

June 3, 2025, Council Meeting  
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on June 4, 2025, in the Clarion Free Library. In the absence of President Lapinto, Vice President Roberts 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, and Mr. Montana. Ms. Whitling arrived at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Aaron was absent. Mr. MacBeth, Mr. Colosimo, Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Chief Peck, Mr. Wolf, Solicitor Marshall, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present. Mr. Preston was absent.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving the May 6, 2025, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried with a vote of four yea.

(Ms. Whitling arrived at this time.)

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items Only

There was none.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Vice President Roberts commented the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are included in the packet for everyone's review.

Vice President Roberts stated the second meeting will be held on June 17, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library, if necessary. Currently, there is no need.

Last month, Vice President Roberts stated Council tabled action to appoint Sam Lynch, Jr., and asked if Council has to make a motion to un-table it now.

Solicitor Marshall agreed Council has to un-table the appointment.

Mr. Garbarino made a motion to un-table the appointment of Sam Lynch, Jr.

Ms. Logue thought the hourly rate was \$145?

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston agreed. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston placed the motion exactly as it was stated on last month's agenda, which it was \$195/hour, as that is what was tabled.

Vice President Roberts thinks Council intends to do this as a flat rate.

Ms. Logue added only up to that amount.

Not doing this often, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston verified with the Solicitor that Council will have to pass a motion to un-table this to bring it back for action, take action on that one, and then move onto the next motion?

Solicitor Marshall stated that was correct.

Ms. Logue seconded the motion to un-table to appoint Sam Lynch, Jr., as the Borough's Financial Consultant at the rate of \$195/hour plus travel expenses, contingent on obtaining insurance coverage (general liability and professional services policies in the amount of \$1 million). The motion to un-table the action carried unanimously.

After a brief discussion with the Solicitor, on a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Garbarino, denying to appoint Sam Lynch, Jr., as the Borough's Financial Consultant at the rate of \$195/hour plus travel expenses, contingent on obtaining insurance coverage (general liability and professional services policies in the amount of \$1 million, carried unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Garbarino to hire Sam Lynch Jr. on a temporary basis to complete financial work papers for the 2024 audit not to exceed \$15,000 (with insurance coverage).

Mr. Garbarino verified Mr. Lynch will have insurance coverage?

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston stated yes.

Mr. Garbarino mentioned that this is a savings from the previous company.

Ms. Logue agreed.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Whitling, approving First Baptist Church's special event request to block off 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street for their JAM – street activities for kids and families to be held on June 13, 2025, from 4-8 p.m. (annual request), carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Whitling to approve Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry's special event request for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Allegheny Toyota Autumn Leaf Festival, "Meet Me On Main", to be held October 15-27, 2025 (annual request). The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue to approve The Local Clarion County's special event for Summer Fest in July to block Sixth Avenue from Main Street to Wood Street (previously only to Merle Road) for the Special Olympics mini-golf activity.

Vice President Roberts commented the extension is for a Special Olympics mini golf event and asked Chief Peck if he was okay with it.

Chief Peck forgot to discuss with Mr. Preston to see if the Department will be blocking the alleys or if they will remain open.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston believes in the past Sixth Avenue was blocked at Main Street and Wood Street and then barricades were on both sides of Merle Road so that no one will be able to turn towards Sixth Avenue.

The motion was carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Whitling to approve Clarion Area Boosters' special event request for Clarion Area Annual Bonfire to be held August 21, 2025, from 7-9 a.m.

Vice President Roberts added all the requirements of the fire department being present to set up, light the fire, and stay until the end will be in place as usual.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Montana, approving the proposal from Computer Support for (1) TruNAS Mini X+ Open Storage Product at the cost of \$4,374 per year, was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Montana to approve the proposal from Computer Support for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery at the initial cost of \$558 and a monthly cost of \$258. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Montana received an email from the Department of Health and Josh Shapiro, in recognition of May 18-24, 2025, EMS Week, announced a statewide initiative to attract and recruit Pennsylvanians to the EMS field. To assist the effort, Governor Shapiro added \$6 million more per year to the proposed budget to the emergency medical services operating fund for activities, such as recruitment and retention program. Mr. Montana stated the survey was supposed to be done by the end of spring, which will be here in a couple weeks. Nothing has been received so far.

#### BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue invited everyone to come to the pickleball tournaments scheduled this weekend, June 7<sup>th</sup>, which is part of the Summer Fest event. Ms. Logue is not sure if there will be a separate grand opening or it will be held this weekend with the tournament.

Ms. Logue encouraged everyone to stay off the courts as they have been sealed, and no one should be on the courts until it dries properly for several days. No one wants that project ruined.

#### DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

There was none.

#### PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Montana with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve the apparent low bid from Hager Paving Inc. in the amount of \$87,539.45 for the 2025 Paving Project, contingent upon insurances and bid bonds.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reminded everyone that the Borough received \$20,000 County Highway Aid funds to use towards the milling and paving of North Sixth Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street. The rest of the project will be paid from the Borough's Highway Aid funds. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston reported the project came in a little overbudget; however, if the Borough doesn't pave, some of these streets will cost quite a bit just to continue patching them.

Mr. MacBeth pointed out especially Dietz Place; it would probably cost \$5,000-6,000 alone on that one road.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

Mr. Montana announced the Clean-Up Day Comparison Chart was included in the packet for everyone's review.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Whitling, accepting a letter of resignation from Richard "Willie" Wilson from the Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority Board, effective May 22, 2025, was carried with a vote of five yea.

Mr. Montana asked if anyone is interested in completing the vacant term to expire the first Monday in January 2028 to contact the Borough Office.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Garbarino to approve the design and cost estimate by The EADS Group for the Fire Department Building Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$14,900.

Ms. Logue informed everyone the Borough has been patching the roof for a very long time. Instead of spending a couple thousand dollars each year, the Borough wants to replace it.

The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts had nothing to report.

#### LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson thanked everyone that has sent donations into the Clarion Free Library for their annual request. More donations would be appreciated.

Ms. Logue stated she will be a guest bartender at Mechanistic on June 20, 2025, to raise funds for the library as well and encouraged everyone to stop in, especially while she is serving so she wins.

#### HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Logue reminded everyone there is no more recycling in Clarion Borough. Anyone interested in recycling should contact Waste Management for additional information.

Ms. Logue announced that parking in the grass is prohibited by Borough Ordinance. Anyone doing so, should discontinue immediately.

#### RECREATION

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 is looking forward to Summer Fest this weekend. There may be a little rain on Saturday, but it should be good.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson pointed out the Alley Cats have worked their magic and planted the flowers in all the planters, making the town look wonderful.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Roberts announced that the Clarion County Community Band will be playing On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Park. The band is composed of University students, high school students, and community members. Vice President Roberts proudly stated one of her kids will be in it. Everyone should be a lawn chair and enjoy the performance.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

Speaking on behalf of some citizens not present tonight, Mr. Montana commented some residents along Madison Road are concerned with a possibility of heavy traffic when Main Street is closed, or reduced to one lane, for the water company projects. The residents think motorists will turn on First Avenue/River Hill and fly through the alleys to beat the traffic up to Main Street. Mr. Montana asked if the potholes could be taken care of or possibly putting in speed bumps to help alleviate the issue.

Vice President Roberts thinks there is a potential that project may be delayed, meaning Main Street would not be closed this year.

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston agreed. Several big electronic signs have been installed along Main Street in various places, but no one has contacted the Borough to inform them what that is for. Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston will reach out to the water company representatives to try to find out more information on the project for Main Street.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Montana, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary