

October 7, 2008, Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at the Clarion Free Library. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. In addition, Mayor Stroup, Chief Hall, Messrs. Ragon and Stutzman, and Mss. LaVan and Freenock were also present.

Mr. Herman then made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2008-755, which he read into the minutes. The purpose of the Ordinance is to change the name of North Riverview Avenue to Emerson Way. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Herman stated that Borough Council is happy to honor a citizen and business member who contributed much to the community. It is with much pride that the widening and rehabilitation of this roadway will be undertaken. Mr. Hopkins stated that for those that grew up in the Clarion area, Emerson's incipitates happy memories. The motion passed unanimously with the thanks of Council to Mrs. Caldwell and Katrina and John Mumford.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, the minutes of the September 2, 2008, Council Meeting, were approved by a vote of six yea and one nay. Mr. Zerfoss abstained as he was absent from that meeting.

The minutes of the September 19, 2008, Special Council Meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Ms. Leonard with a second by Mr. Hopkins.

ADMINISTRATION

The appropriations for the month of October were approved by a vote of six yea with Mr. Zerfoss voting nay upon a motion by Mr. Hopkins with a second by Ms. Vavrek. Mr. Zerfoss voted no due to the Guardian bill.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion to approve the change in location of the November 4, 2008, Council Meeting, from the Library to the Clarion Borough Offices so that the library can be used as a polling place. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hopkins and passed unanimously.

Mr. Herman inquired about political signage to be located at the library on Election Day. The Office of Elections will be contacted.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Mr. Hopkins Ordinance #2008-754, an Ordinance to enable the Borough to conform to the increase in the established predetermined tax ratio by the County, was adopted with a vote of six yea with Mr. Zerfoss voting nay.

On a motion by Ms. Leonard with a second by Ms. Moore, Council unanimously approved the request of the League of Women Voters to install and remove "Remember to Vote on Tuesday" banners.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, a motion to approve the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's special event request for May 3, 2009, was approved unanimously.

The service authorization for Gannett Fleming to begin the 2006 CDBG Project (Boundary Street ramp) was made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Vavrek then made a motion to grant permission to solicit proposals for a CDBG consultant for the next three years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Zerfoss confirmed that no Borough taxpayer money would be used for this matter. The motion carried with a vote of six yea with Mr. Zerfoss voting nay.

Resolution #2008-268, a Resolution to dispose of municipal records was made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Ms. Leonard. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Vavrek commended those responsible for compiling such a detailed list. Ms. Freenock stated the list will now be sent to the State Historical and Museum Commission for approval before destruction occurs.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore reported that ALF was busy and that merchants' comments concerning the event would be forthcoming. She also stated that the Main Street Project has started. Mr. Stutzman indicated that the project started yesterday and that he has been uptown fixing receptacles, replacing sign posts and meter posts, etc. He expects to be onsite during the entire term of the project to handle matters as they arise.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Vavrek reported that the Peer-to-Peer review for the Public Works Department is underway. It is being funded wholly via grant money. We have been granted 100 hours of time for the study.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Herman made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Vavrek, to accept the resignation of Terri Moore as a meter enforcement officer. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Herman thanked Ms. Moore for a job well done.

Mr. Herman noted that trick-or-treat has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2008, from 6-8 p.m. The fire company schedules trick-or-treat hours. The Kiddie Parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. in front of McDonalds. He reminded everyone to be careful and all drivers to be vigilant. Police will be handing out candy that evening.

Mr. Herman also noted that with respect to the library now being a polling place, spaces will be available in front and behind the library for voter parking. He also noted that the venue is handicapped accessible.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Mr. Zerfoss noted that the report is in the packet. Mr. Ragon informed Council that Mr. Bogush is now the new solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. He was selected by the Board.

RECREATION

Ms. Leonard noted that the Recreation Committee met with Mike Ebert of the YMCA. Over the past 3 years, the YMCA has collected good data concerning wages and attendance at the pool. They have gotten more efficient in managing pool operations so that lifeguard wages have steadily decreased.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor congratulated Mr. Nulph on his coverage of I-80. He indicated that there is still concern over the infrastructure issues in Act 44 and he will continue to work on those issues. Mayor Stroup also thanked everyone involved with the National City Autumn Leaf Festival. He especially thanked the Knox Borough Police, State Police, the Clarion University Public Safety Department, the County Sheriff's Department, the Borough's Public Works and Police Departments, and the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry. Ms. Moore noted that Mayor Stroup was in fact in charge of this festival and that he should be congratulated on its success as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leonard noted that she recently attended a seminar on Reinhabiting Campus Neighborhoods. She has given everyone a written report on that seminar. She also noted that another seminar is scheduled in November, which Ms. Freenock will attend. Ms. Leonard noted that these seminars are on-going and are not repetitive and urges anyone available to attend a seminar.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion by Mr. Herman and seconded by Ms. Vavrek, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Secretary