

January 6, 2009, Council Meeting

A regular meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at the Clarion Free Library. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All Councilmembers were present as were: Mayor Stroup, Messrs. Ragon and Scheckler, and Mss. LaVan and Freenock.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard, the minutes of the December 2, 2008, Council Meeting, were unanimously approved.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman with a second by Mr. Hopkins, the minutes of the December 17, 2008, Council Meeting, were approved by a vote of five yea with Mss. Moore and Leonard abstaining as they were absent from that meeting.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Mr. Zerfoss stated that prior to the Council Meeting, a Public Hearing was held to take comment on the application of Daniel Luton for a conditional use of his property at 105 North First Avenue. Mr. Luton proposes to convert part of the second story into an apartment. Mr. Zerfoss then made a motion to approve the conditional use request; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vavrek and was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATION

The appropriations for the month of January were approved by a vote of six yea following a motion by Mr. Hopkins and a second by Ms. Vavrek. Mr. Zerfoss voted no due to the bill from Reed Smith.

Mr. Zerfoss made a motion with a second by Mr. Herman to appoint the following individuals to the boards noted below:

Joe Brinkley	Zoning Hearing Board (to expire end of 2011)
JoAnne Vavrek	Library Board (to expire end of 2011)
Frank Lignelli	Planning Commission (to expire end of 2012)
Tony Linnan	Civil Service Commission (to expire end of 2013)

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-758, Realty Transfer Tax. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herman and was carried by a vote of seven yea.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Leonard to approve Ordinance No. 2009-760, Tobacco Ordinance, for publication. There was an extended discussion with questions posed by Messrs. Hopkins, Zerfoss, and Herman. Ms. Freenock was directed to obtain more information. In order to move the matter forward, President Wilshire asked for a roll call vote regarding publication of the proposed ordinance. The vote was as follows: Mr. Zerfoss, yes; Mr. Herman, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Vavrek, yes; Ms. Moore, yes; Mr. Hopkins, yes; President Wilshire, yes.

President Wilshire stated that all questions would be answered prior to a vote to adopt the ordinance.

President Wilshire recognized Sheila Pope. Ms. Pope stated that she resides at 715 Liberty Street. She expressed concern that there is no screening from the parking lot recently created by IC Church following the demolition of a home across the street from her home. Ms. Pope stated that lights shine in her living room and bedroom windows. The current Zoning Ordinance addresses screening for adjoining property owners. Her property is not adjoining as it is separated from the parking lot by a street. However, Ms. Pope feels that the spirit of the Ordinance regarding screening is to protect anyone that may be affected visually as opposed to just retaining vehicles.

Mr. Ragon stated that Ms. Pope would be affected by cars traveling in the opposite direction of that permitted. Enforcement would be a matter for IC Church. Mr. Ragon was instructed to look further into this issue.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Moore reported that the merchants did fairly well during the holiday season. Sales were 3-10% lower than last year. The coordinated effort between the Conservancy and the Chamber as well as the free parking was beneficial.

Ms. Leonard reported that she attended a discussion by financial advisors held at SMI.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Moore, Ordinance No. 2008-759, amending parking meter zones, was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Herman then reminded the public that the Snow Ordinance is still in effect and that just pulling off to the side of the road is not sufficient. In such case, a ticket could still be issued.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Freenock requested that Council approve Resolution No. 2009-277 to change the purpose of the Borough's CDBG #2 checking account at S & T Bank to Housing Rehab. A motion was made by Mr. Zerfoss with a second by Ms. Leonard and was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Zerfoss stated that he would like to see paving projects done in 2009. Specifically, he would like to see South Seventh Avenue paved. Mr. Zerfoss stated that the County should help with this project inasmuch as most of the traffic on South Seventh is due to its operation at the old hospital.

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 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary