

November 6, 2007, Council Meeting

Citizen Comments:	Permission to Keep Fence at University Project
Administration:	Monthly Reports; March of Dimes Special Event Request; Adopted Ordinance #2007-747 and #2007-748; Permission to Purchase Copier; Revised 2008 MMO's Approved
Downtown Committee:	Parade; Outlets Along Main Street
Public Works:	Monthly Report; Snow Ordinance Reminder
Public Safety:	Snow Ordinance Reminder; Permission to Sell Shotgun Racks
Housing and Zoning:	Guy McUmbler, DEP, In Re Recycling; Azzopardi Results
Recreation:	PA WILDS Report; Work at Park Authorized
Mayor's Report:	ALF; Snow Ordinance Reminder; Smooth Operator Grants; I-80 Meetings
Manager's Report:	Permission to Solicit Bids for 2008 Tax Anticipation Note

The regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at the Clarion Free Library. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Council members were present in addition to President Wilshire: Mr. Zerfoss, Mr. Herman, Ms. Vavrek, and Ms. Moore. Mr. German and Ms. Leonard were absent. Mayor Stroup, Chief Hall, Brad Stutzman, Bob Ragon, and Nancy Freenock were also present.

The minutes of the following meetings were approved as follows:

October 2, 2007, Council Meeting-motion by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek; vote five yea.

October 11, 2007, Special Council Meeting-motion by Ms. Vavrek and second by Ms. Moore; vote five yea.

October 29, 2007, Work Session-motion by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek; vote five yea.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Brinkley from Clarion University discussed the fence that has been installed along 9th and Wood Streets to remain during the construction of the new dining hall. Mr. Brinkley cited safety concerns as the reason for failure to comply with the Borough's sidewalk ordinance. Foot traffic has been redirected. Photos regarding the directional signs that have been installed were circulated. Council voted to allow the fence remain as installed based upon a motion made by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Ms. Moore. Vote carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations for the month of November were presented. A motion was made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Mr. Herman to approve the appropriations as presented. Mr. Zerfoss questioned a \$40.00 charge of the solicitor to review the engineering contract for the salt building. Mr. Zerfoss commented that the business cards that the police had printed were a good idea. Next, Mr. Zerfoss questioned the Guardian inspection fees and also asked if the Borough would have kept the bulk of the fees had the UCC not been adopted. Mr. Ragon responded that although the Borough would receive more than it has now, the majority of the fees would have been paid to the State Department of Labor & Industry. Mr. Zerfoss renewed his continuing objection to invoices presented by Attorney Strong with respect to the Zoning Hearing Board. The motion carried with a vote of four to one, with Mr. Zerfoss dissenting for the reasons above stated.

The March of Dimes Special Event Request was unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek.

Council unanimously adopted Ordinance Number 2007-747 on a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek.

Council also unanimously adopted Ordinance Number 2007-748 following a motion by Mr. Herman and a second by Ms. Vavrek.

Mr. Zerfoss indicated that he voted yes to both ordinances but wished to note that he objects to the use of a tax collector that is not local.

Permission to purchase a recertified Cannon IR3300 Digital Copier was granted unanimously upon a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Moore. Ms. Freenock indicated that it might be possible to pay cash for the machine and thus no bids to finance were sought.

Revised Minimum Municipal Obligations for the General Employees' and the Police Pension Plan in the amounts of \$59,231 and \$5,326 respectively were unanimously approved upon a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Mr. Herman.

The request from the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry to change the date of the holiday parade from December 6, 2007, to November 19, 2007, was unanimously approved a on motion by Ms. Moore and seconded by Ms. Vavrek.

Ms. Vavrek noted that the tax appeal hearings were held. Results are outlined on a report to be distributed. The Borough has 30 days to contest the decision.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore stated that the route for the holiday parade was from Main Street to Fifth Avenue. Line up is at 5:30 p.m. at KFC. The parade will be held on Customer Appreciation Day, November 19th.

Ms. Moore also stated that the Conservancy is soliciting ideas for holiday events to be put in a calendar.

Finally, Ms. Moore stated that due to problems with the outlets along Main Street, the trees will not be lit this year during holiday season. Ms. Moore stressed that this was not the fault of the merchants. Rather, many of the receptacles are broken and it will be expensive to fix them; this is not economically feasible as they will all be replaced in the spring when the brick sidewalks are redone.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Zerfoss stated that the report is in the packet. The department continues to ready for the winter. Mr. Zerfoss reminded everyone that the Snow Ordinance goes into effect on December 1st.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Herman stated that the police will enforce the Snow Ordinance. He also asked Council to approve the sale of 3 Pro Gard Shotgun Racks to the County Sheriff's Department for a total of \$200.00. Following a second by Mr. Zerfoss, the motion was approved by a vote of five yeas.

Mr. Herman reported that Halloween was uneventful and the police distributed candy.

HOUSING & ZONING

President Wilshire called upon Mr. Guy McUmbler from DEP's Meadville office to discuss the Borough's recycling program. Mr. McUmbler reviewed the requirements of Act 101. He stated that recycling has been mandated in Clarion since 1991. He does not know why the leaf program was not enforced previously. Mr. McUmbler indicated that there are resources available to the Borough from DEP to help with its recycling program. Mr. McUmbler pledged to work with the Borough to improve the Borough's recycling statistics.

Mr. Zerfoss noted the existence of the brush drop off pile and indicated that it was efficient and sufficient for Borough residents and feels that DEP should leave it to the Borough to determine how brush is to be recycled. Mr. McUmbler stated previously that two curbside leaf pick-ups per year are mandated.

Mr. Herman stated that the Borough's leaf drop off program is a model that should be copied through the state. He also indicated that he appreciated the cooperative tone taken by Mr. McUmbler as he felt that the letter previously received was adversarial.

Ms. Vavrek reported on the decision by Judge Arner in the Azzopardi case. She also stressed that the fact that the tree lights will not be on during the holiday season is not the fault of the merchants.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Herman noted the report filed by Ms. Leonard that was included with the packet. He then went on to describe work to be completed at Paul A. Weaver Park and the cooperation of the Little League and the School District in developing the project. Mr. Herman indicated that talks had been ongoing for almost one year.

Mr. Herman stated that the cost of the project exceeded \$28,000, which amount was split equally between Little League and CASD. The Borough's contribution was in-kind services. Mr. Herman stated that a written agreement regarding the project had been signed by CASD and one had been sent to CLL for signature. Formal agreements regarding use of the park would be forthcoming. Mr. Herman requested Council to authorize the park improvements. Following a second by Mr. Zerfoss, the motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following items:

- a) ALF-the Chief did a good job controlling overtime; the PW crew is to be commended for the expedient clean-up;
- b) reminded everyone that the Snow Ordinance will be enforced;
- c) smooth operator grants have been awarded to the Borough, which will help with cross walk enforcement and speed enforcement;
- d) I-80 briefing to be held tomorrow; there was a previous meeting with the Turnpike Commission several weeks ago. He stressed that this was a bad piece of legislation and is not a done deal. The Turnpike Commission is still studying the matter. A symposium sponsored by the Chamber will be held on November 30th.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Freenock requested that a Council member make a motion to permit her to solicit bids for a 2008 Tax Anticipation Note. A motion was made by Ms. Moore and seconded by Ms. Vavrek. The motion carried five yeas.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Manager