

December 19, 2007, Special Council Meeting

A special meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, in the Clarion Borough Offices. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. All Councilmembers were present. Mayor Stroup, Councilmember-elect Hopkins, Linda LaVan, and Nancy Freenock were also present.

ADMINISTRATION

President Wilshire stated that the purpose of the meeting was to adopt the 2008 Budget and to accept a proposal for the purchase of the Borough's 2008 Tax Anticipation Note.

On a motion by Ms. Moore, duly seconded by Ms. Vavrek, Resolution #2007-251, approving the 2008 Budget was approved by a vote of five yeas. Messrs. Zerfoss and German voted no as both feel that costs could be cut.

On a motion by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Leonard, the 2008 Budget, Tax Ordinance #2007-749, and Fee Schedule was adopted by a vote of six yeas. Mr. Zerfoss voted no because the fee schedule is part of the budget.

President Wilshire asked Ms. Freenock to discuss the Tax Anticipation Note. Ms. Freenock stated that she solicited proposals from all of the local banks with the exception of First United National. First United National did not bid last year as it indicated the amount of funds which the Borough has guaranteed on behalf of the Clarion Area Authority together with the TAN proceeds would exceed its underwriting criteria.

S&T Bank offered to purchase the TAN at 3.30% with interest to be paid quarterly. The Note must be repaid in full by December 31, 2008.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek, seconded by Ms. Leonard, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-252 accepting the proposal of S&T Bank to purchase the Borough's 2008 Tax Anticipation Note.

President Wilshire noted that the biennial reorganizational meeting of Borough Council will take place on January 7, 2008.

Ms. Moore asked where the budget was displayed and if there had been any inquiries made. Ms. LaVan stated that the budget was on display in the Public Library, the Law Library, and at the Borough office. No inquiries regarding the budget were received.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss reported that the department is busy with winter maintenance. He stated that he received questions concerning cut backs and their effect on road maintenance. Mr. Zerfoss stated that the Public Works Department will have sufficient materials on hand to

address weather events. He also indicated that Brad is checking the scheduling for coverage to assure that the work is done with the least amount of overtime.

HOUSING & ZONING

Ms. Vavrek: I don't have anything except Bob Ragon did fall a week ago, was it about a week ago, Linda or so.

Ms. LaVan: Um hum.

Ms. Vavrek: He was already using crutches as you all know.

Ms. Moore: Yea.

Ms. Vavrek: Well he fell down the stairs

President Wilshire: This was at his home?

Ms. Vavrek: At his home and did some serious damage. And he's seeing the doctor tomorrow. He's been home.

Ms. LaVan: He saw the doctor yesterday.

Ms. Vavrek: Oh, he did see the doctor yesterday. I thought it was the 20th. Okay, do you just want to tell them?

Ms. LaVan: It was supposed to be the 20th but he went the 18th. I don't know where we're at with that right now. He didn't call in after that appointment.

Ms. Vavrek: It's in a cast, right?

Ms. LaVan: He had a cast. We're just sort of playing it by ear. He's been calling in.

Ms. Vavrek: His right arm so he couldn't

Ms. Leonard: He shattered his elbow.

Ms. Vavrek: sign any documents that needed to be signed by him. We were informed that anything that came from Housing and Zoning had to have his signature on it. No one could sign in his place. There may be a little delay on a couple of things, particularly Mr. Azzopardi.

Mr. Herman: Could he make an X and have somebody

President Wilshire: We can make a motion, can't we make a motion that someone can sign in his

Ms. Vavrek: Well I don't know what the status of his, Linda talked to Steve and I guess Steve told her that he could not, even if someone else signed it and initialed it that would not be valid.

President Wilshire: Okay, so can we appoint somebody in

Ms. Vavrek: I don't, well you'd have to appoint an interim Zoning Officer. And I didn't know whether, I just figured we would wait for that. Because I didn't know what the status would be of his cast. If his cast comes off, or if he feels that it's going to be coming off soon, it probably would be okay to wait.

Ms. Freenock: I had actually wanted to bring this up after the meeting

Ms. Vavrek: Oh, okay, well if you want

Ms. Freenock: I was going to have, I was going to see if you wanted me to have the Housing and Zoning Officer from Brookville to fill in here temporarily the Borough would have to find a way to compensate him if Bob was going to be out for a lengthy time. We need to have somebody in that position that knows the UCC and zoning laws.

President Wilshire: I think we need a secondary person to sign his permits. I don't know whether we need to appoint someone. But I think someone should be designated to sign the permits in his absence.

Ms. Vavrek: Well we can find out the status of him today or tomorrow. I don't know. I mean it was his understanding that if the cast came off, he'd probably be okay. But if he hasn't told Linda that.

Ms. LaVan: Well his appointment was yesterday afternoon and he said if he was able to, if his leg was okay, and he was able to get in, he could come in answer phones, deal with people. I could write things up for him, but the signature would still be the problem. So, he was going to let us know and he's been calling in every day. If people call in, we explain there's going to be a little delay, I try to find out answers from him and get back to them as soon as I can. So, I mean everybody's been willing to deal with that for right now.

President Wilshire: Oh, yea, but this isn't a replacement.

Mr. Herman: But have we had this before and do I remember giving Carol the authorization to sign instead?

Mr. German: Yea, I remember that, too.

Ms. Vavrek: I don't remember that.

President Wilshire: I would entertain a motion authorizing the Borough Manager, with the authority to sign permits and whatnot during his absence.

Mr. Herman: I believe we did do that before.

Mr. Zerfoss: You made a motion?

President Wilshire: I can't make a motion.

Mr. Zerfoss: Well I make the motion that the Borough Manager, because it only makes sense, she's in charge

Mr. Herman: Right.

Mr. Zerfoss: of Public Works as far as that goes and in control with the Police and that.

Mr. Herman: I totally agree.

Mr. Zerfoss: They report to her. So, it only makes sense

President Wilshire: Okay.

Mr. Zerfoss: that I make that motion.

President Wilshire: Second?

Mr. Herman: Second.

President Wilshire: Any discussion? (There was none.) All those in favor?

Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Leonard noted that there will be a public hearing on the Martin sub-division on January 7, 2008, at 6:45 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stroup thanked all involved in opposing the tolling of I-80. He stated that the response in opposition has had an impact. Mayor Stroup also thanked Councilmember German for his years of service and for the studious and informed way in which he approached all issues.

OLD BUSINESS

President Wilshire echoed the Mayor's comments and thanked Mr. German for his thoroughness.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Zerfoss, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Freenock
Secretary