, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to approve to join Clarion & Jefferson Counties Borough Association at the cost of \$30 per year. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to give permission to authorize Carol Lapinto, Council President, Rachel Roberts, Council Vice President, and Benjamin Aaron, President Pro Tem to open and sign on a deposit account at S & T Bank and permission for S & T Bank to provide communications on accounts to Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary, and Todd Colosimo, Borough Treasurer.

President Lapinto asked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston to explain.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston informed Council the Borough has a General Fund Plan B checking account that requires a minimum balance of \$5,000 and would like to change to a savings account, where the balance would only be \$200. Due to new banking requirements, Council must authorize, at an official meeting, by name and position the signers on any new account and provide the minutes to the Bank. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston added the bank also requires the Solicitor to submit a letter to the Bank stating Clarion Borough is a municipal government. As long as the letter is generic and does not identify a specific account, the Bank can keep it.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving Kroh Roofing Inc.'s fire hall stairwell roof repair estimate in the amount of \$1,875, carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to give permission to send a letter to Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority Board for permission for Clarion Borough to apply for

a DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant for 2024 (includes stormwater and road improvements).

President Lapinto asked Mr. Aaron to explain what this is about.

Mr. Aaron reported this would be the same grant that CBSA had initially applied for at the beginning of the year. The Board was misinformed there wouldn't be a match required for the Authority. However, that did not apply to authorities only to municipal government. Mr. Aaron commented the Board backed off, as a 30% match would have meant \$248,000 for that project. Since the stormwater component is already in the beginning phases of the design and the grant is pretty much ready to go, it would make sense for the Borough to apply for this grant.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston added updated estimates would be needed.

Mr. Colosimo stated the application is ready but just needs to be dusted off. Tippin Drive is pretty much designed, but the Gemmell component needs more design work.

Mr. Aaron reminded everyone this was actually part of the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant, but due to easement issues, had to be abandoned.

Hearing no other questions, the motion carried with a vote of four yea.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

President Lapinto reported the next meeting will be held May 20, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Administrative Building.

President Lapinto announced there will be a get together from 3-4 p.m. that day to honor EMS and believes the Mayor will be presenting a proclamation as well.

#### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue stated Blueprint needs 3 nights above 60 degrees to pour the pad at the park. Once that is completed, the Committee will announce the official grand opening and get fliers out.

Ms. Logue reported the Committee is putting out a bid for Phase 3, which is for all the sports courts, amphitheater seating, and the remainder of the wall. Once the bids come back, it may be built by fall.

#### DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

There was none.

#### PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Aaron reminded everyone Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 6 until 11 a.m. at the Public Works Building on Veterans Drive. Also, just as a reminder, everyone should bring proof of residency.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving to purchase a tailgate spreader from U. S. Municipal in the amount of \$5,504.50, which is through Costars and will be paid with Liquid Fuels Funds, was carried with a vote of four yea.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts announced National Night Out will be August 6, 2024, from 6-9 p.m.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

There was none.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Logue reported the Borough received Section 904 Performance Recycling Grant for 2022 in the amount of \$3,497.94.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Roberts to give permission to advertise for bids for recycling contract.

Ms. Logue asked if this would be for a 5-year period?

Mr. Sharrar verified that was correct.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

#### RECREATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron, approving the base bid from Grahamboys, LLC, dba Graham Construction, Claysville, Pennsylvania in the amount of \$39,969 for Clarion Borough Contract 2024-1: Pavilion Replacement – Paul A. Weaver Community Park, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve the amendment extending the period of the License Agreement between Clarion Borough and Brookfield Renewable for the purposes of making improvements to the Toby Launch Facility. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

Ms. Roberts reported there is a new t-ball field that was built at the ballfields and thanked the volunteers from Little League and the Maintenance Department that did a lot of work to get it ready. This field cost virtually nothing to create and is a new space for the little ones to have fun.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston continues to work on getting the audit completed for last year.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston announced the next Clarion & Jefferson Counties Borough Association Meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's Church in Falls Creek.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

There was none.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Back to the Recreation, Mr. Garbarino knows there are a lot of people with boats and docks to be put in but pointed out dredging will not be done this year. Some people were under the impression it would be, but it will not take place. So, what it is now, is what it will be.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Bud Bender, Raleigh, North Carolina, voiced concern with the pump that is behind the library, which collects the water from the foundation of the building. When the pump goes off, the water goes down the alley between his house and Kirk Wise's as well as washes out the end of his parking lot for that house. Mr. Bender reported this to Mr. Colosimo but has not received an answer. A stormwater inlet exists 10-15' south of that area, and Mr. Bender doesn't feel it would cost much for that to be hooked into that inlet.

President Lapinto turned it over to Mr. Aaron, as Chairman of the Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority.

Mr. Aaron confirmed this has been brought to CBSA's attention, and the Board is working on a solution for that area that would address other property owners as well.

Mr. Bender commented it's been going on for 2-3 year now and asked how long it takes?

Mr. Aaron stated there will be much more discussion on this at the CBSA Meeting scheduled for Thursday in this room.

Mr. Bender plans to attend the meeting but also thinks it is a Council problem as he is a taxpayer.

President Lapinto pointed out the Borough formed a stormwater authority specifically to handle all stormwater throughout the entire Borough. It is an aging system. This was a way to generate revenue to try to solve the problems. President Lapinto added only 24% of the entire Borough is taxable.

Mr. Bender feels the Borough Maintenance Department could dig a ditch and direct that water into that inlet. After the meeting, everyone can go out back and see where the parking lot has eroded. Mr. Bender contacted Mr. Colosimo at least 2 years ago, and it just seems ridiculous to have to wait this long for a resolution. Also, Mr. Bender doesn't think it is fair to charge the citizens of Clarion Borough for stormwater when there aren't any storm sewers.

Mr. Aaron stressed there are 17 miles of storm sewer.

Mr. Bender inquired how many are along Main Street?

Mr. Aaron noted that has to do with PennDOT, and all of this was developed before he was born.

Mr. Bender stressed he just wants the problem solved and will attend Thursday's meeting. Mr. Bender feels Council are the elected officials that are in charge whereas the Board isn't.

President Lapinto reported the members are appointed and repeated this is a separate board created by Council to handle the stormwater problems.

Mr. Bender thinks 2-3 years is long enough to wait for something to be done and commented his next step may be to see Solicitor Marshall.

Solicitor Marshall commented Mr. Bender would have to contact CBSA's attorney as he represents Council.

Mr. Bender received a letter from their attorney in Camp Hill for not paying his stormwater fees, which he may not, just to see what the members will do about it. That's another issue; residents are being billed 3 months in advance, and it should be after they receive the service.

President Lapinto noted CBSA can place a lien on Mr. Bender's property.

Not to be argumentative to Mr. Bender but on a completely separate issue, Mr. Garbarino thanked the Borough employees for the wonderful job cleaning up the river rock and dirt that ended up at Toby a couple weeks ago from Third Avenue. It was much more than the residents would have been able to shovel. The employees did a great job at cleaning the area up, which was a huge help.

Several years ago, Ms. Fulmer discussed the possibility with Mr. Bender of replacing the trees along 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Bender stated those trees were rotten and dangerous.

Ms. Fulmer offered to replace the trees, but Mr. Bender indicated he would take care of them.

Solicitor Marshall commented this is a Borough Meeting and asked for an adjournment.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Garbarino, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary