

April 1, 2008, Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held at the Clarion Free Library on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmembers, in addition to President Wilshire, were present: Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Moore, and Mr. Hopkins. Chief Mark Hall, Brad Stutzman, Bob Ragon, and Nancy Freenock were also present.

Following a motion made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Hopkins, the minutes of the March 4, 2008, Council Meeting were approved by a vote of six yea.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Leonard to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2008, Work Session. Those minutes were approved by a vote of five yea with Mr. Hopkins abstaining as he was not present at the Work Session.

ADMINISTRATION

The appropriations for the month of April were presented and approved by a vote of five yea following a motion made by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Leonard. Mr. Zerfoss voted no due to the payments to be made to Guardian Inspection Services. These charges are mandated by the UCC, which Mr. Zerfoss strongly opposes.

On a motion by Mr. Zerfoss which was seconded by Ms. Moore, Ordinance No. 2008-750, was approved by a vote of six yea.

On a motion made by Mr. Zerfoss and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, Resolution No. 2008-255, was approved by a unanimous vote of those present.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion to approve Resolution #2008-256 to authorize the Council President and Secretary to sign the documents related to the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Grant that was awarded to the Clarion Free Library. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hopkins and was approved by a vote of six yea.

Action was then taken on the banner request made by Clarion County Farmers' Market Association. Ms. Vavrek made a motion to approve the request; it was seconded by Mr. Hopkins and was approved by a vote of six yea.

DOWNTOWN

Ms. Moore discussed the upcoming Main Street improvements project to be initiated this summer. Following discussions with the Main Street merchants, the following priorities were set:

- removal of the decorative brick to be replaced with colored, stamped concrete;
- the placement of a circular grille around all of the trees;
- repairs to the electrical system;
- stabilization of the light poles; and
- the placement of flower boxes and benches.

2005 and 2007 CDBG funds will be used to finance the project. The improvements will be done in ½ block increments, and the merchants will be notified of the schedule.

Ms. Moore also noted that directional parking signs would be installed; no such signs are to appear on buildings. Additionally, no banners will be hung on the light poles until they are repaired.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Vavrek stated that Clean-up Day is May 17th. The day will start in the commercial district at 6:00 a.m. No brush will be collected.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Vavrek made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the following Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry's special event requests, which are the same as those presented last year and which have been approved by Chief Hall:

- Christmas Parade & Customer Appreciation Day on November 24th;
- Free parking from Black Friday through December 26th;
- Carriage rides during the period November 24-December 26, 2008; and
- Two days (instead of three) for Summerfest, with sidewalk sales and free parking.

The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

HOUSING & ZONING

Mr. Zerfoss made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Moore, for Mr. Ragon to attend training on May 15th. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Mr. Zerfoss stated that amendments to the Zoning Ordinance are being reviewed by the Committee.

Mr. Zerfoss reported that the County Assessment Office would like the authority to act on behalf of the Borough with respect to assessment appeals. Ms. Freenock stated that Ray Scott is the attorney for the Assessor and that the Borough would not incur any costs for his services. The Assessor is asking for this authority in order to expedite the appeals process. The motion to approve Resolution #2008-257 was seconded by Ms. Vavrek and was approved by a vote of six yea.

RECREATION

Ms. Leonard reported that DCNR will have one grant round this year. The Borough would like to apply for a grant to make improvements at Paul A. Weaver Park and at the Toby boat launch. Ms. Leonard made a motion to authorize President Wilshire to execute the application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vavrek and was approved by a vote of six yea.

Ms. Leonard noted that completion of the field improvements at Paul A. Weaver Park have been delayed due to weather.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Freenock noted that she attended DEP training for the 2008 grant round. It appears that DEP is anxious to approve grants that will bring municipalities into compliance. She also stated that the second Public Hearing for the 2008 CDBG project will be held on April 18th; following that discussion, public input will be sought for the 2005 CDBG project. Since Elss Street did not qualify, the 2005 project will be Main Street improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ragon reminded the candidates for public office that the Borough has restrictions on the size and location of political signs in its Zoning Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leonard reported on a PSAB Conference held at Bucknell for host communities. She and Ms. Moore were in attendance. A report has been distributed to Council. Additional meetings are planned. Ms. Moore stated that the meeting confirmed that all host communities face similar problems and none have developed solutions. Currently, Bucknell is hoping to spruce up empty student apartments-Ms. Moore stated that Clarion may be in the same position in the near future.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Zerfoss and a second by Ms. Vavrek.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Secretary