

April 7, 2026, Council Meeting
Minutes

The regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on April 7, 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. Mr. Montana was absent. Mayor Fulmer Vinson, Chief Peck, Mr. Colosimo, Mr. Preston, 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. Whitling, approving the minutes for the March 3, 2026, Council Meeting, was carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Items

Just going by what has been in the paper, Mr. Terrance Bean, 204 North Second Avenue, understands there are two specific areas that individuals are thinking of opening into a food truck park and thinks Council needs to look into this and come up with some kind of requirements for them. Ice-O used the lot directly in front of his house for a couple years. Mr. Bean woke up every morning and, for 6 months, could see a green port-a-john, or in some cases smell it. Trucks would come in periodically and use it. In order to enforce anything, Council needs to come up with regulations that if a food truck with seating is going to be put on a particular lot then they need to have hot and cold running water and a bathroom. A building existed on the property at 2nd Avenue, and the owner could tie into them. Mr. Bean lives in an area that is primarily a residential. According to the 2nd Avenue Project, this area is an entry point into the Borough. Mr. Beans doesn't think a food truck sitting at that corner will be a good look unless the owner would dress it up to make it look like something.

President Lapinto stated Mr. Bean is not the only person asking questions about food trucks and commented the Borough does not have any regulations on them now. However, the Housing and Zoning Committee will look into it.

Mr. Bean thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson proclaimed the week of April 5-12, 2026, as Sesquicentennial (150) Anniversary of First Baptist Church and encouraged all residents and citizens to celebrate and encourage the continuation of this long history or service and commitment. Dr. Brenda Sanders Dédé, Pastor Jason Hunter, and Chairman of the Elder Board Keith Hastings were present to receive the proclamation.

Dr. Sanders Dédé invited everybody to attend the following Church events: an old-fashion hymn night tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m.; open-door game night on Saturday afternoon from 4-7 p.m.; and, on Sunday, coffee hour at 9 a.m., church service at 10 a.m., and a luncheon immediately following the service.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson proclaimed the month of April as Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month and encouraged all Pennsylvanians to visit the Pennsylvania 811 website at www.pa1call.org for information about digging safely. Unfortunately, the representative was unable to attend.

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

President Lapinto announced the second Council Meeting will be held April 21, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library.

President Lapinto reminded everyone a Public Meeting will be held April 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library to present the Second Avenue Project and answer any questions.

Ms. Logue understands the engineers will be bringing plans and surveys for all to see and discuss that night.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Mr. Harbaugh, approving the First Baptist Church of Clarion's special event requests for the closure of 7th Avenue from Main Street to Liberty Street on June 6th, July 11th, and August 8th, 2026, from 9-11 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. for Summerfest 2026, was carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Hampikian to approve Resolution #2026-518, approving, adopting, and placing into immediate effect the Emergency Operations Plan of Clarion County. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Logue with a second by Ms. Whitling, authorizing General Code to codify and complete the supplementation project of the ordinances at an estimated price between \$3,055 to \$3,545, was carried with a vote of six yea.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

There was none.

BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE

Ms. Logue stated the Committee is going to start movies in the Park and more information is available on their Facebook page. Also, the park officially opened April 1st.

DESTINATION CLARION DOWNTOWN

There was none.

PUBLIC WORKS

On a motion by Mr. Harbaugh with a second by Ms. Hampikian, approving the bid from Ramp Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$105,000 for Clarion Borough 2025-1 Fire Department Building Roof Replacement Project, carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Harbaugh with a second by Mr. Garbarino to give permission for Todd Colosimo to seek request for proposal from the banks for a loan in the amount of \$105,000. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Mr. Harbaugh with a second by Ms. Whitling to approve the proposal of Tri-County Industries to supply dumpsters for Clean-Up Day to be held Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 6 a.m. until 11 a.m.

President Lapinto reported a list is included in the packet of all the items that cannot be taken that day, which will be advertised in the media.

Mr. Harbaugh loves Clean-Up Day and knows many others do as well.

President Lapinto reminded everyone that senior citizens can call to make arrangements for their items to be picked up.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Mr. Harbaugh announced spring leaf collection will be Monday and Tuesday, April 27th and 28th and May 4th and 5th, from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Leaves must be at curbside by 7 a.m., and there is no need to call. Mr. Harbaugh stressed no limbs or brush and not to place the leaves in bags or on the road and/or parking stalls as the Department will not be able to get to them.

Mr. Harbaugh reported there was a meeting held to discuss the Main Street – Combined Water/Wastewater Replacement Project a week or so ago. PA American put out a press release, placed it on their website, and mailers and door hangers were sent out or placed in the project area. This information can also be found on the Borough's website. Just to recap, the work will be done Sunday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The project is to be finished by September 18th. The Borough representatives stressed that this project cannot interfere with Summerfest or Autumn Leaf Festival. Equipment will not be parked along the streets but on private property. Mr. Harbaugh stated communication is the key not just for the residents but also for the businesses along Main Street. As everyone is aware, the project on the lower end of South 5th Avenue has started up again. The representatives from PennDOT, PA American water and wastewater representatives, and Wilson Excavating seemed to answer any gray areas that day, which is very encouraging. Again, Mr. Harbaugh pointed out that Autumn Leaf Festival was probably mentioned 50+ times at that meeting. Everything should go well.

On a motion by Mr. Harbaugh with a second by Ms. Whitling to give permission to advertise the 2026 Road Project, which will include work to Wood Street from South 2nd Avenue to South 5th Avenue and South 5th Avenue to South 8th Avenue, Payne Street from Wilson Avenue to Grand

Avenue; and Grand Avenue from township line to a point. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY REPORT

There was no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Due to Chief Peck rescinding his request for retirement, on a motion by Ms. Logue with a second Mr. Garbarino the police chief's agreement will be tabled at this time. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

LIBRARY REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson thanked Mr. Colosimo, especially, and the Borough for submitting the appropriations applications, funding requests, on behalf of the library, for the roof project. Fingers crossed that it will be awarded.

Mayor Fulmer Vinson stated the week of April 19th the Library will be celebrating National Library Week and imagines there will be some extra activities planned during it.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Chairman Whitling asked Ms. Hampikian to give a report on an update on the cat situation.

Ms. Hampikian informed everyone the group has been actively trapping cats that have been a problem in the Borough. So far, 11 were captures, with 2 being adopted out of the shelter. Traps have been placed out tonight and will continue to be on-going whenever the clinics call them to put them out. Ms. Hampikian stated 24 traps were placed out the weekend before last, which yielded zero cats. That was a big old fail, but the volunteers will continue these efforts whenever there is clinic space. Ms. Hampikian announced the website is www.clarioncig.org, which has all the information as to what the group is trying to do; a place to request assistance where a resident can complete the form requesting a trap being placed in their area to catch cats; a donation portal, because it is not cheap to spay and neuter the kitties; volunteers link; supplies that are necessary; and much more information about the program. Now that the weather has warmed up a little bit, the committee is hoping to get some more cats. Ms. Hampikian stressed donations are very much needed.

On a motion by Ms. Hampikian with a second by Ms. Whitling to approve the agreement between Clarion Borough and PAWS for the TnR Program. The motion carried with a vote of five yea, with Ms. Logue abstaining as she prepared the agreement.

On a motion by Ms. Hampikian with a second by Mr. Logue, approving to spend up to \$5,000 to address the Clarion Cause Initiative Project, was carried with a vote of six yea.

RECREATION

There was none.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary LaVan-Preston had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fulmer Vinson had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Garbarino thanked Ms. Hampikian and Ms. Logue for taking on the cat initiative, which is an awesome project, and gives them and all the others helping with this a lot of credit. This is nothing Mr. Garbarino would want to spearhead. The fact that both of them and all the volunteers are is something that Clarion needs.

Ms. Logue stated she just handles the legal side.

Ms. Hampikian agreed Ms. Logue handles the legal and funding side and she is the one scouting around at 5 a.m. to get cats.

Having a trap in her yard, Ms. Whitling added everyone is so mellow and quiet you don't see or hear them coming around to your property. Ms. Whitling also appreciates their efforts.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Non-Agenda Items

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

On a motion by Mr. Garbarino with a second by Ms. Logue, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Linda LaVan-Preston, Chief Administrative Officer/Borough Secretary