

October 29, 2007, Work Session  
Minutes

The regularly scheduled Work Session for Clarion Borough Council was held on Monday, October 29, 2007, in the Clarion Borough Offices. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following Councilmembers in addition to President Wilshire were in attendance: Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Moore, Ms. Vavrek, Mr. Herman, Mr. German, and Ms. Leonard. Chief Hall, Bob Ragon, Brad Stutzman, and Nancy Freenock were also present.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joe Brinkley and Dave Tomeo addressed the fencing that has been installed along 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Wood Street. Although the fencing is in the Borough's right-of-way, the University and the contractor feel that it should remain as installed throughout the construction of the new dining hall. Construction is scheduled to be completed in November 2008.

Temporary signs to redirect foot traffic will be installed. A formal written request will be made to Council at the November meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

An event request from the March of Dimes was discussed. There will be no overtime involved; Council would like to know who is eventually hired to run this event.

The calculation of interest to be paid back to the General Employees' Pension Plan was completed by Mockenhaupt. This is the interest that would have been earned had the funds not been borrowed from that account in 2005. As a result of its regular audit of the plan, the State Auditor General advised the Borough to repay a reasonable amount of interest.

There was a discussion concerning the cost to obtain a new copier. The copier in use now is over 10 years old, and it is becoming increasingly difficult (and hence more expensive) to obtain parts.

Council was informed that Mockenhaupt Benefits Group has revised its MMO calculations for 2008. The contribution to the General Employees' Pension Plan rose while that for the police decreased. These calculations were based on the January 2007 valuation report; the contributions adopted by Council in September were based on the 2005 valuation.

A revised Earned Income Tax Ordinance and a new Local Services Tax Ordinance (the latter to replace the EMST) will be presented for adoption at the next Council Meeting.

The Chamber has asked that Council approve changing the date of the holiday parade from December 6, 2007, to November 19, 2007, at 5 p.m.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss informed Council that:

- the department is readying for winter;
- work at Paul A. Weaver Park continues;
- a request was made by a merchant to have the merchants engage an electrician to estimate and possibly repair the outlets on Main Street so that the trees can be lit for the holidays. The Borough does not want to spend funds to fix these outlets as they will all be replaced as part of the Main Street renovation in the spring. Ms. Freenock commented that the merchants cannot hire someone to work on Borough property.

Mr. Zerfoss also noted the problems along South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and stated that the Borough needs a large sign to indicate where the Borough line is located.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Herman reminded everyone that Trick-or-Treat is Wednesday, October 31, 2007, from 6-8 p.m. Police will be distributing candy.

### HOUSING & ZONING

Ms. Vavrek reported that the Borough prevailed on the Azzopardi matter as far as operating a public utility in an R-1 zone; the Borough did not prevail on the second part of its claim as there was no written notice to Mr. Azzopardi of his right to appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Ragon can continue to cite Azzopardi's if the business continues to be operated out of their residence.

### RECREATION

Ms. Leonard reported that she attended the PA WILDS conference. A written report was distributed for Council's review.

### CORRESPONDANCE

Ms. Lavan read a thank-you note received from United Way.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion made by Mr. Zerfoss and seconded by Mr. Herman, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy K. Freenock  
Borough Secretary