

January 5, 2026, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on January 5, 2026, in the Clarion Free Library. President Lapinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Mr. Harbaugh, Ms. Whitling, Mr. Garbarino, Ms. Logue, Ms. Hampikian, and President Lapinto. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Chief Peck, Solicitor Marshall, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Himes, and Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue, approving the December 2, 2025, Council Meeting, minutes, was carried unanimously.

On a motion Ms. Whitling with a second by Ms. Hampikian to approve the December 16, 2025, Council Meeting, minutes. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

There were none.

ADMINISTRATION

On a motion by Ms. Whitling with a second by Mr. Harbaugh, approving the appropriations for the month of January, carried with a vote of six yea.

President Lapinto reported the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals and Budget Analysis are in the packet for informational purposes.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Mr. Garbarino, approving the Council Meeting and Second Council Meeting Dates for 2026 as the first and third Tuesday of each month, except for the following: August 5th (4th is National Night Out), November 4th (3rd is Election Day), and May 20th (19th is Primary Election) at the Clarion Free Library at 7 p.m., was carried with a vote of six yea.

Due to Ms. Hampikian being elected for two positions, President Lapinto stated there is a vacant two-year Council position. What that means is Council has 30 days to appoint someone. At this time, three people have shown an interest. After talking to everyone, the best way to handle this is to ask that any Borough resident interested to apply. To qualify you have to prove you have lived in the Borough for 1 year. If appointed, the individual will have to complete a financial statement. This is open to any political party; Republican, Democrat, Independent, or Constitution. If someone is interested in this appointment, President Lapinto asked individuals to contact Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston, in writing, with one sentence just stating that you're interested in the position along with their contact information. These will be dated and time stamped when received. Council will be accepting these until 1 p.m. on January 29th. When Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston prepares the packets, Council will see the notices on the front of their packet. Each will be assigned a number, because each person is asked to attend the February 3rd Council Meeting.

President Lapinto commented Council will have each do a 3-minute timed presentation and then Council will have 2 minutes to ask any questions. President Lapinto noted everyone on Council felt this was fair to open the position up and indicated that the people that have already shown an interest will have to send another sentence.

President Lapinto announced the Committees for 2026, as follows: Public Safety: Christy Logue, Chair, Zach Garbarino, and Jennifer Fulmer Vinson; Housing and Zoning: Kaitlyn Whitling, Chair, and Helen Hampikian; Public Works/Stormwater: Andrew Harbaugh, Chair, and whoever fills the vacancy; and Recreation/Administration: Christy Logue and Kaitlyn Whitling. President Lapinto sits in all Committees.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Hampikian to approve Resolution #2026-516, approving the proposal from S & T Bank for the 2026 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000 at the rate of 4.85% tax free. The motion carried with a vote of five yea with Mr. Garbarino abstaining.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue, appointing Sam Lynch Jr. to assist with the financial preparations for the year 2026 at the rate of \$100 per hour, carried with a vote of six yea.

As a reminder, President Lapinto stated Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC will complete the 2025 audit for the price of \$11,800, which was approved at the October 5, 2021, Council Meeting.

President Lapinto announced the second Council Meeting will be held January 20, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Sarah MacBeth stated no meeting was held in December so just the park project on Second Avenue.

Mr. Garbarino mentioned the decorations looked very nice.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

There was nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS/STORM WATER AUTHORITY

On a motion by Mr. Harbaugh with a second by Ms. Whitling, appointing Brett Whitling to a 5-year term on the Storm Water Authority Board to expire January 2031, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Harbaugh addressed the request from Richard Bowman to remove curbing at South Street and Dietz Place. After the last meeting, PennDOT actually came and looked at the curbing and found it was acceptable and met the Liquid Fuels qualifications listed in Pub H Appendix H, which individuals can google to review as it's about 100 pages. This curb was also designed by the Borough's engineer, and this particular curb forms part of the C-type storm water inlet. If anyone

wishes to see his notes on the C-type storm water inlet, they can be provided. Mr. Harbaugh stressed the crucial point was to prevent flooding and direct runoff to the sewers so it doesn't go out onto the streets and freeze. That's when bad things happen. Mr. Harbaugh repeated it definitely serves a purpose and addresses a safety item.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Logue reminded everyone the Snow Removal Ordinance continues until April 1, 2026, and to make sure everyone parks correctly to avoid a \$50 ticket.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson thanked the Borough for keeping the millage rate for the Library the same for 2026.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson informed everyone activities are going to be starting up again. Some adult learning and a computer course is coming up in February. Anytime anyone is interested in what is going on at the Library, they can check the Library's Facebook page and/or stop in for a calendar of events.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated Rebecca Aharrah, the Library Director, provided her unfortunate news that the ceiling in the computer lab is actively leaking. Some plaster fell on the computer desk, and so part of the lab has been blocked off for safety purposes. Hopefully, the Library will receive a grant for the Library roof this year. In the meantime, caution will be used.

Mr. Garbarino heard good news that the Library has passport services back.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson believes it is temporary until the end of January, while the federal government is looking into the situation. It is not permanent yet. Everyone is keeping their figures crossed.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Ms. Whitling announced a public hearing will be held January 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance #2025-851, an ordinance amending certain provisions of the Clarion Borough Zoning Ordinance #2013-795 (as codified by Ordinance #2013-798, Chapter 210) to add data infrastructure facility and data infrastructure accessory uses as permitted use in the CI Commercial and Industrial Zoning District.

Ms. Whitling pointed out residents/business/property owners must remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours of the last snow fall or could possibly receive a ticket.

RECREATION

There was nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston informed everyone that the Highway Aid Audit for 2024 was completed on December 15, 2025. There were no findings. Once their paperwork is completed and the official report is received, it will be sent to Council and the Mayor.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson wished Ms. Whitling a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson welcomed the returning Councilmembers and the newly elected ones and looks forward to working with each one.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

President Lapinto welcomed all the everybody and looks forward to working with everyone.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Harbaugh, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary