

April 7, 2009, Council Meeting

A regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in the Clarion Free Library. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. Also present were: Mayor Stroup, Chief Hall, Officer Scheckler, Messrs. Ragon and Stutzman and Mss. LaVan and Freenock.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Moore, the minutes of the March 3, 2009, Public Hearing, were approved unanimously.

Mr. Herman then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2009, Council Meeting. Two errors were corrected. Thereafter, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2009, Special Council Meeting. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion. One error was noted, following which the minutes were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATION

The appropriations for the month of April were approved by a vote of six yea following a motion by Mr. Herman and a second by Ms. Leonard. Mr. Zerfoss voted no due to the bills presented for Reed Smith and Pope & Bogush.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek and a second by Mr. Hopkins, the special event request for the VFW's Memorial Day Services, was unanimously approved.

The Interagency Agreement between the Borough and Clarion County Area Agency on Aging was approved by a vote of six yea following a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek. President Wilshire abstained.

Ordinance No. 2009-760, concerning the three dedicated accounts funded with a portion of the CAA sale proceeds was unanimously approved on a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and a second by Mr. Hopkins.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Ms. Moore permission was given for GCCA to have IDIS drawdown access. Motion carried with a vote of seven yea.

Ms. Leonard made a motion to approve the proposal of Susquehanna Group to provide technical accounting assistance for an estimated fee of \$5,800 to \$8,700 and out-of-pocket expenses. Ms. Vavrek seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2009-283, declaring the Borough's intent to follow the New Records Disposition Schedule adopted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was unanimously approved following a motion by Ms. Vavrek and a second by Mr. Hopkins.

The request of the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry to hang two banners for Spring Fling was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Herman and a second by Mr. Hopkins.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore reported that everything is set for Spring Fling. She also stated that only some of the Main Street merchants were participating in the sidewalk sales and that part of the event is now being advertised as the Spring Shopping Spectacular.

Ms. Moore also stated that the Chamber participates in the University's orientation process. There is a walking tour and merchant information packets are distributed to prospective students.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Vavrek noted that Clean-Up Day will be May 16, 2009. No items containing Freon will be collected. Paint cans must be open and dry; no concrete, batteries, household garbage, brush, or construction materials will be collected.

Ms. Vavrek reported that the bids for the Boundary Street ramp came in over budget and alternative solutions are being considered. She also stated that consideration is being given to widen, mill and repave South Street. If CDBG money is to be used, prior projects could be amended or future funds encumbered. A Public Hearing will be held on May 5th immediately prior to the Council Meeting to discuss this matter.

Mr. Herman stated that South Street continues to deteriorate and he has received numerous parking complaints. Residents complain that the road is too narrow resulting in the loss of side mirrors. He also stated that South Street is a by-pass and is heavily used on weekdays and is extensively used during special events.

Ms. Vavrek stated that Ron Kopko looked at the fire hall and presented a proposal to provide engineering services for the rehabilitation project. The estimate is \$10,000. Ms. Vavrek would like Council to approve this proposal at the next Council Meeting. She will ask Mr. Kopko to hold all bills until the fundraising is complete.

Mr. Herman stated that he is glad that Mr. Kopko is being considered. He feels that Mr. Kopko is thorough and goes above and beyond; Mr. Zerfoss echoed those feelings.

Ms. Vavrek stated that Federal law requires that the Borough have a random Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for its CDL drivers. Ms. Freenock prepared a memorandum attaching a copy of the applicable law, and Ms. Vavrek moved that the Borough adopt the memo. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Herman offered the condolences of the Public Safety Department and the Borough to the families of the Pittsburgh police officers that were killed in the incident on April 4th.

Mr. Herman noted that the ALF request is being revisited, and Ms. Vavrek requested that the next letter received be the final request.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Mr. Zerfoss stated that a Recreational Fire Ordinance has been drafted and is being reviewed in Committee.

Mr. Zerfoss also stated that he believes that the ruling on the Legion parking lot was wrong. No one is going to build in this economy. He feels that the lot does not look bad and that we need to be “business friendly”. The Legion lost customers as a result of this decision. The Housing and Zoning Committee will revisit the Ordinance.

Mr. Hopkins stated that Council granted the Conditional Use, because it was told by the Legion that it was going to put a building on the lot. Council decided that it did not want a parking lot on Main Street and the Zoning Ordinance was amended to assure that a permanent lot could not be constructed on Main Street. Most of Council shares Mr. Zerfoss’ position. However, consideration must be given to setting a precedent. What if the owners of the Garby want to tear it down and construct a parking lot?

Mr. Herman asked that the Solicitor be contacted to determine if Council has the authority to issue a special exception for a deserving organization.

RECREATION

Ms. Leonard thanked Limestone Township for its contribution to the Borough’s Recreation Fund.

Ms. Leonard made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Hopkins, granting permission for Ms. Freenock to file a grant with DCNR, if possible, for bleachers and the Emerson Way Project and granted permission also to file a grant with Fish and Boat to match the 2008 DCNR grant for the work at Toby.

There was a discussion about using the ARRA money for the purchase of bleachers for the Park. If the additional funds cannot be used timely on South Street, then the funds should be used to purchase the bleachers.

A draft agreement to lease the pool has been received from the school district. There are several issues being reviewed.

Ms. Leonard commented that the Little League would like to construct a press box at the softball field. It is the only field without one. Mr. Stutzman noted that his Department would dig the holes and set the posts so as not to interfere with underground utilities. Ms. Leonard made a motion to authorize construction of the press box. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zerfoss and carried unanimously.

MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor also offered condolences to the families of the slain officers.

The Mayor reported that the struggle against tolling I-80 continues. He also stated that Heroin is a problem in the County and that the District Attorney gave a presentation at the high school concerning this issue. He encouraged everyone to attend such a presentation when offered.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Hopkins, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary