

June 4, 2024, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on June 4, 2024, in the Clarion Free Library. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Ms. Logue, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Schmader, and President Lapinto. Messrs. Garbarino, Averill, and Aaron were absent. Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Preston, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Chief Peck and Mr. Sharrar were absent.

Upon a request by President Lapinto, on a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Roberts to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session for possible litigation, was carried with a vote of four yea, beginning at 7:02 p.m., including Councilmembers, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston.

President Lapinto called the meeting back to order at 7:17 p.m.

Solicitor Marshall stated for the record no official action will be taken after the Executive Session.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve the May 7, 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 Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving the appropriations for the month of June, was carried with a vote of four yea.

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

President Lapinto announced the second meeting may be held on June 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if needed. At this point, there is no need.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve the First Baptist Church of Clarion's special event request to block 7th Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street on June 21, 2024, for a Jam Party.

President Lapinto asked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston if everything was straightened out.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated yes. After contacting them, the reason for blocking 7th Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street and not keeping

Madison Road open is due to safety of the children and their parents to activities between the church and parking lot. Two years ago, Council approved the same event for the Church; the only difference, it was held on a Sunday not a Friday. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston commented the Public Works Department can place barricades at Main Street, both sides of Madison Road, and Liberty Street. Anyone exiting McDonald's or Dunkin' Donuts will have to take a different route during those hours.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue, giving permission to approve contracts for video surveillance systems at the Public Works Building (\$4,186.57), the Fire Hall Building (\$4,051.74), and the Borough/Police Building (\$4,248.63), for a total of \$12,486.94 from MVS Security Services, Ford City, Pennsylvania (CoStars Vendor), was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, giving permission to procure a contractor for Library Sewage Lateral Repair Project

Mr. Colosimo added the preliminary camera work will be completed tomorrow.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

President Lapinto stated the next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Administrative Building. However, it is dependent on if all the budget figures are received..

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue commented the Committee did not meet this month but believes the opening of the Park is scheduled for June 12th.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

There was none.

PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

In the absence of Chairman Aaron, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported a Clean-Up Day Comparison Chart is included on the back of the Public Works Report. For 2024, it was slightly higher at \$2,888, which probably has to do with the delivery and fuel charges in addition to the tonnage.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the PennDOT municipal representative provided estimates for the milling, paving, and tar and chipping of various streets. Unfortunately, the estimates were higher than what was budgeted for 2024. Therefore, the Department recommended milling and paving of all the following streets: Keatley Place from Madison Road to a dead end, Haskell Place from George Road to Wood Street, and Chestnut

Street from Emerson Way to a dead end. If permission is given to advertise, the bids will be due on June 27th with anticipated action at the July 2nd Council Meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue, giving permission to advertise the 2024 Paving Project, as discussed, carried with a vote of four yea.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston asked Mr. Preston to discuss the next item.

Mr. Preston commented the Department would like to rent a skid loader with a Harley rake to repair the ground below the new Borough sign and the area out back where a new drain was installed last year.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve to rent attachment and tractor/loader with bucket from Bobcat of Clarion for one week at the estimated cost of \$1,566. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson reported, a few months ago, Borough representatives and Rebecca Aharrah, Clarion Free Library Director, met with contractor Joe Burns to review the Library building's needs. The #1 priority was the roof. Making repairs will not be enough as there are different types of roofs on the library; flat, shingled, and so on. Mayor Fulmer Vinson commented it will need to be a replacement and will be a very huge project. Prior to that being done, Mayor Fulmer Vinson met with one of Senator Casey's team members regarding the library needs in general that were coming up. After the roof was identified, Commissioner Braxton White helped arrange a meeting with Senator Casey's team member, Mr. Trace Ledgard, and several members of Council and the Library Board to discuss the building. Mr. Ledgard announced the Senator was going to be opening up his appropriations submission. Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated Mr. Colosimo and Ms. Aharrah worked very hard gathering all the information in a very short window as well as support letters from the community and library to submit by the deadline. Mayor Fulmer Vinson informed everyone that notification was received today that stated Senator Casey's Office has submitted the project in the amount of \$348,000 to the Senate Appropriations Committee for funding consideration. It is very clear that the Committee needs to review each project to determine eligibility and funding level. Mayor Fulmer Vinson stressed this is just one step in the process of many variables and does not guarantee funding. For transparency, the project summary will be posted shortly on Senator Casey's website under the Appropriations tab shortly. As more information becomes available, it will be passed along. Mayor Fulmer Vinson pointed out this is a very big hurdle to be submitted by Senator Casey and his team and knows Senator Casey considers this a very important project and will continue to fight for the Borough throughout the process. The ultimate determination will be the budget being passed, which will take a little longer. Mayor Fulmer Vinson hopes, as well as Commissioner White, that this will

make it through as it is a huge amount of money that the Borough and Library do not have and thanked everybody that was involved in getting this so far. It was a true team effort with everybody working together.

President Lapinto noted it is a big step and thanked Mayor Fulmer Vinson for her work as well.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Schmader commented two bids were received for the recycling contract, Tri-County Industries and Waste Management. The Committee will discuss the results with possible action at the July Council Meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Schmader with a second by Ms. Logue, giving permission for Clarion Area Agency on Aging to place 2 outdoor tables and 4 chairs on the sidewalk in front of the Main Street Center located at 516 Main Street to be put out each morning and removed each evening from May until October 2024, carried with a vote of four yeas.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston informed everyone Sam Lynch, the Borough's financial consultant, will be coming up tomorrow to meet with the County assessor to get information. Work will continue on the audit.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson mentioned this weekend is the first Summer Fest event for the year. Activities are scheduled all weekend long. Hopefully, the rain doesn't hurt it too much.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

First off, Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 21 South Seventh Avenue, thanked all the first responders of Clarion for their prompt response to her call last Tuesday. Seven firemen and four policemen responded when a woman backed out of the CVS parking lot and smashed into the gas meter and house.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson commented it was interesting how the driver made it all the way through the parking lot in reverse, up over a curb, across the alley, and into the house.

Ms. Fulmer reported the gas meter has been replaced, but the brick wall of the house will require some magical intervention. While reporting this to the 9-1-1 operator, Ms. Fulmer was stumped when asked for the cross street as there was no sign, which turned out to be Merle Road.

Mr. Preston commented a street name cannot be on every street as it would be too expensive.

Ms. Fulmer stated she could put up a piece of cardboard with a thumbtack that says 'Merle Road' but would appreciate if a sign could be installed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston read a note from the Clarion Alley Cats thanking Council for their continued support for the Main Street beautification efforts and the financial assistance that allows them to continue to reach their goals each summer. The Alley Cats looks forward to making Clarion even more beautiful each year.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary