

February 23, 2009, Council Meeting

A meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2009, in the Clarion Borough Offices. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. In addition, to President Wilshire, Ms. Moore, Mr. Zerfoss, and Ms. Vavrek were present. Mr. Hopkins was absent. Messrs. Ragon and Stutzman, Mss. LaVan and Freenock, and Chief Hall were also in attendance. Ms. Leonard joined the meeting at 5:08 p.m. Mayor Stroup and Mr. Herman arrived at 5:10 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

President Wilshire welcomed Attorney Alexander, Paul Weaver, and Borough Solicitor French to the meeting. A discussion ensued concerning the draft ordinance setting aside \$450,000 from the sale proceeds of CAA. Revisions to the proposal were made and a new draft will be presented to Council at its March meeting for further action. Ms. Freenock stated that the three accounts to be set up per the Ordinance will not be funded until August because the sale proceeds are invested in a CD that matures on July 31st.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard, permission was given to open a safety deposit box for the CD in which the CAA sale proceeds are invested, and Resolution No. 2009-280 was also approved to open a checking account to be used for the funds to match the Peterson grant. Ms. Freenock would like to deposit \$20,000 from CAA's National City account into this new checking account so that engineering bills can be paid. The project is in the design phase and Gannett Fleming has not been paid for the application as no CAA funds have yet transferred to the Borough. All documentation to accomplish the foregoing is approved and to be signed by the President and Secretary of Council.

Chief Hall reported that the banner request by the Chamber is a recurring request. Therefore, on a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, permission was unanimously given for the Chamber to place banners for ALF from August 28-October 5, 2009.

Resolution No. 2009-281 was adopted by a vote of six yea, following a motion by Mr. Herman and a second by Ms. Vavrek. The purpose of the account is to segregate CDBG monies that were repaid to the CDBG account per 2004 audit findings but have not yet been repaid to the State. The funds cannot remain in the Borough's CDBG project account as no moneys are permitted to be in that account for more than three days per federal guidelines. It is unclear what DCED will do with these funds; the Borough may be permitted to use the funds for a project. Nothing will be decided until monitoring is completed this summer. This action was recommended by the Borough's grant manager at DCED and by the Borough's CDBG consultant.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Vavrek made a motion, seconded by Ms Leonard, to approve Resolution No. 2009-279. This matter was discussed and approved at last month's meeting. Ms. Freenock stated that she has since received the Reimbursement Agreement from PennDOT and the proposed resolution is required. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Vavrek then made a motion to permit the Borough to continue to participate in the State's COSTARS salt contract. Ms. Freenock stated that this approval was given in the past, but it appears that the State may want more current official action. The applications are due March 15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herman and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stroup reported that the Northwest Rural Mayor's Association is working together to encourage state and federal lawmakers to invest a portion of the stimulus money in rural Pennsylvania. The Association has a positive call with Senator Casey's office.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Thanks to Mayor Stroup, Ms. Freenock reported that she is preparing two appropriation requests to be filed with Senator Specter and Congressman Thompson. Funds are being requested for the rehabilitation of the fire hall and the installation of a sidewalk along Greenville Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Herman stated that Comcast cable bills have increased twice over the last year. He indicated that he is not pleased with the service received as often channels are not clear. Mr. Herman stressed that senior citizens cannot afford continual increases, and he wonders what Comcast does for seniors and the community. Mr. Zerfoss stated that Comcast does nothing for seniors. Ms. Vavrek noted that the 800 number that Comcast has for service calls often goes unanswered. Direct TV is cheaper. Mr. Herman concluded by stating that its not just about the bottom line; if good service is provided, the bottom line will increase.

Ms. Leonard stated that she has been told that Borough Council is responsible for closing the Legion parking lot on Main Street and that Council had the electricity to that site shut off. Ms. Leonard stated that Council has no such authority. Ms. Vavrek stated that letters were sent to those with key cards to the lot. She indicated that she did not see the letter but believes that the letter indicated that the Zoning Officer closed the lot. President Wilshire stated that the Zoning Committee met with the Commander of the Legion. Ms. Freenock stated that a letter was sent to the Commander following that meeting. The letter set forth a time line for corrective action to be taken and stressed that the Borough would take no enforcement action pending an application to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance. Mr. Ragon stated that the Legion has appealed his decision to the Zoning Hearing Board. Closing the lot was a decision made by the Legion with no action taken by any Borough official.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary