

July 10, 2007, Council Meeting

Summary of Action Taken

Citizen Comments:	None
Administration:	Monthly Reports; Work Session Announced; Status of Two Ordinances and Special Council Meeting Scheduled to Adopt Both; Approved Resolution #2007-246, Modifying 2007 CDBG Application; Approved Purchase of Phone System
Downtown Committee:	Fourth of July Activities Successful
Public Works:	Monthly Report; Salt Building Down
Public Safety:	Discussed Meeting Held with PennDOT In Reference to Traffic Signals; Meeting Scheduled with Engineer and PennDOT
Housing and Zoning:	Monthly Report; Board of Assessment Appeals Discussed and Accepted by Council
Recreation:	Thanked Press for Great Coverage on Solar Heat and Lessons
Mayor's Report:	Added Comments on PennDOT Meeting; Fireworks/Taste of Clarion Discussed
Manager's Report:	Approved Linda LaVan to Attend PLGSA Conference in Erie in August; Authorized Linda LaVan to Renew Notary Service
Old Business:	Chief at Conference; Thanked Officer Kemmer for Attendance
New Business:	None
Correspondence:	Thank You Letter from Lynne

McCormick

Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on July 10, 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. Herman, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Moore, Mr. German, and President Wilshire. Mr. Zerfoss was absent. Mr. Ragon, Mayor Stroup, Ms. Freenock, Mr. Stutzman, and Officer Kemmer were also present. Chief Hall and Solicitor French were absent.

President Wilshire asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the June 5, 2007, Council Meeting, were approved on a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek. The motion carried with a vote of six yeas.

Citizen Comments: There were none.

Administration: President Wilshire presented the appropriations for the month of July.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, approving the appropriations for the month of July, was carried with a vote of six yeas.

President Wilshire also presented the Treasurer's Report of Fund Totals, Budget Analysis, and Overtime Comparison for information purposes and asked Ms. Freenock for any highlights.

Ms. Freenock pointed out that the Plan B Savings fund total includes the \$200,000 Tax Anticipation Note, which will have to be repaid. If someone is looking at the cash position, that amount needs to be deducted.

President Wilshire reported a Work Session is scheduled for July 30, 2007, at 5 p.m. at the Clarion Borough Offices, if necessary.

President Wilshire asked Ms. Freenock to explain the status of the two ordinances.

Ms. Freenock commented Council approved advertising the Storm Sewer Ordinance and Parking Meter Ordinance at last month's Council Meeting. The advertisement sent in by the Solicitor to be published in the paper read the ordinances would be adopted at a regular Council Meeting being held on Tuesday, July 12th instead of July 10th. Because of that error, the Borough has to re-advertise before action can be taken. Ms. Freenock stated the new advertisement appeared in the Clarion News scheduling a Special Council Meeting for July 17th at 8 a.m.

Mr. Herman verified it wasn't a typographical error in the newspaper's part.

Ms. Freenock stated no. Solicitor French agreed to pay for that publication.

Immediately prior to this Council Meeting, there was a Public Meeting to discuss a modification of the 2007 CDBG Application to have project funds used to replace the bricks on Main Street and to repair the light poles.

On a motion by Mr. German with a second by Ms. Vavrek, adopting Resolution #2007-246, a Resolution approving the modification of the 2007 CDBG Application, was carried with a vote of six yeas.

President Wilshire asked Ms. Freenock to discuss the purchase of the new telephone system. This has been budgeted.

Ms. Freenock reported Mayor Stroup, Mr. Herman, President Wilshire, Chief Hall, and she met in March to listen to several presentations from different companies on their system. At this time, the Committee asks Council to approve the purchase of a phone system through Delta Technology, a local company. Although their system didn't have all the bells and whistles that Americom from Pittsburgh had to offer, the individuals agreed Clarion Borough didn't need all of them. Verizon was very difficult to get a hold of. For that reason alone, Ms. Freenock doesn't recommend going with them.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek to purchase a new phone system from Delta Technology, with financing through Farmer's National Bank.

Mr. German inquired if this was budgeted why the Borough needs to finance this purchase.

Ms. Freenock commented the entire amount wasn't budgeted for this year.

Mr. Herman thanked the Chief for all his efforts in contacting the companies and comparing all the systems.

The motion carried with a vote of six yeas.

Downtown Committee: Ms. Moore informed everyone the most exciting thing that has taken place is the Fourth of July activities. Everything went well. Ms. Moore doesn't believe she's ever seen a crowd like the one that attended the fireworks this year. It was well worth it.

Public Works: Mr. German, in the absence of Mr. Zerfoss, commented the Public Works Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

Ms. Freenock informed everyone the salt building is down.

Mr. Stutzman commented one windshield of a maintenance hi-lift was broken. Other than that, everything went well.

Public Safety: Mr. Herman brought Council up to date on the meeting held with PennDOT on June 18, 2007. Quite a few citizens attended to give his/her opinions on what they'd like to see happen with the traffic light and crosswalks at Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Ninth Avenues and Main Street. Quite a few representatives from PennDOT, both public relations and engineers, attended and handled the meeting well. In the exchange, PennDOT is very willing to work out some details, especially at Fifth Avenue and Main Street. Because of State law, an engineer has to look at the whole situation and provide recommendations on their findings and facts with a request to PennDOT before anything can occur. The Committee set up a meeting with the engineering firm that did the Fifth Avenue and Main Street lights on July 17, 2007, which PennDOT plans to attend also. Mr. Herman stated the Committee is trying to move along as quickly as possible in order to make it better at these intersections. Mr. Zerfoss mentioned at that meeting about having an all-exclusive stop. PennDOT will not rule this out; but because of the amount of traffic, they'd like to see it studied from a variety of different viewpoints. That, as well as if it will be better to adjust the turning arrows, will be discussed with the engineers. Rather than change a bunch of things right away, it was decided it is better to proceed incrementally. As far as Sixth, Eighth, and Ninth Avenues, the thought is educational and law enforcement programs need to coincide with any changes that may be made at those three intersections. By that, Mr. Herman commented it means the Police Department possibly could write warnings or tickets for people running red lights. Shawn Houck, PennDOT communications representative, is working with Chief Hall about the educational phase. Mr. Herman stated the Committee will update Council at the next Borough meeting.

Housing and Zoning: Ms. Vavrek stated the Housing and Zoning Report is in the packet for everyone's review.

Ms. Vavrek commented Council received two Settlement Agreements and Consent Orders that have gone before the Clarion County Board of Assessment Appeals; one from Denice Grubb and the other from Jim and Lydia Crooks. Several new appraisals have been completed of those properties. Ms. Vavrek understands the appeals period is pretty much completed. It's now a matter of the Borough signing off on both of them.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Ms. Moore to accept the Denice Grubb Clarion County Board of Assessment Appeal, as presented.

Mr. Herman thinks both may have gotten a re-appraisal of the property as it was looked at that is more reflective of the selling price of both of these properties.

Ms. Vavrek doesn't know that for sure.

Ms. Freenock stated what prompted it is the purchasers asked for a re-evaluation. Appraisals are done three different ways; current market value, income, and best use. In both cases, the purchasers used Jim Reed. Historically, they take the assessment without too much questioning. The County also had appraisals done by a different appraiser.

Ms. Vavrek pointed out the appeal period is over. The Borough cannot do anything now.

Ms. Leonard commented it's quite a drop from the original amount.

President Wilshire reported the only option the Borough has is to ask for their own appraisal, which would be similar to the ones already recorded. The last time the County did a re-assessment of all properties was in the 1970's.

After discussion, the motion carried with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Ms. Moore, approving President Wilshire to sign the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order for Jim and Lydia Crooks Board of Assessment Appeals, carried with a vote of six yea.

Recreation: Ms. Leonard reported the pool is doing great and thanked both The Derrick and Clarion News for the wonderful articles letting the public know that the Borough pool has a type of solar heat thanks to Mr. Brad Stutzman and the Public Works Department. The newspapers also covered articles that the YMCA is offering various swimming lessons and other classes of that sort. The weather's been great.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Stroup commented Mr. Herman covered the biggest item the Committee's been working on with the traffic intersections. Mayor Stroup complimented him on keeping it moving in the right direction. Everyone will be kept up-to-date on it in the future.

Mayor Stroup appreciated the Chamber's July 3rd celebration and the combined event this year with Taste of Clarion. Everything went well. Mayor Stroup thanked Ms. Freenock for her help and everyone who bought water from the ambassadors.

Mayor Stroup announced Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at SMI the Economic Development Committee is hosting a meeting on expanded broadband throughout the County. People can contact the Clarion County Economic Development Office for more information.

Manager's Report: Ms. Freenock stated Council needs to give permission for Ms. LaVan to attend the PLGSA Conference in Erie from August 15-18, 2007. Ms. LaVan is on the Board. Ms. Freenock asked for the costs.

Ms. LaVan reported the conference registration is \$175 and hotel accommodations are \$316.35. It was included in the appropriations Council approved.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Ms. Leonard, giving permission for Linda LaVan to attend the annual PLGSA Conference to be held August 15-18, 2007, in Erie, Pennsylvania, at a conference fee of \$175 and hotel accommodations of \$316.35, was carried with a vote of six yea.

Ms. Freenock asked Council to approve Ms. LaVan to renew her notary. It will cost approximately \$180. Ms. Dunlap is also a notary and is on the same schedule. However, Ms. Freenock doesn't think the Borough needs two notaries and recommends Ms. LaVan renew hers.

Ms. Moore questioned how you renew it.

Ms. Freenock announced Ms. LaVan has to attend a class and buy a new notary stamp.

President Wilshire asked if the class is necessary each time you renew.

Ms. LaVan stated it's a requirement now.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek to give permission for Linda LaVan to renew her notary at an approximate cost of \$180. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Old Business: Mayor Stroup forgot to mention the Chief is at the Chief's Conference this week and thanked Officer Kemmer for attending the meeting in his place.

New Business: There was none.

Correspondence: Ms. LaVan read a letter from Ms. Lynne McCormick thanking two Clarion Borough employees, Brad Stutzman and John Lawrence. The McCormicks had to tear up their lawn and reseed it. Ms. McCormick left a message for Mr. Stutzman to make sure they could drop off the lawn debris. Mr. Stutzman contacted the McCormicks and advised them how and where to get rid of the debris. Ms. McCormick removed the straw from the new grass and took it to the drop off area. Mr. Lawrence instructed Ms. McCormick to drop it in a pile and the Department would push it into the designated area. Also, Mr. Lawrence asked one of the employees to help her unload the straw from her vehicle. Ms. McCormick believes both employees went above and beyond their normal duties and appreciates all their help.

On a motion by Ms. Leonard with a second by Mr. German, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary

