

November 28, 2007
Work Session Minutes

A work session of the Clarion Borough Council as held on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 in the Clarion Borough Office.

President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All Council members were present. Mayor Stroup, Chief Hall, Bob Ragon and Nancy Freenock were also present.

ADMINISTRATION

The proposed 2008 budget was reviewed. Ms. Freenock recommends a 2.7 mill increase. Mr. Herman questioned the increase in the street lighting millage and the cost overruns for the salt building. As a result of the overruns, there will be unbudgeted capital expenditures in the PW budget in 2007.

Mr. Zerfoss indicated that he would like the police force to be increased. President Wilshire stated that taxes would have to be raised an additional 1.5 mills at a minimum per officer hired.

The 2008 salary and fee schedules, with proposed increases, were presented.

Council was asked to consider replacements for the individuals whose terms are due to expire on the various Borough committees and boards.

President Wilshire stated that the biennial Organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7 pm in the meeting room of the Clarion Free Library.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore stated that inaccurate information concerning the repair of the outlets on Main Street was received from the Borough's Public Works Department but once reviewed, it was determined that the outlets could be repaired at minimal cost. The repairs were made and Light Up Night proceeded as per usual. Ms. Moore reminded everyone that there will be free parking in the Borough from December 7 through December 26. A calendar of holiday events is displayed in most storefronts throughout town.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Zerfoss indicated that the department is ready for the first snowfall. The parking ordinance goes into effect on Saturday at 12 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Herman reported that there is no problem with the proposed revisions to the annual MS walk.

HOUSING & ZONING

Ms. Vavrek stated that there is a Borough Planning Commission meeting on December 11, 2007 to discuss the simple subdivision proposed by Rich Martin. Mr. Martin will present the plan to Council at its January 7th meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stroup reminded everyone about the I80 Symposium to be held on November 30th.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Freenock indicated that information concerning a bill to be proposed by Representative Freeman is in the Local Government Committee. The bill would compensate municipalities that have more than 17% of tax free property. 70.5% of the property in the Borough is nontaxable. The Borough would receive in excess of \$574,000 annually if the legislation passes.

NEW BUSINESS

President Wilshire referenced a letter received from the Borough's new insurance carrier, Selective Insurance. The matter raised in that letter will be discussed at the various committee meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. LaVan read a thank you letter from the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry concerning light up night.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion by Mr. Herman and a second by Mr. Zerfoss, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Secretary