

August 7, 2007, Council Meeting

Summary of Action Taken

Citizen Comments:	Charles Deitz and Greg Faller Work on Building; Greg Magrini In Re Vince Elliott and Firefighters
Administration:	Monthly Reports; Authorized Changing Insurance Company
Downtown Committee:	Letter Relating to Tolling of Route 80; Responsibilities in Downtown Area
Public Works:	Clean-Up Day Results; Salt Storage Building Status
Public Safety:	Approved Patriot Day Services Event Request; Meeting with PennDOT on Traffic Signals; Acquisition of North Riverview Avenue; Crosswalk Request to be Reviewed
Housing and Zoning:	Monthly Report
Recreation:	Meeting on YMCA Management; Permission to Attend PA Wilds Conference
Mayor's Report:	Department Enforcing Vehicles Stopping for Walkers; Chief's Conference Report
Manager's Report:	Modification 2007 CDBG Project Approved; Commissioners to Testify In Regards to Transportation Projects

Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on August 7, 2007, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library.

President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present included Mr. Zerfoss, Mr. Herman, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Moore, Mr. German, and President Wilshire. Mayor Stroup, Ms. Freenock, Mr. Ragon, Mr. Stutzman, and Chief Hall were also present.

The minutes of the July 10, 2007 Council meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek. Motion carried with a vote of seven yeas. The minutes of a Special Council meeting held on July 17, 2007 were approved on a motion made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Herman. Motion carried with a vote of four yeas.

President Wilshire then called for Citizen Comments.

Charles Deitz and Greg Faller explained why parking spaces on Main Street were occupied by a high lift for the past several weeks. Mr. Faller is repairing the sills on the windows; if these repairs were not completed, there would have been a serious safety concern.

Mayor Stroup stated that it is a public safety issue when the view of pedestrians and/or drivers is obstructed. The equipment parked on Main Street did pose an obstruction. The Mayor acknowledged that the equipment was moved at night as requested by the police. Mayor Stroup also stated that he appreciated the efforts made by Mr. Faller to improve his building and thereby improve the look of Main Street.

Councilman Herman stressed that we want people to be comfortable in our town. He recognizes that Messrs. Deitz and Faller are sensitive to the safety issue. Mr. Herman was concerned that the Borough was not informed as to how and when the sidewalk would be blocked off and for what length of time.

Ms. Freenock stated that the police and the zoning officer did have most of the requested information. In addition, she stated that she went to Faller's and spoke with Adam Faller. Adam Faller was aware of the issues and agreed to have the work completed as expeditiously as possible and would assure that the sidewalk was properly blocked.

Councilwoman Vavrek stated that Fallers took the necessary precautions to prevent the windows from falling. She further stated that Fallers is an asset to Main Street.

Greg Magrini addressed Council concerning a problem with Vince Elliott. He stated that when there is a fire call, volunteers park in the alley adjacent to Mr. Elliott's property. This incenses Mr. Elliott to the point where he harasses the returning firefighters. The language that he uses is offensive to the firefighters and to other residents of the neighborhood.

Mayor Stroup stated that during two recent calls, police went to the alley to determine if a car could pass the parked vehicle. If passage could not be made safely, there would be a

safety concern. Mayor Stroup reported that in both instances, there was room for a vehicle to pass.

Councilman Zerfoss stressed that the Borough needs the fire company. They must and do respond quickly to calls. He does not care if an alley is blocked if it helps the volunteers get to the fire as quickly as possible.

Tracy and Carl Becker were also present and echoed the comments made by Mr. Zerfoss.

President Wilshire presented the appropriations report for approval. A bill for services rendered by M&B for the construction of the salt building was added to the appropriations. All Council members were given a copy of that invoice this evening. On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, the appropriations were approved with a vote of seven yea.

President Wilshire then stated that the Borough's worker's comp insurance premium was to increase dramatically. Burns and Burns researched other carriers and a comparison of what the Borough has now vs. what they recommend was delivered to all Council prior to this meeting. Several years ago, the Borough tried to bid out its insurance and it was discovered that it was more beneficial to go through a broker.

Ms. Freenock stated that the Borough would obtain a better overall premium if all of the Borough's coverages were packaged together. By doing so, the Borough would save approximately \$8,100.00. The recommended carrier is Selective Risk, a publicly held, New Jersey company.

Mr. Herman asked how this company was rated. Ms. Freenock stated that Mr. Burns indicated that it was a solid company, in operation for many years; Mr. Burns also stated that he has a number of clients that utilize this company and that there have been no problems.

Councilman German asked if there was any difference in coverage. Ms. Freenock answered that there were differences.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Ms. Leonard to authorize changing the Borough's insurance company to Selective Risk. The motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Councilwoman Moore gave the Downtown Committee report. Ms. Moore stated the a letter should be sent to Senator White, Representative McIlhattan, Congressman John Peterson and Senators Spector stating that the tolling of Route 80 would be a detriment to our community. Travelers would be less inclined to stop off in Clarion to shop knowing that a (extra) toll would be collected.

Ms. Moore also reported that she and the Public Works Committee should work together to devise a written notice to be given to all business owners on Main Street. Ms. Moore

commented that the appearance of Main Street is appalling; it is filthy and there is debris of Sparky's which is now vacant. Apparently, merchants are confused about their responsibilities vis a vie the trees, bricks and sidewalks. It was thought that the fire company regularly hosed down the sidewalks on Main Street.

Ms. Vavrek commented that several years ago, holiday lights for the trees on Main Street were donated by the Rotary. She and several others hung the lights with the understanding that the merchants would remove them after the holidays and would keep and install them from year to year.

Mr. Zerfoss reported on Public Works. The report was part of the Council packet. The results of clean-up day were noted. A request was made for the Borough to pick up brush for those that cannot bring it to the brush pile. It was decided that individuals requiring help should ask friends or family for assistance. It was also noted that non-Borough residents are utilizing the brush pile. Mr. Zerfoss indicated that there is no way to police use.

Finally, Mr. Zerfoss discussed the construction of the salt storage building. The Uniform Construction Code requires that sealed drawings be prepared and that inspections be conducted during construction. Mr. Zerfoss indicated that this is only to be a storage building and that he voted against adopting the UCC years ago. Things need to be fixed so that structures such as this do not require engineering.

Mr. Herman reported on Public Safety. Mr. German made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Leonard to approve a special event request made by Don Montgomery for Patriot Day services to be held on September 11, 2007 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Public Works and Public Safety reviewed the request and have no objections. The motion carried.

Mr. Herman discussed a recent meeting with PennDot concerning the lights at 5th, 6th, 8th, and 9th Avenues and Main Street. An engineering proposal has been submitted. Mr. Herman contacted PennDOT to determine if there is a more cost effective way to obtain the information needed prior to changes being made.

Finally, Mr. Herman noted that discussions were ongoing concerning the acquisition of North Riverview Avenue by the Borough.

Mr. Herman indicated that the Public Safety and the Public Works Committees would consider a request made by Julie Kenneson for a cross walk on the alley behind IC School.

Ms. Vavrek stated that Housing & Zoning had nothing beyond the monthly report which was in the Council packet.

Ms. Leonard stated that the Recreation Committee recently met with the YMCA concerning management of the pool. In addition, Ms. Leonard reported on a PA WILDS conference in Punxsutawney that she attended. There is a Recreation Conference to be

held in Williamsport in September which Ms. Leonard would like to attend. On a motion by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Ms. Vavrek, it was agreed that Mrs. Leonard attend the conference. The motion carried with a vote of seven yeas.

Mayor Stroup reported that the Police Department is enforcing the requirement that vehicles stop for walkers in crosswalks. Additional signage warning motorists to slow down may be needed.

Chief Hall prepared a report about the Chief's Conference. Highlights include an update on legal matters, tasers and a presentation on child predators. A similar presentation concerning child predators will be presented in local schools by Chief Hall and Deputy Bev Voris.

Ms. Freenock stated that the modification of the 2007 CDBG project was approved. Once an executed contract is received, work can commence.

Ms. Freenock also stated that the County Commissioners are to testify on August 30th in order to explain the transportation projects planned in Clarion County. They will request that a traffic light at Route 322 and North Riverview be added to the TIP and that a traffic light or blinker be installed on Greenville Avenue near Corbett.

No further business came before the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary