

December 5, 2023, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on December 5, 2023, in the Assembly Room of 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. Roberts, Dr. Sanders Dédé, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Montana, Ms. Schmader, and President Lapinto. Mr. Sharrar, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Himes, Mr. Preston, Chief Peck, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second Ms. Roberts, approving the minutes of the November 8, 2023, Council Meeting, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the appropriations for the month of December. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

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

President Lapinto announced the second Council Meeting will be held December 19, 2023, at 7 p.m. In the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. The main purpose will be for adoption of the 2024 Budget.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts to give permission to advertise the 2024 Proposed Budget.

President Lapinto informed everyone the proposed budget contains no tax increase and is a pretty straight forward budget. The major expenditures will be cameras for the Administrative/Police Office, Public Works Building, and at the Clarion Fire and Hose Co. #1 Building; computers for the police and administration departments, a couple of printers, and a server; and the refurbishing of the leaf truck, which is estimated at \$8,500.

Mr. Himes reported the representative stated the Department is looking at \$20,000-30,000 now, which is considerably higher.

President Lapinto stated the budget contains \$156,260 for an excavator and a roller, which will only be purchased if the Borough received the grant that Mr. Himes and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston submitted. For Recreation, the pavilion at the park was included. Also, funding was included for the Alley Cats, as requested, and money towards the library to address a sewage problem.

Hearing no questions, the motion carried after the following roll call vote: Mr. Garbarino, yes; Ms. Roberts, yes; Dr. Sanders Dédé, yes; Mr. Aaron, yes; Mr. Montana, yes; Ms. Schmader, yes; and President Lapinto, yes.

President Lapinto thanked Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston for all the work on getting all these things together for the proposed budget.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston thanked all of the Councilmembers and the Mayor for helping out as well.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Roberts, giving permission to seek request for proposals for 2024 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve Resolution #2023-482, a resolution disposing of Borough records. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

For informational purposes, President Lapinto announced two terms will expire at the end of 2023: Kristin Clark on the Zoning Hearing Board, a 3-year term, and Jennifer Fulmer Vinson on the Library Board, a 3-year term.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Aaron to give permission to advertise January 2, 2024, Organization Meeting to be held at 6:45 p.m. with the regular Council Meeting to begin at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Dr. Sanders Dédé, giving permission for Todd Colosimo to request Clarion County to drawdown CDBG Funds to reimburse the Borough's General Fund in the amount of \$26,080.48 for the following expenses: Todd Colosimo's CDBG wages from October 16, 2022, through November 25, 2023, \$1,560.03; final South Sixth Avenue Reconstruction Project engineering expenses, \$23,982.89; and advertising expense for The Clarion News Invoice #366487 for 2023 to 2025 CDBG Consulting Engineer RFP Notice, \$537.56, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Montana reported a meeting has been scheduled for the Clarion County Emergency Medical Service Task Force for Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Clarion County Learning Center located in Shippenville in the old Sorce Building to hopefully deter any type of idea of municipalities paying a fee. Mr. Montana has a plan, but it may not go over well with many people. It's something that is coming this way and should take care of this funding problem.

In front of each member tonight, Mr. Montana provided a copy of a flier in reference to EMS classes through Clarion-Butler Healthcare System being held twice a week beginning January 16<sup>th</sup> through June. The class is going to be held at the University and will cost \$795. Mr. Montana stated he will be taking this class to get a good idea of what to do and what is going on.

### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sanders Dédé reported that despite the weather work was being completed on installing the playground equipment so that it will be operational in the spring. The street lights are up and there are also seasonal decorations at the park. The park really enhances the neighborhood. It looks really nice.

Also, Dr. Sanders Dédé commented a grant was submitted for in excess of \$300,000 so that the Committee can have the funds available to start the construction of the splash pad and skating rink. The infrastructure is already in place.

### DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN REPORT

Mr. Jim Crooks thanked the Public Works Department on the fantastic job with the wreaths and all of the volunteers that made Clarion look beautiful. The comments being received from out-of-town people are just overwhelming and positive. Mr. Crooks thinks everybody did a great job in getting the park together and encouraged people to take time to walk through there when the lights are lite; it's really beautiful. Downtown looks really great. Mr. Crooks thanked Council for all that they did this past year to beautify the Main Street area. Positive things are going on that area really great. Again, Mr. Crooks thanked President Lapinto, Council, and all the volunteers for making it happen.

### PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Aaron reminded everyone that Council will appoint one individual to the Clarion Borough Storm Water Authority Board at the January 2, 2024, Council Meeting, as Mr. DiStefano does not wish to be reappointed.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Dr. Sanders Dédé reminded everyone the Snow Removal Ordinance begins December 1, 2023, through April 1, 2024, and reminded everyone to park on the right side of the street to avoid getting a ticket.

On a motion by Dr. Sanders Dédé with a second by Ms. Roberts, changing the status of Lewis Armstrong from Probationary Police Officer to Regular Police Officer, retroactive to December 1, 2023, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

### LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson commented there will be a Library Board Meeting on Thursday, where hopefully a new member will be added.

Also, Mayor Fulmer Vinson appreciates the Borough helping the Library to try to figure out what is going on with the water/sewer situation. Hopefully, it doesn't get worse.

### HOUSING AND ZONING REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Schmader, adopting Ordinance #2023-844, amending Article V, Opening and Excavations, of Chapter 185, Streets and Sidewalks, was carried with a vote of seven yea.

Mr. Garbarino reminded everyone that residents/business owners must remove snow/ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours of the last snow fall.

#### RECREATION REPORT

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson shared she really enjoyed the Ugly Sweater Parade last Saturday and thought it went well. Every year, it's grown. It was lovely weather for it. Mayor Fulmer Vinson appreciated everybody that came out and participated with it.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Sanders Dédé personally commented this will be her last formal regular Council Meeting and stressed she was grateful to the citizens of Clarion Borough in the State of Pennsylvania that trusted and elected her to Borough Council in 2009. Serving on Council since January 2010, Dr. Sanders Dédé has served as Vice President of Council and on various committees. During her time on Council, Dr. Sanders Dédé stated it has been her mantra to serve at the will of the people and to serve for the people. Not once did Dr. Sanders Dédé think of what she could or would get out of this service but rather what was best for the people and citizens of Clarion Borough and even sometimes the surrounding communities. Dr. Sanders Dédé hoped to help the betterment of this community even if only in a small way. Dr. Sanders Dédé admonished each one to remember that they are elected to serve the people and citizens of the Borough, not a political party, not a section of the Borough, not for a certain group of people in the Borough, not a particular neighborhood, but all the people of Clarion Borough always remembering the laws, the rules, and the regulations. Dr. Sanders Dédé thanked everyone for allowing her to serve the citizens of Clarion Borough for the past 14 years.

Dr. Sanders Dédé received a round of applause from all present.

President Lapinto commented she will miss Dr. Sanders Dédé, her sister, and despite one being a Democrat and one a Republican, both have been able to discuss situations. President Lapinto added she still has Dr. Sanders Dédé's phone number.

Ms. Janice Horn thanked Dr. Sanders Dédé from the citizens of the Borough.

Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer thanked Dr. Sanders Dédé for your service.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Aaron with a second by Ms. Schmader, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary