

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2018  
7:00 PM**

The January 2018th Borough Council Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. The Meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey (arrived at 7:15pm), Mr. Dominic Scott, Mr. Bob Bennett, Mr. Frank Besten, Mr. Vincent Cruciani, Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe, Mayor Johnson, and Solicitor Kevin Hayes. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Patrick Williams and Mr. David Jenkins.

The meeting was opened by Frank Besten, President Pro-Tem until Gerrie Carey arrived 7:15pm

1. **WORKSESSION:** **President Carey**
  
2. **PROCLAMATION – Mayor William Thorburn** **Mayor Johnson**  
Mayor Herman Johnson read off the Proclamation for Mayor William Thornburn.
  
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  - **Jeff Ames – EMA:** The EMA is in the process of updating the Emergency Action Plan for 2018 and updating contact information. All the work was done but Council didn't get anything back from FEMA. Mayor Johnson stated that when we first started with EMA Council asked someone to come in quarterly to give a report. Mayor Johnson stated that even though we had a snow storm last week and we had high winds a couple of months ago, Mayor Johnson said that Council needs to be informed about this. When there are high winds, trees come down and our citizens try to pass the buck to the Borough. We need to make sure the Borough is covered. Mayor Johnson stated that we need to have documentation if something does happen. Jeff Ames stated that he monitors as much as he can and goes where the fire company and police go, he goes to the areas he knows about. Ms. Kehoe suggested that when Mr. Ames documents something, he get a copy to Council by email.
  - **AAJRB request for meeting:** Ms. Kehoe stated that the AAJRB has agreed to deal with the Senior Center as part of the amendment. As of this afternoon Greg Pascale should be done with a draft agreement shortly. That will be forwarded and then the meeting will be scheduled, it will be in the South Abington Bldg. Solicitor Hayes stated that he is in the process of drafting a revised agreement. One issue is to extend the existence of the Board for another 30 years because the agreement expires in 2027. Also the composition of the Board will change so each participating municipality would appoint three members. Mr. Pascale believes that there are going to be proposals made by South Abington Township because there is one member who is not compliant with their budgeted amount that should be paid to the Board. There is no redress for the conduct that is going on right now. Mr. Cruciani stated that to renew they need all municipal parties to renew and beyond the expiration everyone is tenants-in-common so they would have to work on an agreement to split it in an

equitable way. Under the current agreement Clarks Green cannot be expelled. Ms. Kehoe stated that Bill Risse stopped by the Clarks Summit Borough and stated that Clarks Green has a new President of Council and that president wants to take action to get this straightened out and feels that it will be to everyone's satisfaction but no guarantee.

- **Accept Chris O'Boyle's resignation:** At the next Council meeting Council needs to accept Chris O'Boyle's resignation and appoint someone
- **Replacement for Planning Commission:** Jim Burke is interested in that position.
- **Replacement for TCC:** There is a seat open on the TCC.
- **Neighbor Works – sewer billing:** They are asking to waive the sewer fees until the water is turned back on.
- **Patrick & Diane Walsh – handicapped parking space:** If emergency services had to come to the house they couldn't get in and there is no marking to show the back of the house. They would like a parking spot right in front of their house because of their health issues. It is very busy in the afternoon into the evening. Mayor Johnson said if we gave them a handicapped spot and then no parking on the other side from the bottom of the hill to the top of hill no parking. That is a steep road. This is a law enforcement issue. Vince Cruciani stated that the whole idea of not parking there after 11pm is a seasonal issue. When you get into Toth's property, he has enough macadam on private property to park. The narrowing doesn't really exist until you get past his property. So if you made the one side of the road no parking and ran it to the end of the block that should solve the problem. So if all the neighbors from their house to the end of the block agreed and sign off on the ability to do no parking on that side of the road. That solves 95% of the problem. Mr. Cruciani stated that he does not have much sympathy for the complaint about the Coors Light sign but he has tremendous sympathy about the spotlight. Ms. Kehoe stated that they put that light up without a permit. Ms. Kehoe will send a letter to every homeowner on that block. Also a letter should go to Mr. Toth. Mayor Johnson discussed the parking lot across the street from the bar. That is owned by Frank Emmett. There is not a sign to indicating that is a parking lot.

Shannon Brown stated that he had been working on a project for model ordinances.

Ann Armazonni from The Gathering Place will have a 4 part series on the opioid crisis.

Mayor Johnson stated that the Personnel Committee, Chief Yarns and he will be interviewing 2 applicants for the Police Chaplain position. The Personnel Committee will bring back a selection for Council to vote on. Also, they need to vote on no meter enforcement for the Ice Festival. Frank Besten commented on how bad the sidewalks were last year along with the broken pieces of ice. He suggested no parking from the Borough building to Everything Natural if the weather is bad and the sidewalks are not clear.

Bob Bennett stated that the final street was approved for Liquid Fuels.

Joe Riley addressed Council concerning his business and 2 apartments at 184 Knapp Road. He asked to be charged for one single unit. He would like this to be retro-

active to the beginning of the billing. He is due to be shut off. Vince Cruciani stated that if you are in R-1 and you are not supposed to have two separate rental properties, you can't have it both ways. He was grandfathered in. Mr. Cruciani recognized that there is not a shower in the first floor office. Ms. Kehoe summarized his delinquency and lack of payment. As of right now Mr. Riley is \$1,090 delinquent. Mr. Riley stated that he thinks there is a possibility that he is on a septic system. Ms. Kehoe stated that if he is on septic it would be illegal he would have to connect to the sewer, that is a Borough Ordinance. Mr. Cruciani suggested that the Borough not shut off his water until they go to his house and do a dye test to see if he is connected to the sewer. Mr. Cruciani stated that if he is on sewer, he would need to make a payment on the sewer account and if those are income producing properties and he is not producing income on them that is an issue. Mr. Cruciani stated that he tried to be reasonable and he does not believe he was met with reason and at the end of the day it is a commercial producing income property. He has means to generate revenue.

Kevin Hayes discussed an email about House Bill 1620. He drafted a proposed Resolution stating that we want to keep that power here locally and we can send it to our local State Representative and to the Governor and members of the committees.

Council went into an executive session

**4. REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018 AGENDA**

**5. ADJOURN:**

**President Carey**