

October 2, 2007, Council Meeting

Summary of Action Taken

Administration:	Monthly Reports; Banner Request Approved; Permission to Advertise Three Ordinances; Special Council Meeting Scheduled; Letter from Governor Rendell In RE I-80
Downtown Committee:	ALF Discussed
Public Works:	Monthly Report; Salt Building Costs; Letter from DEP
Public Safety:	Trick-or-Treat Hours Set; Permission to Sell Light Bars and Cage; Authority to Advertise MEO Position if Necessary
Housing and Zoning:	Permission for President to Sign Vowinckel Easement Agreement; Seminars Discussed; Tax Appeals; Rental Unit List
New Business:	Plaque from Chamber
Correspondence:	Little League Thank You Note

A regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on October 2, 2007, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following Council members were present: Mr. Zerfoss, Mr. Herman, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Moore, Mr. German and President Wilshire. Ms. Leonard was absent. Mr. Ragon, Chief Hall and Ms. Freenock were also present.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, the minutes of the September 4, 2007 Council Meeting were approved by all Council members present.

ADMINISTRATION

President Wilshire presented the appropriations for October. On a motion made by Mr. German and seconded by Ms. Moore, the motion was approved by a vote of five yea with one nay. Mr. Zerfoss voted no due to a continuing objection to invoices presented by Attorney William Strong and due to the invoice for Guardian Inspection Service.

The Budget Analysis, Treasurer's Report and Overtime Comparison Report were presented. Mr. Herman commented that in 2006, grant funds were included in the totals. Mr. Herman presented new totals and noted that the accounting will be handled differently in the future.

On a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Mr. German, the request of the League of Women Voters of Clarion County to erect a banner on October 31, 2007 and to remove it on November 7, 2007 was approved by all of the Council members present.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, permission was granted to advertise Council's intention to adopt an ordinance extending the guarantee of a loan made by First United National Bank to Clarion Area Authority.

President Wilshire stated that a Special Council Meeting will be held on October 11, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. in the Clarion Borough Office to adopt that Ordinance.

On a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Ms. Moore, permission was given to advertise Council's intention to adopt an Earned Income Tax Ordinance; the vote was five yea with one nay. Mr. Zerfoss voted no because he is not in favor of the Borough's current tax collector.

On a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Mr. Herman, permission was given to advertise Council's intention to adopt a Local Services Tax Ordinance; the vote was five yea with one nay. Mr. Zerfoss voted no because he is not in favor of the Borough's current tax collector.

Finally, President Wilshire acknowledged receipt of a letter from Governor Rendell regarding the tolling of I-80. Ms. Moore stated that petitions will be available on Friday throughout Main Street; Ms. Moore asked that everyone sign a petition voicing objection to the proposed tolls.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore reported that, thus far, ALF has been well attended. Ms. Moore also reminded everyone that there will be free parking throughout the Borough on Friday, October 5, 2007 for craft day. Finally, Ms. Moore reiterated that dogs (with the exception of seeing eye dogs), skateboards and bicycles are not permitted on Main Street during ALF.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss stated that the report is in the packet. He also reported that fall ball is at an end and stated that the department has been busy with items related to ALF. Mr. Zerfoss stated that all of the bills for the new salt building have not yet been received. The final cost will be provided to Council. Mr. Zerfoss informed Council that the building is approximately \$15,000 over budget due to engineering and inspection requirements imposed by the ICC. However, Mr. Zerfoss commended Engineer Kopko and M&B Services for their quick response and assistance in completing this project.

President Wilshire read a letter recently received from DEP concerning perceived deficiencies in the Borough's recycling program. A letter will be sent indicating that more time is needed to reply.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Herman stated that the report is in the packet. He also informed everyone that Trick or Treat will be celebrated in the Borough on October 31, 2007 from 6 to 8 P.M. As in prior years, the police will be distributing candy during those hours.

On motions made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Zerfoss, it was resolved to sell two light bars at \$250 each and 1 cage at \$50 to the Clarion County Sheriff and Office of Emergency Services, respectively. The resolution was approved by all Council members present.

Finally, Mr. Herman made a motion to grant authority to advertise the position of Meter Enforcement Officer, should one of the current officers resign. Mr. Herman would like to avoid a time delay that would be occasioned if permission to do this was not granted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zerfoss and was approved by all Council members present.

HOUSING & ZONING

Ms. Vavrek stated that the monthly report is in the packet. Ms. Vavrek made a motion which was seconded by Mr. German to grant permission to President Wilshire to execute an easement in favor of the Vowinkels with respect to their Main Street property. The property is being sold and the building thereon encroaches on the Borough's right of way. The easement will run with the land as long as the building exists in its current form on the encroachment. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Ms. Vavrek discussed a seminar that she attended in Titusville in September concerning industrial development. In addition, Ms. Vavrek discussed a PA Volunteer Firefighters seminar which she recently attended. Materials were distributed which will be shared among the interested Council members. Essentially, it appears that it would be beneficial for some of the fire companies in the area to form a task force comprised of various individuals. This will allow the organization to apply for additional grant funding. Ms. Vavrek advocates this approach and suggested that a meeting with the Clarion Fire Company be arranged.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the recent deluge of tax appeals filed. Mr. Herman stressed that the current assessments are more than 30 years old and stated that the County Commissioners must have a reassessment conducted.

Finally, Ms. Vavrek informed Council that a list of all of the rental units in the Borough has been compiled. This document contains information relative to the last date of inspection or re-inspection as necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

The receipt of a plaque from the Chamber in appreciation for the work and cooperation afforded the Chamber in relation to ALF was acknowledged.

CORRESPONDANCE

A letter from Clarion Little League expressing appreciation for the assistance they received this season was read.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary