

March 4, 2025, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on March 4, 2025, 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, Mr. Garbarino, Ms. Logue, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Montana, and President Lapinto. Mr. Aaron was absent. Mr. Preston, Mr. Colosimo, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Chief Peck, Mr. Wolf, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Solicitor Marshall was absent.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts, approving the February 4, 2025, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Whitling to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025, Council Meeting. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There were none.

Before beginning, President Lapinto introduced and welcomed the Borough's new Zoning Officer, Joe Wolf, who is local, and asked how it's going so far.

Mr. Wolf stated it's going, and he will not be doing nothing definitely.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving the appropriations for the month of March, was carried with a vote of six yea.

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

President Lapinto stated the second meeting will be held on March 18, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if necessary.

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Ms. Whitling to approve Delta Zeta Sorority's special event request for their Turtle Trot 5K Walk/Run to be held April 27, 2025, with the race to begin at 9:30 a.m.

Chief Peck stated it's the normal request and all is in order.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Montana provided all Councilmembers a copy of an email received from Bill Henry. On March 20, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Trinity Point Church, Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors will be presenting a seminar concerning the plight of fire and EMS. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. Montana reported the survey has not been returned yet and is estimated to be ready by summer.

President Lapinto commented Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston will attend. Since this is an information seminar, it will not matter if there is a quorum.

#### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue commented there is no report. The Blueprint Committee is going to start holding monthly meetings.

President Lapinto stated Ms. Logue asked for an audit to be done.

Ms. Logue agreed.

President Lapinto reported there are plans to have Pickleball Tournament during Summer Fest.

Ms. Logue thinks it is going to be an amateur tournament and believes it will be in June.

#### DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

Mr. Crooks thanked the Maintenance Department for taking down the Christmas decorations. This year, the decorations took a beating. The Committee anticipates more items will need to be replaced for this season and plans to do a fundraising event in July, like Bingo or Christmas in July, to raise money to facilitate the anticipated costs.

President Lapinto verified Destination Clarion is not 501(c)3?

Mr. Crooks agreed and noted their sister group is.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson commented that is the Revitalization group.

Mr. Crooks stressed the community has been so generous, but it is hard to go back every year to the same group of people and ask for more money. The Committee is hoping to raise about \$10,000.

President Lapinto noted those wreaths are very old.

Mr. Crooks agreed and added the Committee replaced 8 new ones at the price of \$180 per wreath. However, the cost of the freight was over \$400.

Mr. Crooks informed everyone the Alley Cats are working on their fundraiser events for flowers and more beautification for the Borough. Destination Clarion's main goal is the beautification of Clarion and cleaning up Clarion. Now that the Borough has hired a zoning officer, there are a lot of littering issues of cigarette butts through the downtown area. Every time a cigarette butt is thrown on the ground and goes into the storm sewers, it ends up in the river. Mr. Crooks commented a customer came into his store and showed him pictures of one business on Main Street that's outside area is covered in cigarette butts and dog poop.

Other than that, Mr. Crooks stated a meeting was held last night and voiced excitement as the Committee is moving forward.

President Lapinto asked Mr. Preston if the Department will be sealing the planters this year?

Mr. Preston stated yes.

President Lapinto also reported that the Department will be replacing the receptacles in the downtown district.

#### PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Montana had nothing to report.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Ms. Roberts with a second by Mr. Garbarino, accepting BJ Wrhen's resignation letter from the Civil Service Commission, effective the end of March 2025, was carried with a vote of six yea.

Ms. Roberts asked if anyone is interested in filling the vacancy on the Civil Service Commission to contact the Borough Office. The term will expire December 31, 2027.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson had nothing to report and mentioned a Board Meeting will be held Thursday.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Logue had nothing to report.

#### RECREATION

Ms. Roberts announced the pavilion project is completed. Everything has been cleaned up, and it looks good.

Mr. Colosimo agreed it looks good, and the final payment was included in the Appropriations Report. The contract and close-out documents have been received and are good.

Ms. Roberts stated ball season will begin soon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported the Borough received the Liquid Fuels Funds on March 3, 2025, in the amount of \$127,704.65, which is \$174 more than last year. Also, the Turnback allocation in the amount of \$1,320 was received as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Roberts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary