

July 2, 2024, Council Meeting
Minutes

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

At this time, President Lapinto called for a partial reorganization relating to President Pro Tem Position and asked for a nomination.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino, appointing Christy Logue as President Pro Tem, was carried with a vote of five yea.

Continuing on, President Lapinto reorganized some of the committees, as follows: Public Safety will remain the same with Rachel Roberts as Chair, Zach Garbarino, the Mayor, and herself; Housing and Zoning will be the same with Patty Schmader as Chair, Christy Logue, and herself; Public Works/Storm Water Authority will be Christy Logue as Chair, Rachel Roberts, and herself; Recreation will be Rachel Roberts as Chair, Christy Logue, and herself; and Administration will be Rachel Roberts, Christy Logue, the Mayor, and herself.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the June 6, 2024, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There was none.

ADMINISTRATION

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

President Lapinto reported 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 July 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if needed. There is no need at this time.

President Lapinto reminded everyone the August Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, due to National Night Out.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts, giving permission for Linda LaVan-Preston to attend PAMA's (Pennsylvania Association of Municipal Administrator, formerly Pennsylvania Local Government Secretaries Association) 65th annual conference at the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie, August 11-14, 2024, at an approximate cost of \$846.21 (conference registration, \$375; room reservations, \$471.21), carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to approve the Clarion Area Boosters special event request for the Clarion Area Annual Bonfire to be held August 22, 2024, from 7-9 p.m.

Ms. Roberts asked if the firemen will be building the fire and remain there to monitor it at all times.

Mr. Preston stated yes.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Schmader to approve the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry's special event request for their 71st annual Allegheny Toyota Autumn Leaf Festival™, "Autumn Adventures", to be held September 28 through October 6, 2024.

President Lapinto noted the request begins September 26 through October 7, 2024, to provide extra time for carnival rides/games to be set up and torn down, which affects the Borough streets only.

Ms. Roberts asked if everything else is the same?

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston thinks the beer stein competition will be held on the car show day versus the parade date; but other than that, everything else is pretty much the same.

President Lapinto informed everyone that Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston, Mr. Sharrar, and she met with the carnival company, and it really sounds like it is going to be full this year.

Ms. Schmader asked if there will be rides this year?

President Lapinto agreed and asked Mr. Sharrar what kind the owner mentioned?

Mr. Sharrar reported the Ferris wheel; bumper cars, which will take 2 days to set up, tilt-a-whirl, along with others. It will be a decent carnival this year.

Mr. Garbarino inquired if this company is from Punxsutawney?

President Lapinto stated yes. Local people will be hired to work the rides/games.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston pointed out the owner used to drive school buses and then got into the carnival business. In addition to the State inspecting the rides, the owner is big on safety and conducts inspections numerous times.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to approve Resolution #2024-491, a Resolution authorizing a request to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Funding for the Tippin Drive and Gemmell Drive Road Reconstruction Project and authorizing Carol Lapinto, President, and Rachel Roberts, Vice President, to execute all documents and agreements between Clarion Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo to briefly explain what this means.

Mr. Colosimo stated this grant will be a little over \$1 million and will complete the storm sewer project on Tippin Drive and some reconstruction as well as the Gemmell Road rollercoaster problem.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts to approve the MTF Grant Funding Commitment Letter Requesting a Waiver of the Local Match Requirement.

Mr. Colosimo stated municipalities, such as the Borough, can request and receive a waiver of the match requirement.

President Lapinto noted that was the problem the last time that the Storm Water Authority Board could not get the waiver, meaning a 30% match. Changing the applicant to the Borough means the match would be waived.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

President Lapinto commented Mr. Sharrar, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston and she are part of this committee, but there is really no report. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Administrative Building.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue stated the Committee will meet this month and noted the Park's opening was very nice.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

There was none.

PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Schmader, accepting the apparent low bid for the 2024 Paving Project to Hager Paving Inc., in the amount of \$61,933.65, contingent upon successful review of all necessary bonds and insurances, carried with a vote of five yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts announced National Night Out will be held August 6, 2024, from 6-9 p.m. It will be held on Main Street from the County Park all the way down to McDonalds. Ms. Roberts looks forward to seeing everybody at the event.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue to accept the retirement letter from Police Officer Neil Kemmer, effective August 20, 2024.

President Lapinto stated Officer Kemmer has been an officer for a long time, and this is with regrets.

Chief Peck noted almost 25 years.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino to give permission to hire Neil Kemmer as a part-time police officer (school police officer) per agreement with the Clarion Area School District at the hourly rate of \$35.41 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Garbarino verified the School District will pay for this service?

President Lapinto and Ms. Roberts agreed.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Logue, giving permission to advertise for a part-time meter enforcement officer up to 29 hours per week, carried with a vote of five yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated it's been a very busy summer with reading programs and all kinds of great activities. Everyone is welcome to participate.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Logue reported the Borough's 5-year recycling contract will expire at the end of the year. Clarion Borough no longer meets the population threshold, which makes the Borough mandated

to recycle. The current cost has been \$39,280 per year. Ms. Logue reported two bids were received; one from Tri-County Industries at a cost of \$63,388.80 per year and one from Waste Management at a cost of \$50,481 per year. Also, the bids are more limited in the items that can be taken from the current contract. At this time, the Committee is looking at alternative plans that might be cheaper and wish to table action until the August Meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Schmader, tabling action on the recycling bid proposals until the August 2024 Council Meeting, carried with a vote of five yea.

RECREATION

Ms. Roberts announced the company will notify the Public Works Department a couple weeks before they plan to start the pavilion so that the demolition can be completed.

Ms. Roberts reported the baseball fields have been very busy hosting the 10U Little League and the first two games of the 12U All-Stars games.

Ms. Roberts stated Toby launch is still being worked on. The Borough still has plans of doing restoration.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston announced a notice was received from Reliance Standard that there will not be a rate change for the dental and vision plans for the year 2025, which is great news.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston commented more big news was received early in June from Ms. Rupasi Young, Sri Chinmoy Oneness Home Peace Run Colors of Peace Art Initiative Regional Director, to inform Mayor Fulmer Vinson and Council that the Peace Run Team will be passing through Clarion Borough on Monday, August 5, 2024, between 1-1:30 p.m. This run is a global torch relay run that was created in 1987 as a way to give expression to humanity's innate love of peace and friendship. Every 2 years, teams of runners cover over 25,000 miles globally while carrying a flaming torch, symbolic of the flame of peace in every heart. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated the teams visit schools, community groups, and community and world leaders while also running up to 100 miles each day. The 4-month North American Peace Run covers 11,000 miles and feels that peace starts in the heart of each person and that they can create a more positive world by starting with themselves. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported the first planning meeting was held yesterday with President Lapinto, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Mr. Sharrar, Ms. Jackie Griebel, Mr. Eric Funk and Callie to discuss welcoming the team as they enter the Borough. Not everything is worked out, but a lot of good ideas came up, such as: Mr. Garbarino, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, and the Special Olympics carrying the torch from Boundary Street up 5th Avenue into the Memorial Park; finding some other participants to run with the torch and team as they leave the Park to head to Leeper; and holding a little welcome ceremony in the park. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston noted the good thing with the Peace Team arriving August 5th is the last Summer Fest is on August 3rd and includes sidewalk art.

The idea was brought up that maybe some art can be completed on 5th Avenue and in front of the Memorial Park with peace designs and welcoming the runners into the area. Another meeting is being planned later this month to finalize everything for the day. The team will be in the Borough about an hour before continuing on their journey. Anybody in the Borough and/or the County are more than welcome to attend. If anyone has any ideas, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston encouraged them to pass them along.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson voiced her excitement about the peace run. More information about the group can be found on the website peacerun.org.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson reported the Summer Fest will be this coming weekend, and I Love Clarion will be held Wednesday night at the mall. There is a lot going on this summer. Mayor Fulmer Vinson encouraged everybody to come out to enjoy the events.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

If Autumn Leaf Festival is going to be held, Ms. Elisabeth Fulmer, 21 South Seventh Avenue, feels the Borough needs trees. Otherwise, maybe the request could be changed to Autumn Fest.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary