

October 15, 2024, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The second meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on October 15, 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 Ms. Whitling, Ms. Logue, Mr. Montana, and President Lapinto. Messrs. Aaron, Garbarino and Ms. Roberts were absent. Mr. Colosimo, Solicitor Marshall, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Sharrar, Chief Peck, and Mr. Preston were excused.

President Lapinto moved down to Public Works/Stormwater Authority.

PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Whitling, giving permission to advertise Ordinance #2024-847, Local Government Unit Debt Act Ordinance of Council determining to incur lease rental debt by the guaranteed note in the maximum principal amount of \$510,450 to be authorized and issued by Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority in connection with the Grand Avenue Extension Storm Sewer Replacement in Borough, was carried with a vote of four yeas.

Having no other reports, President Lapinto moved to Citizen Comments: Non-Agenda Items.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Eric Hopkins, 328 South Street, stated there was an incredible storm on the morning of July 5<sup>th</sup> and his basement wall collapsed on the one entire side of his house. Mr. Hopkins, as well as an insurance adjuster, believes the water from the alley is what caused the problem and land movement. Curbing used to be along the alley, which was identified after the meeting as Keatley Place. The water comes down the hill, which has a 4-5% slope, and goes right up against the Hopkins' property. When Mr. Hopkins first moved in, there was a curb, which would channel most of the water to two drainage ditches located on his property directing it to the roadway. Mr. Hopkins informed Council that he purchased a tool to dig the drains each year and snakes the pipes so the water drains onto the roadway. Every year, the snow plow would knock a couple chunks of curb off that would end up in his yard. Mr. Hopkins picked the curbing up and hid them in his bushes. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Sharrar and Mr. Colosimo came to the area about the collapse of the wall. If anybody wishes to see video of the flooding or absence of the curb, Mr. Hopkins reported it is available. Since the alley was repaved, the final piece of curbing that used to stop the flooding was removed. Mr. Hopkins paid \$23,500 out-of-pocket to fix the collapsed wall. Without the final piece of curb, there is already a hole dug beside the house. Mr. Hopkins asked for a curb to be reinstalled to guide the water as it should.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Colosimo for any comments and/or the Public Works Committee members, Ms. Logue or Mr. Montana.

Mr. Colosimo agreed there is a tremendous amount of water going down that alley towards South Street.

President Lapinto wishes to point Mr. Hopkins in the right direction and asked if it's the Borough or Stormwater Authority Board's responsibility.

Solicitor Marshall asked if the water relates to a rain storm event?

Mr. Hopkins agreed it is the water in a rain event that comes off the alley onto this property. Understanding that he cannot recoup the damages, Mr. Hopkins asked to have the curb reinstalled. Again, once the road was repaved, the last semblance of a curb was removed.

Mr. Colosimo thinks the curbing would be a stormwater control to specifically channel the water to go to the inlet itself.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston verified Mr. Colosimo believes it is the Stormwater Authority Board's issue?

In this case, Mr. Colosimo agrees. The curbing would be used to control water.

President Lapinto suggested that all the pertinent details be provided at the next Stormwater Authority Board Meeting, which will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of November, or November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Montana offered to meet with Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Colosimo at his house.

Mr. Hopkins asked Mr. Montana, or anyone present, if they'd like to see the videos, which everyone declined at this time.

Mr. Montana commented it would be better to see the property and alley and will meet with him.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Hopkins to provide his phone number to Mr. Colosimo to set up a meeting to look at the situation. The Stormwater Authority Board will handle this issue. It will no longer be in Council's hands to address.

Hearing nothing further, on a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Montana, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary