

December 19, 2023, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on December 19, 2023, as advertised, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers present were Mr. Aaron, Mr. Montana, Ms. Schmader, and President Lapinto. Mr. Garbarino, Ms. Roberts, and Dr. Sanders Dédé were absent. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Solicitor Marshall, Chief Peck, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Sharrar, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Himes, Solicitor Marshall, and Mr. Preston were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

Mr. Andy Montana, representing Clarion Business and Revitalization Group, stated Mr. Husted and Ms. Staley were unable to be here tonight but wanted to ask to be listed on the January 2, 2024, agenda. The Group's idea is to leave all the Christmas trees on Main Street but change all the lights from color to white. All the ornaments would be removed from the trees. Mr. Montana stated the Group hasn't determined when the trees would be removed from Main Street but suggested March 5<sup>th</sup>, Daylight Savings Time, or March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter. Mr. Husted and Ms. Staley will bring this up at the next meeting.

President Lapinto asked if the individuals get their ornaments back?

Mr. Montana stated yes. The signs will be taken down. Again, any colored lights will be changed to white lights. All the trees will be removed at the same time as well.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to adopt the revised 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$17,953.

President Lapinto clarified the MMO's must be adopted by Council in September, which both were, and asked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston to explain.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston received an email that the MMO's were recalculated using the January 1, 2023 Actuarial Reports that were just completed. Both plans MMO's were less than the original ones approved. Mockenhaupt suggested that Council adopt these revised MMO's before acting on the budget.

President Lapinto commented this is a significant difference for the police plan from the previously approved amount of \$47,823.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, adopting the revised 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the General Employees' Pension Plan in the amount of \$69,422, carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving Resolution #2023-483, approving the fiscal year budget, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve the 2024 Budget, Tax Ordinance #2023-843, and fee schedule. The motion carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, approving the 2024 Salary Schedule, was carried with a vote of four yea.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, accepting the resignation from Christy Logue from the Zoning Hearing Board, effective December 12, 2023, carried with a vote of four yea.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Montana reported the first Emergency Medical Services Task Force Meeting was held last night. The Committee is in the process of gathering board members, a secretary was found today, and the members present agreed to gather the financials from the services in the area. Mr. Montana announced the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the County Building. There are a lot of hurdles and a tough hill to climb; however, Mr. Montana will stay on it.

#### PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Aaron commented the CBSA Board received approval from their Solicitor to include \$15,000 in the 2024 CBSA Budget to be used towards repairs for the leaf vac, if needed.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston thanked everybody for all their help.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson wished everyone Happy Holidays.

President Lapinto wished her mother was present.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson pointed out her parents' 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on Thursday and wasn't allowed to embarrass her mom, but it's on the record now.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary