

May 19, 2008, Work Session

A Work Session of Clarion Borough Council was held in the Borough Offices on May 19, 2008. President Wilshire called the session to order at 5:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were: Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Moore, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Leonard, and President Wilshire. Messrs. Herman and Hopkins were absent. Messrs. Ragon and Stutzman and Ms. Freenock were also present.

ADMINISTRATION

President Wilshire stated that at the next Council Meeting, Council will be asked to pass a resolution concerning the Peterson Appropriation. The resolution will contain those items outlined in the memo distributed with the Work Session packet. Note should be made of the fact that Council will have to agree to commit funds as the 45% match. It is hoped that the Borough's portion will come from the sale of CAA.

Mr. Zerfoss wondered how the Borough could expend money that it does not have; Ms. Leonard noted that the project could be financed. Ms. Freenock stated that if the application is not filed, and funds committed by Congress by September 30th, then there is a chance that this funding stream will disappear. President Wilshire stated that is likely given the fact the Congressman Peterson is retiring.

Mr. Zerfoss also asked why the engineering services for the 7th Avenue project are not being bid. Ms. Freenock stated that Solicitor French opined that this is a professional service that need not be bid if grant funds are not being used to pay the engineer. Use of Gannett Fleming is advisable as they are familiar with the situation in the Borough and that knowledge will expedite the grant process.

Ms. Freenock reviewed the grants on which she is currently working. They include:

CDBG

2005 Main Street project-a modification to the 2005 application has been sent to DCED for processing.

2006 the environmental clearance for past projects and those that are being planned now came through on May 15th; we are now trying to schedule a meeting with Gannett Fleming (the Borough's CDBG engineer) to discuss replacement of the steps at the elementary school.

2007 Main Street project; some funds were spent to provide improvements at the pool; Brad and GCCA will get together to develop specs; it is anticipated that permission of Council will be sought at the next meeting to release bids and to advertise for proposals. Again, nothing could be done on this project until the environmental clearance was obtained.

2008 North Riverview-we have requested a letter of no prejudice from DCED because other grant funds are also to be used for this project; unfortunately DCED will require that the engineering be bid so that will delay this project.

DCNR

2008 Application was filed and we are awaiting a response.

2007 award for planning-the project is underway.

FISH & BOAT

The local representative provided an application for funding to improve the Toby boat launch; there is no due date, but it will be submitted as soon as possible.

PETERSON APPROPRIATION

The time frame for the project is contained in the memo previously distributed. It was suggested by EPA that none of the grant monies be used for engineering as that will delay the project. An application and all supporting documents must be filed with EPA by August 1st to meet the September funding date.

WHITE EARMARK

Last year I submitted several funding requests both to Senator White and to Congressman Peterson. Last week I received a call from Senator White's office stating that the Senator was going to try and have the sidewalk project along Greenville Avenue funded.

LIQUID FUELS

Only about \$53,000 remains in that account for this year. Of that, \$23,000 is already committed. There is much patching to do throughout the Borough so it is likely that no funding (other than what has already been expended) will be available for the North Riverview project this year.

USRDA

Ms. Vavrek and I are meeting with Bill McCloskey of this agency to discuss grant and financing programs available for the fire hall rehabilitation.

SECOND STEP-EARLY INTERVENTION

An application for software and hardware will be filed after July 1st. The request will be developed from the five-year plan developed by Susquehanna Group Advisors which is being presented to Council on June 3rd.

DEP

Per Council's instructions, a grant application is being prepared to fund the purchase of equipment and to help with educational programs. Mr. Stutzman is reviewing a grant program for funding the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles.

Ms. Freenock stated that Solicitor French reviewed the proposed Indemnity Agreement between the municipalities and PAWC and has approved it. Clarion Township has also agreed to sign the document; Supervisor Borovick recommended that the Monroe Township Supervisors approve it as well.

Ms. Freenock stated that at the next Council Meeting, Council will be asked to approve the engagement of Susquehanna Group Advisors to provide accounting services. Due to new GASBY requirements, the auditors cannot make year-end journal entries and run reports. Susquehanna is familiar with the Borough's accounting software so it will be cost effective to continue to use them. President Wilshire asked that Mr. Weiss of Susquehanna be prepared to address the new GASBY standards as part of his presentation on June 3rd.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore stated that the dialogue between the Committee and the merchants is positive and that both groups are working in concert.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Vavrek stated that the parking meters must be recertified by September. She also discussed the fact that bidders for the Main Street project will submit proposals based on three scenarios.

Mr. Stutzman stated that the street signs have arrived and will be installed shortly.

Mr. Zerfoss also raised the following issues:

1. Parking on 6th Avenue from Wood to South; should this area be metered and parallel spots painted?
2. South Street from 8th to 5th-he has asked previously that parking be prohibited in this area or that South be made a one-way street from 5th to 8th;
3. The intersection of Greenville Avenue and Corbett Street must be studied. Ms. Freenock stated that she asked the Commissioners to testify to PennDOT about this problem in the hope that PennDOT would place the project on the TIP.
4. South 7th traffic on that street from County employees-the County should help to cover the cost of maintaining the road; would it be possible to get a traffic counter to monitor the increased traffic due to County personnel?

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Vavrek reported that a meeting with the bargaining unit representatives has been scheduled.

HOUSING & ZONING

There will be a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on June 3rd to take comments on the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes.

RECREATION

Ms. Leonard reported that a high school softball tournament game was underway at Paul A. Weaver Community Park. The pool is being readied for opening day, May 31, 2008.

CORRESPONDANCE

Ms. LaVan read correspondence received from the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry thanking Council for its assistance with this year's Spring Fling.

Ms. LaVan also read a letter from the Clarion Area Authority concerning rate increases to be effective July 1, 2008.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Ms. Leonard, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary